

The rain poured as I bolted ahead. I didn't know what I was running from, but I knew I had to get away. Maybe it was the pain. Ever since yesterday, my head was full of agonizing pain. I didn't know where it came from. Hell, I didn't even know who I was. I couldn't remember past then. When I woke up in that clearing. That damn clearing. What happened there? Why did my head hurt so much? I had so many questions, and no one to ask.

Suddenly, a bolt of lightning appeared, followed quickly by a clap of thunder that seemed to resonate inside my body. I happened to find a hole in the ground at just the same time and I tripped. I groaned as my body was hurled through the air a few feet. I came to a skidding halt just in front of a large oak tree. The leaves seemed to be quite dense, as the rain had stopped around me. I'd been running for so long, it seemed, and this felt like a good a place to stop. Not long, though, because I couldn't stop running. It felt like something was chasing me, but I didn't know what. Suddenly, a wave of agony crossed my skull and I screamed in pain. I huddled up against the tree, tears streaming down my face. "Why me?" I whimpered. I was just some ordinary pony. Nothing special. At least, I thought so. As my vision dimmed as I started to lose consciousness, I caught a glimpse of a tall figure out of the corner of my eye. I don't know why, but I was terrified of it. I tried to stand, to run away, to run as far as my legs could take me. But I couldn't. Exhaustion had taken hold, and I couldn't muster the strength to do anything but lay there, quivering in unbridled fear. My vision finally went black. Just before my consciousness finally faded, I heard the sound of laughter.

Suddenly, it was warm. I felt for the ground beneath my hooves and it felt soft. Nothing like the ground I had fallen asleep on. Panic struck me for a quick instant. I opened my eyes and saw wooden walls around me. It wasn't wooden planks, though. It seemed to be an actual tree. And I was inside of it. My panic flared. Was I a prisoner? Was this some form of punishment for something I had done before? I sat up quickly, to get a better look at my surroundings. This looked nothing like a prison. It just looked like a house. I heard hoof steps through the door of whoever's house this was. I didn't want them to know I was awake. Pain decided that quiet wasn't a priority. I cried out as a pain coursed through my head again.

I heard the resident drop something and hoof steps hurriedly coming to my door. I was about to shrink away from the door when yet another wave of agony pulsed through my entire body. I curled into the fetal position, just wanting to pain to end. I looked over and saw a silhouette. My vision had become blurry from the tears. I heard a shushing sound and felt a gentle hoof on my forehead, brushing my mane out of my face. It felt like nothing I had ever felt before. Well, in the past few days anyway. The pain seemed to subside from the touch, almost as if it were recoiling from it.

"There, there. Everything will be fine. Just get some more rest." The voice somehow calmed me. It made the pain recede quicker. It felt comforting. I was still exhausted. I laid my head back down on the pillow and closed my eyes. As I heard the footsteps receding out of the room, I opened my eyes to see who had been able to do what I couldn't. She had a body the color of the brightest gold. And a mane that rivaled the beauty of the most spectacular water lily. I

couldn't help but smile through the pain that slowly started coming back. As I started to fall asleep again, I spoke quietly, as to not stir whatever was inside of me; "Thank you..." My vision went black as my consciousness faded again.

I woke up to the bright sunlight across my eyes. I moaned and rolled away from the source of the light and closed my eyes tightly, trying to get myself to go back to sleep. I lay there eyes closed, for what seemed like an eternity, before I gave up. I sat up and finally opened my eyes. There was a tray on a table sitting next to my bed with some fresh flowers on it. In the other room I could hear someone humming quietly to themselves. I quietly stood up and walked across the room. As I was lifting my hoof to open the door, it suddenly swung in on me. It hit me full on in the face and I hit the table behind me. The tray and a lamp went flying as the table and myself crashed to the ground. A worried gasp came through the door, quickly followed by the yellow mare.

A look of worry was on her face as she looked at what happened, "Oh no!" she said, quickly moving over to help me up. "I'm so sorry. I didn't hurt you, did I?"

I grunted as I untangled myself from the remains of the broken table and stood up. I smiled at her and said, "Don't worry about it, I'm fine." As soon as I said that, my headache returned from last night. I groaned in agony and started to fall, but the mare was already there to catch me.

A stern look crossed her face as she led me back to the bed. She said to me, "Now you stay in bed this time, I'm going to find someone to help you." The pain made it impossible to talk, so I just nodded and let myself be half carried back to the bed. As soon as I was back to laying down, she went back into the other room and was quickly back in carrying another tray in her mouth. She sat it down on the bed next to me and said, "Now, drink this and get some more sleep. I'll be back soon to check up on you." Without waiting for any kind of acknowledgment she was gone again. Next to me on the tray was a mug of what looked like tea. I slowly gingerly grasped the mug in my hooves and lifted it to my lips and took a testing sip. It had a slightly bitter taste to it, but it had kind of a sweet aftertaste. I quickly finished the cup and sat it and the tray on the floor. The pain in my head started receding away yet again and I could think straight. I sat up on the bed and stared at the empty wall across from me. It was much too empty for me, so I started to concentrate. I felt the warmth of magic rise up in my body and soon, my horn started to glow. My concentration went back to the wall and my magic went to work.

A small white dot appeared on the wall across from me and sat there, quivering. It steadily grew brighter until it seemed to be the only source of light in the room. Quickly and efficiently, it spread and covered the entire wall. The intricate designs and writing in my head transferred through my thoughts onto the wall. The whiteness faded in some spots and got brighter still in others. Soon, on the wall was a great, glowing ring, filled with intricate designs and writing of some sort. The whiteness faded slowly, being taken over instead by different hues of yellow and pink. Finally, the only glowing spot on the wall was a quivering dot again in the middle. It spread a little and took the form of three butterflies. The whiteness then faded and left behind pink and

blue, an identical copy of the yellow mare's cutie mark. It wasn't finished, though, and I wrinkled my nose in confusion. I didn't know how I knew it wasn't finished, but something was definitely not where it should be. A soft knock at the door snapped my attention away. I rubbed a hoof over my eyes and looked up at the window. I'd been staring at the design on the wall for at least a few hours.

I stepped away from the wall and walked over to the door. I slowly opened it and peeked out. A purple unicorn was on the other side, levitating and clipboard and a quill in front of her. She was talking to the yellow mare from earlier and neither noticed I had opened the door. I let out a polite cough to let them know I was there. The purple mare started a bit, but quickly recovered and looked back towards me. "Hello," she said, a warm smile spreading across her face. "My name is Twilight Sparkle. My friend Fluttershy here said that you seemed to be sick?"

I bowed my head to the unicorn as I finished opening the door. "Hello, Miss Sparkle. I would introduce myself, but I'm having a slight issue remembering much right now." I smiled meekly at both of the mares as I stepped to the side to let both of them pass into the room. Fluttershy let out a soft gasp as she noticed the design on the wall. She slowly walked over and gazed at it intently, taking care to note all of the finer details. She then turned to me and said, "Did you do this?"

I smiled sheepishly at her, as a blush was forming and replied, "Yes ma'am. If you'd prefer me to, I'll take it down right away."

"Oh no! That's not what I meant at all. It's actually quite lovely. What is it?"

I shrugged at her and said, "I'm not sure. It's something that I can do with my magic. I'm not sure what it is or what it's supposed to do." An idea suddenly grew as I moved back towards the wall and quietly asked, "Could you please step aside a moment? There was something that was missing, and I now know what it was." She nodded her head politely and stepped back to stand beside Twilight, who had been standing beside the bed.

I closed my eyes in concentration and again felt the magic flow. My horn started to glow and a small beam of light connected it to the outer edges. It then focused itself at the very top and formed a small circle. Inside, more intricate words were formed quickly. When they were finished, the entire design started to glow a bright white, and then quickly faded into its previous colors. The glow around my horn quickly faded and I felt a bit light headed. I went back to the bed and sat down, still admiring the design.

"It's so lovely" Fluttershy said, as she took a few steps closer to the wall. She seemed to be walking different than before. Her head was held a little bit higher, her shoulders sagging less. She seemed to be carrying herself more confidently. She turned back to me and said in a gentle voice, "Thank you very much for this."

I nodded to her and looked over at Twilight, "Miss Sparkle, was it?"

A soft chuckle escaped her lips and she replied, "Please, just Twilight. Now, Fluttershy told me that she found you outside her shed in the pouring rain. What were you doing out there in that kind of storm?"

I looked out the window again, this time seeing the tree I had taken refuge at. It was the largest of all the trees at the edge of the forest. Without moving, I could see that the forest continued on for what seemed like forever. I felt lucky I had chosen that tree to stop at. I looked back at Twilight and replied, "I'm not sure Mi- Twilight. All I remember is waking up in some clearing and running away from...something."

She quickly jotted something down on her clipboard and continued, "You said you had issues remembering things. What exactly do you remember?"

I shrugged my shoulders and said, "How to walk and talk. That's about it."

A small giggle escaped her lips again and she jotted something down again. She sat her clipboard and quill onto the table next to her and walked around the to the foot of the bed. "Now, with your permission, I'd like to try a memory spell. Something that'll hopefully get at least a bit of your memory back. I'll apologize in advance if we happen to come across any memories you'd prefer to keep private. I won't be able to help that."

I looked over at Fluttershy who nodded reassuringly to me. I turned back to Twilight who had a warm smile on her face. I nodded to her and she nodded back. "Good," she said, "Now, I'll need you to lie down, with your head here in front of me, and close your eyes. You'll need to keep your mind completely clear for this to work."

I nodded my head and turned myself around, with my head at the foot of the bed. I closed my eyes and attempted to clear my mind as well as I could. I nodded, signaling Twilight that I was ready. I felt what seemed to be a slight pull and could feel the warmth of magic coming from Twilight's direction. I felt her softly place her horn on my forehead. As soon as she did that, I couldn't help but think of Fluttershy. When I first saw her come into this room. When she was making my headache go away. Blushing inwardly, I recounted when she was leaving the room. I heard Twilight quietly giggle and then quickly clear her throat. Physically blushing now, my mind became clear once again. Suddenly, everything went white, and then just as quickly, the deepest black that could ever exist.

I opened my eyes and I found myself in what appeared to be a cave. I slowly stood up and looked around me. I saw Twilight beside me, who was also studying our surroundings. I walked over to her side and asked, "Where are we?"

"You know better than I would. This is your memory." She nodded towards a particular part of

the cave and I followed her gaze. I saw myself walking through a doorway. Beside me was something. I couldn't tell what it was. It seemed like it was wrapped in a dark mist. I tried to take a step closer to get a better look, but I felt a hoof on my chest, holding me back. I looked over at her questioningly and she shook her head, a worried look on her face. I looked back over at myself and the shade and saw that they were walking towards what appeared to be a stone table. I saw the two figures bow before it, and could hear the sound of someone chanting something. I then saw my horn glowing and one of my designs forming above the table. As soon as it was finished, the chanting stopped. This time though, the glowing didn't fade, and instead grew brighter yet. Soon, yet another figure shrouded in a dark mist took a light step through, almost as if testing the ground. Seemingly finding it satisfactory, it finished walking through. It started speaking to the two, but I couldn't make out what it was saying. It stopped talking suddenly as it was almost as if it turned directly towards Twilight and myself. I looked over at her and asked, "We're looking back at a memory, it can't really see us, can it?"

Almost as if answering me for her, I could make out what it said, "Someone's watching." It was deep, and it felt like words themselves burned into my flesh. I looked over at Twilight, who had a pained look on her face.

She turned back at me and said, "We really need to get out of here. Now." We both turned and ran as fast as we could. "Quick, we're in a memory. We can only go so far. Think back to where we are. Back at Fluttershy's cottage."

I shook my head and tried to think of what her cottage looked like. I could hear loud hoof beats behind us as the thing was quickly gaining on us. The picture quickly slipped and I tried imagining it again. It escaped my grasp yet again as the thing was closing in on us faster yet. We both suddenly tripped and skidded to a halt on the stone floor. We rolled over to look at what was chasing us. As it closed in on us, the dark mist seemed to wash away. It revealed a deep black pony with two horns wrapping around the ears, facing directly forward. It had four cloven hooves and the floor underneath it scorched with fire. This evil looking pony laughed malevolently and said in a menacing voice, "You silly foal. You really shouldn't meddle in what's not yours to meddle in." It then reared on its hind hooves, ready to strike us both down. I closed my eyes and tried to picture the cottage again. This time the image stuck. I was looking at the wall with my design. It was glowing again. Fluttershy was standing in front of it. A warm, friendly smile on her face.