

Moldbreaker  
Chapter Ten: Wish

Ray's eyes wavered as the tears filled them. He had cast magic he did not know, and his friends had paid the ultimate price for it. He gasped for air, coughing as he realized he had stopped breathing.

"Oh? Why the long face?" Nightmare Moon stood triumphantly over him. "Simple foal, you never knew did you?" She leaned down, her wicked grin staring him in the face. "You were not just a star. You were a wishing star." She flapped her dark wings, the gust pushing several remnants of the smashed Elements alongside him. "A star that grants wishes." She strolled past him, letting it sink in at her success. "I knew that the stars would align and my cage would be broken, but my night also granted me one more advantage."

Ray stared at the ground in silent and sad thought, all of this not making any sense. He had the power to grant wishes? Why could he not save his friends or Celestia then? What purpose was this power if he could not save those he cared about?

"My wish was thus: to destroy all that which would oppose my return!" The mare crushed a piece of the former Elements beneath her hoof. "Now, nothing can stop my endless night!" Content with her victory, she turned to leave the red colt alone to wallow. "Oh, but first." She turned back, her eyes piercing into his. "I'll have to wish you away too. Your powers will be for only me to use."

The colt curled up, closing his eyes and holding his ears shut. "No no no... Go away... go away..." His once glowing red aura shrunk as the dark tendrils made their way over to him. "I will... I am... I wish-" His eyes shot open, the idea suddenly coming to his head. He stood up, the light around his body emitting more vibrance, pushing back the mist that had come for him. Ray's eyes began to glow and he stared at her. "I wish to stop you!"

At his shout, his body erupted into a bright red light that filled the room. The dark pony fled from it, turning into a mist and slinking into the shadows. He felt warm as the light shone throughout, finding the hiding mare and causing her to revert to a horse once more.

"What treachery is this?" She struggled, unable to move from the spot she was in. "Such powerful star light, but I am the mare of the night. You will obey me. I wish for this to end." She stared at the glowing beacon, the frown on her face becoming more angry. "I ordered you to end this light show. How dare you defy me?"

He couldn't hear her, but he saw her talking to him and getting increasingly infuriated. For the first time he felt pity on another. This mare was too bathed in darkness to be happy. Ray's eyes closed and he slipped off into sleep, the light in the room continuing to radiate harshly.

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"Is everypony okay?" Applejack righted herself, looking around at the other fillies.

"What was that? I knew he was up to something!"

"Ugh, so much dust. I'll manage."

"I'm okie dokie."

"I'm fine..."

"Where are we?" Twilight looked up and around. "That was a high level teleportation spell. How did Ray know it?"

"Duh, isn't it obvious?" Rainbow Dash, punched a hoof into her other. "That two timer's been working for Nightmare Moon the whole time!"

"But..." Fluttershy interjected quietly. "He was crying..."

"Well... maybe he's a good actor?" The other pegasus offered a valid explanation.

"First not a prince and now on the wrong side. Oh Rarity, why the change in luck?" The white unicorn cuddled with the remains of her tail.

"Wait a minute..." Twilight brought out a book from her bag and flipped it open. She oriented it so it faced the others, showing two pictures of night skies and text under each. The one on the right was a normal night sky and Twilight read the caption aloud. "Shooting stars have always been seen in the night above Equestria and for centuries ponies have wished on them."

The next page had a night sky but with a red shooting star streaming across it. "There was a recorded sighting of a red shooting star, and this one was said to have granted wishes. However, not a single pony has seen this star for a thousand years." Finishing her reading, she looked worriedly at the text.

"So yer saying that Ray is that there wishin' star?" Applejack asked skeptically.

Twilight nodded back. "It would explain why Nightmare Moon was able to escape, and how she would know that he could grant wishes, but I don't think he knows it." She began to concentrate. "Now we have to figure out a way to defeat her without the Elements of Harmony, and Ray's powers..."

"Ooh ooh, we could laugh her away!"

"Can we try to ask her nicely..?"

"Let's just storm in and take her head-on!"

"I think we should rescue Ray, otherwise she could keep using him."

"Ray needs our help, that's fer sure."

"You're right, we can't give up on our frien--" Twilight began talking to herself, a sparkle twinkling in her eye as she started to realize the truth. "I have an idea." She proudly proclaimed before a bright flash jerked everypony's attention towards it. Each pony poked their head out the nearby windows to see the cause. A red light was shining straight upwards and out of the ruined Hall of Elements. "Come on, we have no time to lose!" She led the six of them as quickly as they could gallop.

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The grand hall for the former Elements of Harmony was a disaster area. Every piece of rock in the hall was floating in the air, suspended in the crimson light. A glance upward and they

saw what looked like Ray, positioned at high in the air and motionless. He was a red beacon of cosmic light, filling the room with his glow. Nightmare Moon remained standing in place near the far side, glaring at them as they entered.

"I see he failed in sending you away. Now you face my power!" She straightened herself up, the dark tendrils of her mane lashing forward but going nowhere. "Tch! This is impossible!" She literally fumed as the mist came off her and evaporated under the star's light.

"Nightmare Moon!" Twilight stepped forward, unaffected by the light's power. "You may have destroyed those rocks... But the spirits of the Elements of Harmony are right here!"

"Applejack, who comforted our friend with the honest truth at his time of need represents the spirit of Honesty!" The shards laying around the hall shivered and hovered up, several flying over to and around the mentioned filly.

"Rainbow Dash, who rushed to her friends' aids when they needed her most, represents the spirit of Loyalty!" More shards flew from the sky, circling the airborne pegasus.

"Fluttershy, who tamed the angry manicorn with her compassion, represents the spirit of Kindness!" The embarrassed filly was accompanied by several shards of stone.

"Pinkie Pie, who banished fear by giggling in the face of danger, represents the spirit of Laughter!" At the words giggle, she did so and was surrounded by her own flock of shards.

"Rarity, who calmed a sorrowful serpent with a meaningful gift, represents the spirit of Generosity!" The unicorn smiled uneasily as she was encompassed by rocks.

"Together, we overcame every obstacle you threw at us!"

"Ha... let me guess, the sixth element is that foal up there?" The dark mare stood opposing them, tearing her foot off the ground and stamping it hard. "This little spark cannot contain me."

"No." Twilight shook her head. "The spark was not just his light, but what the light represented." She glanced up at the skyward red night-light-colt. "It was the spark of wanting to help my friend, realizing that I did indeed, have friends." She smiled happily, giving them a look over before confronting Nightmare Moon again. A solitary rock materialized in the air above her. "You see, when those elements are united by a spark, they represent the final element. The Element of Magic!"

An intense magical energy swirled around the six friends, the fragments of stone assembling into jewelry that took their place on each, symbolizing the specific element they represented. From the torrent, several rainbow colored beams shot out, heading straight for the immobile dark mare.

"No! NO!! This cannot be happening!" She shouted as the multicolored magic entrapped her. As soon as she was no longer visible, the immense light from the ceiling pony dissipated. It was no longer bound to hold her in place, and his wish had come true. Nightmare Moon had been stopped long enough to be destroyed by the Elements of Harmony.

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Ray was not Ray, but instead he felt different. He had no feelings, only the lingering emptiness that there should be something there. From his vantage point so high, he saw the mare of so many troubles crushed by a magic so powerful that it had stopped his own. A tear

fell down his face at the thought, but from where the tear came he could not tell. He simply shook it away.

He glanced over to the six fillies below him, who had recovered and were admiring their new pieces of jewelry. He thought they looked familiar, but that feeling passed as he lowered himself down, hovering a few inches above the ground. "The wish has been granted. What is your next desire?" The six of them stared at him in shock, and he stared back mindlessly. He spoke mechanically. He was created to grant wishes and that was what he would do. Everything else was unimportant.

"Ray, we--" The purple unicorn started to talk but he immediately cut her off.

"I do not know this Ray." They gasped at his words.

"Don't you remember your friends?"

"I have no friends. I exist to grant wishes." He answered back, staring with his uncaring eyes at their shocked faces. If they were not going to request of him, he would return to the sky.

"Ray." A voice that struck deep inside him called out and he turned his head to side to watch the sun rise quickly into the sky. From the glimmer of light that shone from it, stepped a white alicorn, larger and more elegant than the other ponies in this room. As she appeared, the others bowed to her and the purple unicorn ran over to hug her.

"Princess Celestia!" She shouted.

... *Auntie..?* A voice from deep inside said a name.

"Twilight Sparkle, my faithful student." The alicorn returned the hug, looking over her pupil. "I knew you could do it." His mind faded back into darkness as the two of them conversed.

"Celestia. Your wish has been granted." He interrupted, pointing with his nose at the crumpled dark blue alicorn where the former Nightmare Moon had been.

"Princess Luna..." The white princess stepped towards the other. "It has been a thousand years since I have seen you like this." She knelt down, looking the younger one in the eye with compassion. "It is time to put our differences behind us. We were meant to rule together, little sister."

There was a loud gasp at the news, but instead Ray opened his mouth. From it a sound like a click and then a new voice filled the air. "I wish to see my sister again... I want her to forgive me..." The record stated, he closed his mouth. The one known as Luna had made this wish three nights ago. It had needed no granting, for the elder had already given her sister the forgiveness she needed and they hugged. Celestia's wish was that her sister return safely, and it had happened as well. The colt paid no interest in their teary reunion, instead he chose to speak again. "Both wishes are fulfilled. What more do you desire?"

"Ooh.. You can grant any wish?" The strange pink filly bounced up to his face, looking directly into his glowing eyes.

“That is correct. What do you wish?”

“Woaahh.. I wish for... A giant cake!” She shouted and at her request, a three-tiered chocolate cake decorated in strawberry and vanilla icing fell down just to her side, landing safely. “And a cart full of balloons!” With a loud pop, the item in question appeared for her and she jumped up again. “And lots and lots of--” She was cut off as the orange pony put a hoof over her mouth.

“Take it easy there, hon!”

“You really can’t control it, can you?” The purple one addressed him again.

“I exist to grant wishes.” He repeated, staring back at her. “That is my only role.” Seeing her eyes turn teary made him feel strange inside.

“Ray.” The white princess addressed him again. He turned to face her and her younger sister. The smile on her face told him something, like he had some other purpose than to grant wishes. That was foolish. He had no other purpose.

*Friends...*

A thought that he ignored, instead focused on the white alicorn as she was about to ask for another wish. He would grant it, that was his job.

“Ray, what do you wish for?”

He paused, unsure of what that meant. He had always granted others’ wishes. He had never had his own desires. He was just a tool.

A tool to be used.

*I am alive...*

A tool for others’ happiness.

*I have friends... I have family.*

Existed solely for wishes.

*I have my own desires now.*

What was this new desire?

*I want to live with my friends... I want to be free from this.*

In his mind, he saw a red pony surrounded by others. He was smiling.

“I wish...” He spoke his inner thoughts. “To have a different purpose. To be Ray.” His red aura fluctuated, lashing at the air as before sinking away into the daylight. Softly he sank to the ground and his legs buckled from fatigue. Ray struggled to stay up, but succumbed and fell forward only to be caught by his aunt.

“Welcome back, Ray.” She said with a smile.