**Crusading for a Turnabout Part 1**

# **Scene 1**

**Characters: Applejack, Apple Bloom, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Twilight, Spike, Phoenix, Athena, Apollo, Trucy, Widget**

***February 13, 12:30 PM***

***Twilight’s Castle - Throne Room***

*The members of the Wright Anything Agency and the Mane 6 are all together in the throne room conversing with each other.*

PHOENIX  
*(Ooh boy. That party last night sure was a ton of fun, but it took a lot out of me.)*

*Phoenix looks around the room to see the Mane Six, Spike, and the WAA conversing.*

PHOENIX  
*(But… As much as I’d love to stay here a while, we really should be heading home soon. A client could show up at the office, and we wouldn’t even know it.)*

*Phoenix continues looking around the castle throne room.*

PHOENIX  
*(Though, it doesn’t look like anyone else wants us to leave just yet.)*

*Phoenix finishes looking around the castle, eyes landing on Apollo, looking rather irritated.*

PHOENIX  
*(Well, no one except Apollo, at least.)*

*Phoenix looks towards Athena, who is talking to Twilight and Fluttershy.*

TWILIGHT  
So, Athena. I’ve been meaning to ask you this for sometime now, but... What is that thing around your neck? A necklace of some kind?

ATHENA  
Oh, this? This is my pal, Widget. Say hi, Widget!

WIDGET  
Hi Widget!

FLUTTERSHY  
[Surprised] Oh my, it talks!

ATHENA  
[Proud] Yup! Neat, isn’t he?

TWILIGHT  
I’ll say! I wasn’t expecting to hear him speak. So, what does he do?

ATHENA  
Well, Widget is my personal AI companion, and a portable computer that I use in court!

ATHENA  
His functions include taking notes, reviewing evidence, and assisting me in analyzing people’s emotions.

TWILIGHT  
So, he’s like a living notebook?

ATHENA  
Yeah, I guess that’s one way of describing him!

TWILIGHT  
Interesting. And how does he help you analyze people’s emotions?

ATHENA  
Well, with my special sense of hearing, I can detect the discord in a witness’s heart while they’re giving their testimony.

ATHENA  
Then, I plug the data I hear into a program called the Mood Matrix, and that way, I can see what emotions the witness is experiencing.

FLUTTERSHY  
Wait, Discord? [Excitedly] I have a friend named Discord!

TWILIGHT  
Hehe, I don’t think she means THAT kind of discord, Fluttershy.

ATHENA  
Basically, if I can pick up discord in someone’s voice, then it means that their true emotions are conflicting with what they are saying.

ATHENA  
So, I use Widget to try and pinpoint contradicting emotions, and reveal the truth behind a witness’s testimony!

TWILIGHT  
Wow! I’ve never heard of this sort of procedure. Clearing away the conflicting emotions in a witness’s testimony to find the truth... That sounds revolutionary!

ATHENA  
[Extremely hyped] It is! With the advent of bringing analytical psychology into the courtroom, the legal system will be given even more chances to grow and evolve!

TWILIGHT  
That’s amazing, Athena. Humans truly are exceptional when it comes to the legal world.

TWILIGHT  
Equestrian law, as far as I know, has remained stative for the past millennium, so it’s refreshing to hear about a system of law that’s constantly changing.

FLUTTERSHY  
So, other than law and psychology, is there anything else that interests you? Do you have any pets?

ATHENA  
No, I don’t, but I’d love to have one! I adore animals!

FLUTTERSHY  
[Gasps] You do!? So do I! Do you have any favorites!?

ATHENA  
Well, I really love aquatic animals. In fact, there’s an aquarium I like to visit that hosts live performances with some of them!

ATHENA  
I typically go there to study animal-assisted therapy, and further my psychological studies. The pirate show's pretty cool, too, though!

FLUTTERSHY  
[Enthusiastically] Oh! You like animal therapy? I have plenty of animal friends that I let other ponies use for that purpose back at my cottage… [Timidly] um, I mean, if you’d like to meet them?

ATHENA  
[Excited] Really!? Das klingt super!

FLUTTERSHY & TWILIGHT  
?

ATHENA  
[Slightly embarrassed] Oh! Err...hehe. What I meant was I’d LOVE to!

FLUTTERSHY & TWILIGHT  
*(Laughing)*

PHOENIX  
*(Heh, it’s good to see that Athena is making new friends.)*

*Phoenix looks towards Apollo, who is talking to Rainbow Dash and Applejack*

APOLLO  
[Unsure] Look, I don't want to sound rude or anything, but I’m not sure how much more of all of… THISI can handle…

APOLLO  
I REALLYjust want to go home right now, but… [sighs] I also don’t want to spoil this experience for Athena and Trucy. From the looks of it, they seem to be having a lot of fun.

RAINBOW  
Oh, you’ll be *fine*. ‘Nix was exactly like that the last time he was here.

APPLEJACK  
[Reassuring] Yep! So don’t you fret nothin’! All of us are happy to do anything to make y’all comfortable!

APPLEJACK  
I got a whole orchard of apples if you need something to eat.

APOLLO  
*Right…* So, I take it you’re a farmer?

APPLEJACK  
That’s right! An apple farmer! I spend most of my time bucking trees at Sweet Apple Acres: my family’s apple farm.

APOLLO  
[Confused] Wait, buck? Uh… What do you mean by buck?

APPLEJACK  
You know, giving them apple trees a good, hard kick and knocking all them apples down.

APOLLO  
[Understanding] Ohhhhh ok, I see. [tiny relieved sigh] So, how many apple trees do you have?

APPLEJACK  
I’d say dozens and dozens of them. Maybe even hundreds.

APOLLO  
[Concerned] Hundreds?! And you harvest all those apples by yourself?!

APPLEJACK  
\*Chuckles\* Of course not. I have my family to help me out with the harvest.

RAINBOW  
[Reminiscing and Amused] Although, there *was* that one time when you tried to harvest the entire orchard by yourself.

APPLEJACK  
Well, my brother was injured and I wanted to prove I could do it myself.

APOLLO  
Letting pride get in the way of asking for help, huh?

APPLEJACK  
Yeah, yeah, but I came around eventually, thanks to my friends.

RAINBOW  
And with an athlete like me on her side, we got it done really quick, too!

APOLLO  
An athlete, huh?

RAINBOW  
[Proud] That’s right! Fastest Flier in Ponyville, and top member of the Wonderbolt Reserves!

APOLLO  
Really? That’s some title you have there.

RAINBOW  
Oh, just you wait. Soon, not only will I be an official Wonderbolt, but I’ll have the title of the Fastest Flier in all of Equestria!

APPLEJACK  
I don’t doubt it. I don’t think I've ever met another pony with a drive like Rainbow’s! She’s won every race she’s competed in!

APPLEJACK  
[Snarkily] Well, except the Running of the Leaves.

RAINBOW  
[Angry] Oh don’t get me started with that race! You kept trying to trip me up at every turn!

APPLEJACK  
[Indignant] Oh please, you were the one that started it!

APOLLO  
[Interjecting quickly] Still, winning every race you’ve entered is no small feat. Don’t you ever get nervous before a race?

RAINBOW  
Me? Nervous? Nah! I’m always raring to go!

APPLEJACK  
[Snarkily] In races, sure, but what about the Best Young Flier Competition?

RAINBOW  
[Defensive] Oh come on, I was just a little out of it that day, that’s all!

APPLEJACK  
A little? You were floppin’ around like a blindfolded bull in a rodeo!

RAINBOW  
Well, I *was* able to do the Sonic Rainboom, ANDsave Rarity and the Wonderbolts from falling to their doom in the process! How’s that for “floppin’ around?”

APOLLO  
You know, I think I’ve got just the trick to keep you from getting nervous before a competition.

RAINBOW  
Hm? What would that be?

APOLLO  
Vocal exercises.

RAINBOW & APPLEJACK  
[Confused] Vocal exercises?

APOLLO  
Yep! I do what I call my Chords of Steel Exercise whenever I get nervous before a trial.

APOLLO  
What you do is stand up straight, take a deep breath, and scream as loud as you can.

RAINBOW  
[Doubtful] You really think SCREAMING is going to stop me from getting nervous?

APOLLO  
I know it will! It works for me all the time. Here, let me show you! [pause] MY NAME IS APOLLO JUSTICE AND I’M FINE!

RAINBOW & APPLEJACK  
[Taken aback] WAH!

APOLLO  
See? Easy!

RAINBOW  
Jeez, are you trying to make me go deaf?

APOLLO  
Oh, come on. That was only about half as loud as I usually go. Why don’t you give it a try?

RAINBOW  
[Unenthusiastic] Do I have to?

APOLLO  
[Encouraging] What do you have to lose?

RAINBOW  
[Unenthusiastic] Ugh, fine… [Mumbling] My name is Rainbow Dash and I’m fine…

APOLLO  
You’re going to psych yourself up like *that*? I couldn’t even hear you! Come on, do it louder!

RAINBOW  
[Louder] My name is Rainbow Dash and I’m fine!

APOLLO  
Louder!

RAINBOW  
[Shouting] My name is Rainbow Dash and I’m fine!!!

APOLLO  
LOUDER!!!

RAINBOW  
[Takes in a deep breath before screaming as loud as she can] MY NAME IS RAINBOW DASH AND I’M FINE!!!

APOLLO  
There you go! Now, how do you feel?

RAINBOW  
[Hyped up] Wa-hoo! That was awesome! I feel like I can go ten marathons! I’m totally doing this from now on before I compete in a race!

APPLEJACK  
[Pained] That was louder than a buffalo stampede… ah don’t think ah can hear out of this ear no more…

APOLLO  
Alright, good stuff! Now, this next bit is a tad more advanced, but I find that it helps even more if you get up REALLY early and do it!

RAINBOW  
[Less than pleased] H-hey! You didn’t say anything about that!

PHOENIX  
*(Oh great, Apollo’s teaching his new friends about his Chords of Steel exercise.)*

PHOENIX  
*(If he teaches Pinkie, there won’t be a sound barrier to break anymore...)*

*Phoenix looks towards Trucy, who is talking to Pinkie Pie and Rarity.*

PINKIE  
Ooooh! You were an amazing magician at the party last night, Trucy!

TRUCY  
Thank you! It’s been a while since I had a crowd that big! I’m happy they all had a good time!

RARITY  
Oh, darling, you were simply marvelous! How long have you been practicing magic?

TRUCY  
Ever since I was a little girl!

RARITY  
My, my, I see you were gifted even as a child! I must ask, how did you learn to perform magic in your world? Did you have a teacher of sorts?

TRUCY  
Yep! My daddy taught me everything I know.

RARITY  
[Confused] Your… daddy? You mean to say that Mr. Wright is a lawyer AND a magician?

TRUCY  
Oh no no no, my OTHER daddy taught me.

PINKIE  
Huh? Two daddies? How does that work? Are daddies able to give birth in your world?

TRUCY  
Haha, no Pinkie! I meant I had another daddy, before Phoenix, but when he vanished, Phoenix became my new daddy!

RARITY  
Ohhh, so you’re adopted, then?

TRUCY  
Yep!

RARITY  
So, your birth father vanished? What exactly happened?

TRUCY  
It’s kind of a long story; I’m not really sure how I’d begin to explain it.

PINKIE  
Did he explode? Did he run away? Oh! Maybe he’s hiding under an invisibility cloak!

TRUCY  
Well, who knows? A magician never reveals their secrets, as they say.

PHOENIX  
*(It’s good to see that Trucy is also making friends here. Speaking of… I kind of wish I could let everyone back home know that we’re okay.)*

PHOENIX  
*(Unfortunately, Equestria has no reception, so there’s nothing I can really do about that.)*

SPIKE  
You alright there, Phoenix? You’ve been spacing out for a few minutes now.

PHOENIX  
Huh? Oh yeah, I’m fine. I just have a lot on my mind. I guess I didn’t expect to be on vacation so soon after getting my badge back, y’know?

PHOENIX

[Sigh] It’s crazy to think of how much has happened since I was last here.

PHOENIX

Since I left, I was disbarred, adopted an amazing daughter, cleared my name, and helped bring an end to the Dark Age of the Law.

PHOENIX

All that… in just eight years.

SPIKE  
Sounds like you’ve been just as busy. I know Twilight sometimes finds it hard to believe it’s only been a year and a half since you left.

PHOENIX  
Really?

SPIKE  
She’s had to go through a lot as well, especially after becoming a princess. She always struggles with finding opportunities to take a break from her royal duties.

SPIKE  
This is the first time in a while I’ve seen her so laidback. If Twilight’s able to relax, then I think you should take the chance as well.

PHOENIX  
[Anxious] I know, but I can’t help but feel like I should be working right now. What if there’s a client at our office that needs help, and we aren’t there?

SPIKE  
It’s really bothering you, huh?

PHOENIX  
I’m supposed to be the boss.

PHOENIX  
It’s my job to make sure the office doesn’t go under, but, at the same time, I don’t want us to just rush back home right as everyone’s getting to know each other.

SPIKE  
Well, I’m sure everyone would understand why you’d want to go back. How about if Twilight just sends YOU home first?

PHOENIX  
No, I can’t leave without them. I have to look after them, especially Trucy.

SPIKE  
You’re pretty dead-set on leaving, aren’t you?

PHOENIX  
Don’t get me wrong, it’s great having the chance to come back and meet all of you again,

PHOENIX  
But I just can’t relax when I know there’s a chance that a client could need us.

SPIKE  
I understand. I’ll get Twilight to send you all home.

PHOENIX  
Thanks, Spike. Athena, Apollo, Trucy!

TRUCY  
Yes, daddy?

APOLLO  
Yeah, Mr. Wright?

ATHENA  
What is it, boss?

PHOENIX  
I think it’s time for us to head home.

TRUCY  
What!? But we just got here!

PHOENIX  
I know, but I can’t help but think there could be a potential client at the office that needs our help.

TRUCY  
Aw, come on! You’re being paranoid!

PHOENIX  
I’m sorry, Trucy, but we shouldn’t be taking any chances with this.

PHOENIX  
We still have to find a way to pay the bills by the end of the month, and our clients and your shows are the only sources of income we have.

APOLLO  
Mr. Wright has a point. I mean, the chances of a client knocking at our door are unlikely, but there’s still a chance.

ATHENA  
You sure we can’t stay a little longer?

PHOENIX  
As much as I know you’d like to, we can’t.

TRUCY  
[Upset] Oh, but I was having so much fun here…

PHOENIX  
I know. I’m sorry, Trucy.

TWILIGHT  
So, you really want to go back now?

PHOENIX  
I don’t mean anything by it, Twilight, but yes. We should really be getting back to work in our world.

RAINBOW  
You sure you can’t stay for the rest of the day?

PHOENIX  
I’m sorry, but no.

PINKIE  
Oh, this reeks like cupcakes with dirt! Because it’s a dirty cupcake and dirt tastes bad, and.... Ohh…

TRUCY  
Don’t worry, Pinkie! I’m sure we’ll have a chance to hang out again someday!

PINKIE  
[Deflated] Ok…

RARITY  
Well, it was lovely to see you again, Phoenix. And it was absolutely splendid to meet the rest of you, as well.

PHOENIX  
It was great to see you guys again, too, Rarity.

TWILIGHT  
So, are you all ready?

PHOENIX  
We’re ready.

ATHENA  
It was nice meeting you all!

TWILIGHT  
[Saddened] Yeah, it was. Well, I guess we’ll see you all another time. Goodbye… Phoenix…

*Twilight starts casting the teleportation spell on Phoenix, Athena, Apollo, and Trucy. Phoenix’s vision starts to slowly whiten, when:*

APPLE BLOOM  
[Panicked] APPLEJACK! TWILIGHT! HELP!

*Everyone is surprised to see Apple Bloom burst into the Throne Room.*

APPLEJACK  
[Worried] Apple Bloom?! What’s wrong?

APPLE BLOOM  
[Panting] You… have to… come outside… right now!

PHOENIX  
What’s going on!?

APPLE BLOOM  
[Recognizing Phoenix] You! You come, too! Before they leave!

TWILIGHT  
Apple Bloom, breathe! Before who leaves?

APPLE BLOOM  
No time to explain! Just follow me!

*Apple Bloom breaks into a sprint leaving the room*

APOLLO  
[Confused] What just happened?

APPLEJACK  
I don’t know, but we gotta find out! Come on!

*Applejack rushes outside, followed by the other ponies.*

TRUCY  
Wait, I’m so confused, what’s going on? Are we not leaving yet?

ATHENA  
I don’t know, but we won’t find out anything by just standing here! Come on, everyone! Vamonos!

PHOENIX  
You don’t have to tell me twice! Let’s go!

# **Scene 2**

**Characters: Applejack, Apple Bloom, Scootaloo, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Phoenix, Athena, Turning Page, Guard #1, Guard #2, Guard #3**

***February 13, 12:45 PM***

***Ponyville - Town Square***

*Everyone rushes out of Twilight’s Castle, following Apple Bloom towards Ponyville. When they arrive, they see a commotion occuring in the Town Square.*

APPLEJACK  
Slow down! Apple Bloom! What happened?!

APPLE BLOOM  
[Panicking] I, uhhhh, oh no! Are we too late? Where is… OH! There she is!

RAINBOW  
Huh?

*They all look to where Apple Bloom is pointing. The Mane 6 are shocked to see two members of the Royal Guard escorting Scootaloo into a police carriage.*

SCOOTALOO  
[Angrily] I’m telling you, I didn’t do anything wrong!

GUARD #1  
I’m sorry, Miss, but we’re just following orders.

FLUTTERSHY  
Oh my…

PINKIE PIE  
Hey, isn’t that-

RAINBOW  
OH NO YOU DON’T!

*Rainbow Dash flies towards the two guard ponies as the others follow.*

GUARD #1  
[Annoyed] Miss, please stop resisting and step inside the carriage.

SCOOTALOO  
[Pleading] Please! I didn’t do anything, I swear!

GUARD #2  
[Frustrated] That’s enough! Get inside the carriage!

SCOOTALOO  
[Pleading] Somepony! Help me!

GUARD #2  
[Demanding] GET IN THE CARRIAGE NOW!

RAINBOW  
HOLD IT!

*Rainbow blocks their path as the others catch up.*

SCOOTALOO  
[Relieved] Rainbow Dash! I knew you’d come save me!

GUARD #2  
[Annoyed] Ma’am, I will only ask you this once. Move aside.

RAINBOW  
Not until you take those cuffs off of her!

GUARD #2  
And what makes you think you have the right to order a member of the royal guard around? You have no authority: you’re just a MERE Element Bearer.

RAINBOW  
I… GRAH!

PHOENIX  
[Between laboured breaths] What’s going on here?

GUARD #1  
We have a warrant for the arrest of one Scootaloo.

GUARD #1  
She’s currently under suspicion of committing a serious crime, and must be brought in for questioning and trial.

RARITY  
That’s ridiculous! What kind of crime is she even being accused of?!

GUARD #2  
If you MUST know, she is being accused of commiting a murder in the Everfree Forest last night.

MANE 6 & WRIGHT ANYTHING AGENCY  
[Shocked] WHAT!?

APPLEJACK  
Oh for pete’s sake! She’s just a filly! There’s no way she could kill somepony!

SCOOTALOO  
Yeah, Applejack’s right! I wasn’t even *in* the Everfree Forest last night!

*Suddenly, Phoenix sees sets of chains appear around Scootaloo, alongside three psyche locks.*

PHOENIX  
*(Psyche locks? So she’s lying about not being in the Everfree Forest? But why?)*

TURNING PAGE  
STOP RIGHT THERE!

*Everyone turns to see a unicorn colt appear. He is carrying a small wooden sword that looks as though it has only recently been repaired in his magical aura.*

GUARD #2  
[Scolding] Scram, kid! This doesn’t concern you! Go play in the woods!

TURNING PAGE  
You let her go, you villain!

*The colt takes a swing at Guard #2. The wooden sword harmlessly bounces off his armor.*

TURNING PAGE  
HYAH!

GUARD #2  
Oof-!

GUARD #1  
What the-

*Turning uses his magic to lift the guard up into the air.*

TURNING PAGE  
Let’s see how you like THIS!

GUARD #1  
Whoa! Hey! Put me down, kid!

GUARD #2  
What are you doing, you little runt!? Are you trying to get arrested as well?

TURNING PAGE  
Guards like you make me sick! What right do you have to bear the armor of Her Highness?!

GUARD #2  
Wh--!?

*Turning picks up his sword from off the ground, and points it at the guard.*

TURNING PAGE  
Now, let Miss Scootaloo go!

GUARD #2  
You--! Are you threatening a member of the royal guard?!

PHOENIX  
*(Uh-oh. This is getting out of hand! I need to stop this kid before he does something he’ll surely regret!)*

*Phoenix steps between the guard and the colt, trying to stop the fight.*

PHOENIX  
Hey, kid! Cut this out! C’mon, you’re going to hurt someone!

TURNING PAGE  
You would deny justice from being delivered, villain? Very well, then taste the might of my sword!

PHOENIX  
[Confused and Distracted] Villain?

*The colt gets a solid hit on Phoenix, causing him to fall and drop his Magatama.*

PHOENIX  
Gahk! *(OW! That kid can hit HARD.)*

TURNING PAGE  
[Triumphant] Ha! Your stone is mine, you villain! You can’t defeat me!

PHOENIX  
[Gasps] [Panicking] *(Oh no! That’s-)* My Magatama!

GUARD #3  
Over there!

*More guards arrive on the scene to provide backup. Turning reconsiders his options.*

TURNING PAGE  
Grr! Rats! I can’t take on this many… This isn’t over, you hear!?

*Turning drops the guard, and runs off with his sword, and the magatama.*

GUARD #1  
AUGH!

PHOENIX  
[Panicking] HEY! GET BACK HERE! GIVE ME BACK MY MAGATAMA!

ATHENA  
[Determined] Don’t worry, Boss! I’ll catch him for you!

*Athena chases after the colt.*

# **Scene 3**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom, Spike, Rainbow Dash, Apollo, Turning Page, Fair Devotion**

***February 13, 12:50 PM***

***Everfree Forest - Edge***

*Athena chases the colt to the edge of the Everfree Forest, where she eventually manages to grab the Magatama.*

ATHENA  
I…. GOTCHA!

*Athena is now facing down the colt, Magatama in hand.*

TURNING PAGE  
[Demanding] Give back that stone, you ugly henchpony!

ATHENA  
[Insulted] Ugly henchpony!? You take that back, kid!

TURNING PAGE  
[Challenging] Do not underestimate me! I shall strike you down where you stand! En garde!

*Before the colt can make a move, a voice calls out to him.*

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Stern] Turning Page! Come here now!

*The colt looks to where the voice came from, immediately recognizing the voice.*

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Strict] TURNING PAGE! Do NOT make me repeat myself!

TURNING  
[Sighs] Yes, mom! [Looking back towards Athena, sneering] Don’t think you’ve won yet, fiend! I will return and stand victorious over you and your villainous ways!

*Turning Page now leaves, heading in the direction of his mother’s voice.*

ATHENA  
[Irritated] *(Jeez...gimme a break, will ya, you little thief.)*

*Athena looks ahead of her, to the forest entrance.*

ATHENA  
Luckily, I managed to catch him before he made it inside this forest. I’m not sure I would’ve been able to keep track of him in there.

*Athena notices now how foreign and foreboding the forest is, even from the entrance.*

ATHENA  
[Nervously] Yeah, no way I’d be able to keep track of that kid in there. I’d probably end up getting lost.

ATHENA  
[Neutral] I wonder if this is the “Everfree Forest” that that guard was talking about? If so, then the murder must have happened somewhere in there.

PHOENIX  
Athena!

*Athena turns around to see Phoenix, Apollo, Trucy, Twilight, Spike, Apple Bloom and Rainbow Dash running towards her.*

PHOENIX  
[Panting] Oh man… You run… so fast… I don’t think my body was built for this…

ATHENA  
[Confident] Ha! That was nothing, Boss. Just a casual morning jog!

PHOENIX  
[Wistful] What’s it like to be young?

ATHENA  
Oh, you’re not THATold. But, speaking of young, what happened to that filly? Was she arrested?

TWILIGHT  
[Downcast] Yeah, they took her away right after you left.

RAINBOW  
[Outraged] How could they do that!? There’s no way a kid like Scootaloo could ever kill anypony! Have the guards lost their minds!?

APOLLO  
Well, I imagine there must have been at least some grounds for suspecting her.

PHOENIX  
…

APPLE BLOOM  
[Denial] Th-There’s no way! Scootaloo wouldn’t hurt a fly! And besides, she said herself that she didn’t even go into the forest last night!

*Athena detects discord in Apple Bloom’s voice.*

ATHENA  
[Confused] *(Huh? That’s odd. Apple Bloom speaks so confidently, but her voice… Am I detecting uncertainty?)*

ATHENA  
*(Does she think Scootaloo might’ve gone into the forest last night? I wonder…)*

APPLE BLOOM  
[Pleading] Mr. Lawyer. You have to help her, just like how you helped Rainbow Dash last time! Please!

RAINBOW  
Yeah! That’s right. ‘Nix can save her without even breaking a sweat!

PHOENIX  
[Reassuring] Of course. I’m certainly not going to turn my back on someone who you guys think is innocent.

RAINBOW  
Alright! I’m counting on--

ATHENA  
Hold on, Boss.

PHOENIX  
What is it, Athena?

ATHENA  
[Nervously] I…umm... Would it be all right… if I led this case?

PHOENIX  
[Confused] Hmm?

ATHENA  
I just…

*Athena looks to Apple Bloom.*

ATHENA  
[Levelled] I have a feeling there’s something to this case that might warrant my psychological expertise.

ATHENA  
The defendant is only a kid, after all. I can’t imagine that this will be an easy experience for her to deal with.

APOLLO  
Tell me about it. I had to defend a kid once: it certainly wasn’t easy for me. I’m not exactly great with kids.

PHOENIX  
Well…

ATHENA  
[Begging] Please, Mr. Wright. I can handle this, trust me. Let me defend Scootaloo.

ATHENA  
After all, I know more than any of us what it’s like to be involved in a murder trial as a kid…

PHOENIX  
[Conceding] … That’s a fair point, Athena. Alright, if you’re that adamant about it, I can let you take the lead for the case.

PHOENIX  
What do you think, Rainbow? Apple Bloom?

RAINBOW  
...If ‘Nix trusts you, then so do I.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Thankful] Same here! Thank ya kindly, Miss.

ATHENA  
[Still somewhat nervous] N-no problem! I promise, I won’t let any of you down!

TWILIGHT  
I hate to rain on your parade, but if you’re going to defend in an Equestrian courthouse, you’re going to need an Equestrian attorney’s badge.

ATHENA  
[Realizing] Oh... right… And I don’t have one of those…

PHOENIX  
Perhaps it’s not too late to get one. Twilight, how does one get a badge like that?

TWILIGHT  
Well, normally, you’d have to go through law school.

TWILIGHT  
However, since Athena here is already a lawyer, we should be able to make an appeal to the Equestria High Council.

ATHENA  
The Equestria High Council… You mentioned them yesterday, didn’t you?

ATHENA  
When you were explaining how you were able to be Mr. Wright’s co-counsel, despite not being a Princess.

ATHENA  
It was because you made an appeal to them, right?

PHOENIX  
I recall hearing about them as well, on my first visit to this world.

***Flashback***

*TWILIGHT  
Originally, Princess Celestia was going to preside as the judge, but the High Council members were concerned that her verdict might be biased.*

***Flashback***

*PHOENIX  
But, isn’t this princess the ruler of your country? Can’t she just say “Too bad, I’m doing it anyway?”*

*TWILIGHT  
Princess Celestia is our all-powerful ruler, yes, but every political decision must go by the High Council first.*

*TWILIGHT  
They represent the best interests of the citizens of Equestria.*

*TWILIGHT  
Naturally, this case went by them, and they wouldn’t allow the princess to preside as the judge.*

*PHOENIX  
[Sighs] That’s democracy for you…*

***Flashback Ends***

PHOENIX  
You told me back then that they “represent the best interests” of Equestria’s citizens.

PHOENIX  
They even have the power to overrule the Princess’s authority in some cases, isn’t that right?

TWILIGHT  
Yes, that’s correct. The Equestria High Council is made up of six ponies. Five are elected by the general populace from various administrative positions.

TWILIGHT  
The sixth member, known as the Lawkeeper, is the head of the High Council.

TWILIGHT  
They are elected by the council members themselves whenever the previous Lawkeeper either retires or passes away.

TWILIGHT

The duty of the High Council is to speak for the citizens of Equestria when it comes to making political decisions that affect our country.

TWILIGHT

They advise the princesses when making such decisions, and can even overrule their authority in a majority vote.

APOLLO  
[Understanding] Hmm, sounds like a pretty basic checks and balances system.

PHOENIX  
But that’s not all they do, right? They have some sway in the legal world as well, correct?

TWILIGHT  
Yes, they are responsible for acting as a jury for certain “special” trials held in the Canterlot Royal Court.

TWILIGHT  
And, if you want to stand in court as an attorney without having gone through the typical procedures, you *must* get permission from both them AND Princess Celestia.

ATHENA  
So, what should I do, then? Is it not possible for me to get a badge in time?

TWILIGHT  
Hmm, well, I think there might be a chance you could.

TWILIGHT  
Since you’re an acquaintance of myself and Mr. Wright, it shouldn’t be too hard to write an appeal for you and Apollo.

APOLLO  
[Defensive] Whoa, wait a second! I never asked for a badge!

TWILIGHT  
Well, if we’re getting one for Athena, I don’t see the harm in getting one for you as well. You never know - you might use it someday.

APOLLO  
[Dubious] I doubt it.

TWILIGHT  
Spike, can you get on that?

SPIKE  
Yes, ma’am!

PHOENIX  
How long will it take to hear back from them, Twilight?

TWILIGHT  
It shouldn’t take too long, especially since they’ll likely prioritize an appeal from a princess.

PHOENIX  
Like Celestia did for you the last time I was here?

TWILIGHT  
Exactly. We should hear back from them by the end of the day.

APOLLO  
[Confused] Uh, isn’t that a little fast? Even if they read your request, and responded right away, what about the time it’d take to deliver those messages?

TWILIGHT  
[Nonchalant] Well, Spike can send messages instantly using his fire breath.

APOLLO  
...What?

TWILIGHT  
Once Spike writes a letter, all he has to do is breathe fire on it, and it’ll send the parchment to where he wants it to go.

APOLLO  
[Disbelief] That… No, that doesn’t make any sense!

TWILIGHT  
[Slight confusion] What do you mean?

APOLLO  
[Unnerved] He’s burning the paper! How does it get sent *anywhere*!?  
  
  
TWILIGHT  
[Matter-of-factly] Dragon magic.

APOLLO  
I… [Pause, then sternly] I’m sorry, but that’s not a sufficient answer for me. First off...

PHOENIX  
[Resigned, cutting Apollo off] Apollo, give it up. You’re not going to win.

TRUCY  
Yeah, Polly, c’mon. I already figured it out! It’s not that complicated.

APOLLO  
Trucy, not now, please…

TWILIGHT  
However, it is true that there could be a delay in hearing back from them. They don’t exactly have a dragon to send letters with.

TWILIGHT  
A mail pony will come by the castle later to drop off their response, and hopefully, the badges as well.

PHOENIX  
In that case, it’s probably best if I investigate with Athena. If she’s unable to defend tomorrow, then I’m going to have to do it.

TWILIGHT  
And I’ll come with you, just so you have someone who’s knowledgeable about this world by your side.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Determined] I want to come too! I won’t let them call Scootaloo a criminal!

TWILIGHT  
Apple Bloom, we went over this last time. This isn’t exactly the kind of thing a filly like you should be doing.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Smug] If I recall, last time we investigated together, I found some pretty important evidence for you.

APPLE BLOOM  
I think I’ve proven myself when it comes to this “investigatin’” stuff.

TWILIGHT  
[Sigh] [Conceding] Okay. If I say no, you’ll just find a way to tag along anyway.

TWILIGHT  
At least this way I can keep an eye on you, so that you don’t get lost or mess up the crime scene.

APPLE BLOOM  
Yay! Cutie Mark Crusader Private Investigator!

*Twilight rolls her eyes, and lets out a disgruntled sigh.*

TWILIGHT  
I don’t think any more of us should go, though. We don’t want to unintentionally disrupt the investigation by having too many of us there.

TWILIGHT  
Not to mention, the Everfree Forest isn’t exactly the safest place to be.

TWILIGHT  
Apollo, Trucy, Spike, and Rainbow Dash, would you all mind heading back to the castle, and letting everypony know what’s going on?

SPIKE  
No problem, Twilight! And I’ll get that appeal written and sent as soon as I get back.

APOLLO  
[Sigh] Might as well, right?

RAINBOW  
…

TWILIGHT  
Rainbow?

RAINBOW  
[Concerned] You… ARE going to save her, right, Athena?

ATHENA  
Of course, Rainbow. You can count on me!

RAINBOW  
…

TRUCY  
[Confident] Don’t worry, Rainbow Dash. Athena’s got drive, guts, tenacity, and especially, courage like you’ve never seen before.

TRUCY  
Even when the situation is at its bleakest, Athena can power through and force her biggest smile.

TRUCY  
She’ll fight for Scootaloo until the bitter end, dragging out the truth along the way. You can count on her.

ATHENA  
…

RAINBOW  
Drive, guts, tenacity… and courage, huh?

*Rainbow smiles at the word choice.*

ATHENA  
[Observant] *(Hmm? Do I sense some… nostalgia behind those words?)*

RAINBOW  
Thanks, Trucy. Alright, guys, we’ll be heading off now.

SPIKE  
See you when you get back! Stay safe!

*Apollo, Trucy, Spike, and Rainbow Dash leave.*

TWILIGHT  
All right, we should probably get going.

ATHENA  
Do we even know where the murder occurred, though? I know it was somewhere in this forest, but…

TWILIGHT  
Don’t worry, I asked the guards for more information on the crime. They were willing to tell a princess like me the details. Well, one of them was, at least. Follow me.

# **Scene 4**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom, Fluttershy**

***February 13, 1:05 PM***

***Everfree Forest - Crossroads***

*In the distance, a snarl can be heard, followed by a vicious bark.*

ATHENA

[Concerned] Uh, what was that?

TWILIGHT

A timberwolf, probably.

ATHENA

[Nervously] Wh-What’s a timberwolf?

TWILIGHT

They’re a breed of magical dogs that live in this forest.

TWILIGHT

As the name suggests, their bodies are made of timber and leaves, and they can even reassemble themselves if they get injured.

ATHENA

[Scared] L-Like a zombie!?

TWILIGHT

I… guess that’s an apt comparison.

PHOENIX

I suppose that answers that question, then.

TWILIGHT

What question?

PHOENIX

Do you remember what happened the last time I was here? I was knocked out, and left stranded in this forest.

PHOENIX  
Fluttershy had to save me from some vicious dogs that seemed to me like they were made of wood. If I remember correctly, she said…

***Flashback***

*FLUTTERSHY*

*Those species of lupine are known to rip their prey apart within a few seconds.*

***Flashback Ends***

TWILIGHT

Those sound like timberwolves, all right.

PHOENIX

I had always wondered what those creatures were, exactly. Now I know, I guess. [Shuddering] Doesn’t make recalling that experience any less traumatizing, though.

ATHENA

[Nervously] Jeez, we’re only about five minutes into this forest, and already it’s giving me the creeps.

TWILIGHT

Don’t worry, as long as we stick to the path, we should be fine.

TWILIGHT

Many deadly creatures, like the timberwolves, live in this forest, but if we don’t venture into the woods themselves, we shouldn’t come across any.

ATHENA

[Sarcastically] *(Oh, good. So there’s a* ***ton*** *of vicious animals in here just waiting to kill me. Awesome.)*

PHOENIX

Although, didn’t you say last time that the more dangerous creatures live much *further* into the forest, Twilight?

PHOENIX

That barking sounds relatively close by, and like Athena said, we haven’t been walking for that long.

TWILIGHT

Timberwolves are probably the one exception to that. Many of them inhabit areas *very* close to the forest’s edge.

TWILIGHT  
Luckily, they never seem to leave the forest itself, which is good for all of us living in Ponyville.

**[Added to Court Record - Timberwolves: A species of magical, violent dogs that live near the forest’s edge. Known to rip their prey apart in seconds.]**

ATHENA

[Confused] Why in the world was your town founded right next to such a dangerous forest in the first place!?

TWILIGHT

[Deflecting] It’s uh, it’s a long story. I’m sure Apple Bloom can tell you if you’re really interested - it involves the timberwolves, funnily enough.

TWILIGHT

Right now, though, we should get going.

ATHENA

Which way? It seems like the path splits in three different directions here.

TWILIGHT

We have to keep going straight to reach the crime scene.

ATHENA

What’s down the other paths?

TWILIGHT

The right path leads to Froggy Bottom Bog - it’s a swamp full of dangerous, aquatic animals, and a place where many strange plants grow.

TWILIGHT  
The left path leads to the Nightmare Night statue, only about a three minute walk away.

ATHENA

[Increasing confusion] Nightmare Night statue?

TWILIGHT

[Deflecting] As much as I’d love to explain, we really ought to move on.

TWILIGHT

We shouldn’t be in this forest longer than we have to, and we *definitely* don’t want to be in here after dark.

PHOENIX

[Realizes] Oh, that’s right. The Everfree Forest is pitch black at night, isn’t it?

TWILIGHT

Well, the moon would be shining, so the path itself, and other areas where there are no trees, wouldn’t quite be pitch black.

TWILIGHT  
But anywhere else, the trees are so thick that it may as well be.

TWILIGHT  
Sunlight can barely get through those trees during the day; there’s no way any moonlight is going to get through them.

APPLE BLOOM

Ugh, don’t remind me…

PHOENIX

[Reminiscing] Oh, yeah. You got lost in here last time, didn’t you, Apple Bloom?

APPLE BLOOM

Yeah, I couldn’t even see my own hoof in front of my face once I ran off the path.

TWILIGHT

Anyway, let’s continue. There’s someone I think we should talk to first before we reach the crime scene.

TWILIGHT  
Luckily, it’s on the way to it, so we won’t need to make too much of a detour.

PHOENIX  
Lead the way, Twilight.

# **Scene 5**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom**

***February 13, 1:27 PM***

***Everfree Forest - Zecora’s Hut***

ATHENA

Hold up. Is that… a house?

TWILIGHT

Yup.

ATHENA

[Shocked] You mean someone actually LIVES in this forest!?

TWILIGHT

Uh-huh. A good friend of mine named Zecora.

APPLE BLOOM

She’s an excellent potion-maker! She and Twilight taught me everythin’ I know ‘bout brewin’ potions.

PHOENIX

Oh right, I think I remember you mentioning her at some point the last time I was here. She’s a zebra, right?

APPLE BLOOM

Yeah! She’s from some foreign land, apparently.

APPLE BLOOM

She came to Equestria to expand her knowledge of potion making by experimentin’ with plants and other stuff not found in her home country.

TWILIGHT

[Surprised] Huh, that’s interesting. I didn’t actually know that.

ATHENA

So, Twilight, was this who you wanted to talk to before we got to the crime scene?

TWILIGHT

Yeah, I figured she might have witnessed something related to the murder, given that she lives in this forest and all.

PHOENIX

That’s a good idea - let’s go ask her.

*Phoenix and Athena start walking up to the hut. Twilight notices something, and lets out a surprised gasp.*

TWILIGHT

[Panicked] Wait, stop!

*Phoenix and Athena stop moving.*

PHOENIX

[Concerned] What is it?

ATHENA

[Concerned] What’s wrong, Twilight?

TWILIGHT

Sorry, I just wanted to warn you to stay away from that patch of blue flowers there.

*Twilight plucks a flower with her magic, to show it off.*

TWILIGHT

Apple Bloom, you remember what this is, right?

APPLE BLOOM

‘Course I do, Twilight. That’s that “poison joke” you and the others stepped in that one time.

APPLE BLOOM

[laughing] Hehe, I still remember that like it was yesterday. That was *so* hilarious!

*Twilight rolls her eyes while smiling.*

ATHENA

Uh, so what does that flower do, exactly?

TWILIGHT

It’s a very bizarre kind of flower. If you touch it, it’ll play an ironic joke on you. My friends and I once stumbled into a patch of this stuff.

TWILIGHT  
The next day, we woke up to find that our bodies had been altered. I, for example, had my horn rendered floppy and completely useless.

APPLE BLOOM

And my sister became so tiny, she could ride on top of me!

TWILIGHT

Luckily, it’s not contagious. You have to physically touch the plant to be affected.

ATHENA  
[Relieved] *(Good thing she stopped us. I almost walked right through them. I wonder what they would’ve done to me? Take away my hearing?)*

**[Added to Court Record - Poison Joke: A magical species of flower that grows in the Everfree Forest. It plays ironic jokes on anyone who touches it.]**

ATHENA[Concerned] Is there, uh, anything else around here we should be wary of?

TWILIGHT

Hmm, I don’t think so - that was the only thing I spotted.

PHOENIX

Then let’s go ask Zecora what we need to ask her.

TWILIGHT

Right.

*The group walks up to Zecora’s hut, mindful of the poison joke.*

*Twilight knocks on the door.*

TWILIGHT

[Calling out] Zecora! It’s Twilight! Could you come out? I need to talk to you!

*There’s no response. Twilight knocks again.*

TWILIGHT

[Calling out] Zecora!?

*Still no response.*

TWILIGHT

Doesn’t sound like she’s home - I guess she must be out gathering herbs, or something.

PHOENIX

I’m not so sure about that, Twilight. Look here.

*Phoenix is referring to the mail box beside Zecora’s tree.*

PHOENIX

See this mail? Notice how this one letter looks much dirtier compared to the others? I can only assume that this has been sitting here for a while.

APPLE BLOOM

That doesn’t make any sense. Zecora always brings her mail in right away, so that it doesn’t end up like this.

PHOENIX

I thought that’d be the case.

TWILIGHT

So, the fact that the mail is dirty means…

PHOENIX

Yeah. I think it’s safe to say that Zecora hasn’t had a chance to return home for a good while, perhaps even a full day.

ATHENA

[Concerned] Hey, Boss, you don’t think she could be… the victim of this case, do you?

APPLE BLOOM

[Panicked] What!? NO! She can’t be! She’s… She’s just been out collecting plants all night. Right, Mr. Lawyer?

PHOENIX

[Pensive] I don’t think so, Apple Bloom.

APPLE BLOOM

Wh-What…?

PHOENIX

[Reassuring] Oh no no, don’t worry. I’m not saying that she’s the victim. If she was, there’d be police officers here, combing her house for clues.

PHOENIX

Since there aren’t any, I think it’s safe to say that she’s okay.

APPLE BLOOM

[Relieved] Oh... [sniffle] Okay… That’s… That’s good, then.

ATHENA

*(Whoa...The relief in her voice… It’s so powerful. She must really care about Zecora.)*

ATHENA

[Remorseful] *(I… I should probably apologize to her later for blurting that out.)*

PHOENIX

However, I DO think this could mean she’s at least connected to our case.

TWILIGHT

How so?

PHOENIX

I can’t say for certain, but if she’s been away from this hut for some time, it’s possible it could be because she was taken in for questioning.

APPLE BLOOM

[Amazed] Wow. You got *all* that, from just that one letter?

PHOENIX

Well, it’s just a guess for now - I have no way to prove that I’m right, but yeah, that’s what this letter tells *me*.

TWILIGHT

Huh?

*Twilight spots something on the dirtied letter.*

TWILIGHT

Hey, Phoenix, could I see that letter for a second?

PHOENIX

Uh, sure.

*Twilight takes the letter in her magic, and removes some of the dirt from the area around the letter’s seal.*

TWILIGHT

Just as I thought.

APPLE BLOOM

What is it, Twi?

ATHENA

Did you find something?

TWILIGHT

I did. Look at this seal.

APPLE BLOOM

Hey, I think I’ve seen that before. Wasn’t it… during our last investigation?

TWILIGHT

You’re right, Apple Bloom. This is the Canterlot Royal Seal.

ATHENA

What does that mean?

TWILIGHT

It means that this letter was sent to Zecora by one of the princesses residing in Canterlot - Equestria’s capital.

**[Added to Court Record: Dirty Letter - A letter Zecora received, sent by one of the princesses in Canterlot. Much dirtier than the other letters in Zecora’s mailbox.]**

TWILIGHT

Why would the princesses want to get in touch with *Zecora* of all creatures?

PHOENIX

It’s certainly intriguing, but now’s not the time to be concerning ourselves with that. We should keep moving towards the crime scene.

TWILIGHT

You’re right. I’ll put Zecora’s letter back in her mailbox. We shouldn’t be invading her privacy like this, after all.

*Twilight places the letter back in the mailbox.*

TWILIGHT

The crime scene should only be another fifteen minutes away. Let’s get going.

# **Scene 6**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom, Private Eye**

***February 13, 1:45 PM***

***Everfree Forest - Castle Gorge***

*The group arrives at the foot of the bridge leading to the ruins of The Castle of the Two Sisters.*

ATHENA

[Amazed] Whoa! What is THAT!?

PHOENIX

They look like… castle ruins.

TWILIGHT

Well, that’s exactly what they are. Those ruins were once a place known as The Castle of the Two Sisters.

TWILIGHT

It was where Equestria’s current rulers - Princesses Celestia and Luna - used to live.

ATHENA

[Fascinated] Interesting! What happened?

TWILIGHT

[Deflecting] It’s a long story: one that doesn’t exactly have a pleasant ending. Maybe I’ll tell you about it after this case is over.

ATHENA

*(There seem to be a lot of “long stories” here that I need to ask these people, er, ponies about.)*

ATHENA

*(The founding of Ponyville, the Castle of the Two Sisters: I wonder what else I can learn about this world?)*

PRIVATE EYE

[Pleasant] Oh? Hello there. What might you folks be up to?

*A unicorn wearing a top hat approaches the group. Phoenix’s attention is immediately drawn to his hat.*

PHOENIX

! Oh, err...good afternoon!

PRIVATE EYE

[Concerned] Are you alright, sir? You seem a bit taken aback.

PHOENIX

[Apologetic] Ah! Uh, yes, sorry. It’s just… your hat reminds me of someone I met once, a long time ago.

PRIVATE EYE

[Understanding] Ah, well, no need for apologies, my friend.

TWILIGHT

Pardon me, sir, but we’re here to investigate the murder that occurred here last night.

PRIVATE EYE

[Surprised] Princess Twilight!

*Private Eye bows to the mare.*

PRIVATE EYE

[Reverent] What an honor it is to be in your noble presence, Your Highness.

TWILIGHT

[Embarrassed] Um, thank you. You really don’t have to address me like that… or bow.

PRIVATE EYE

[Respectful] Hoho! You are far too modest, Princess! How could I not, after all that you have done for Equestria?

ATHENA

*(Talk about being out of the loop. How much has Twilight helped this world?)*

*Phoenix shakes his head.*

PHOENIX

[mutter] Yep. You definitely remind me of him…

PRIVATE EYE

And who might you be, miss?

ATHENA

Oh, uh, my name is Athena Cykes. I’m the defense attorney for this case. *(Miss, eh? I think I’m going to like this guy!)*

PRIVATE EYE

A pleasure to make your acquaintance, Ms. Cykes. And what about you, little one?

APPLE BLOOM

I’m Apple Bloom. It’s nice to meet you, Mister.

PRIVATE EYE

The feeling is mutual, Apple Bloom. And you, good sir?

PHOENIX

Phoenix Wright.

PRIVATE EYE

The very same? From yesterday’s trial, and the TS-5 case?

PHOENIX

You got it.

PRIVATE EYE

Well, it is certainly a pleasure to meet you all.

PRIVATE EYE

My name is Private Eye. I’m the lead investigator for this case.

TWILIGHT

[Confused] You’re the lead investigator? No offense, but shouldn’t the investigation be led by somepony from Ponyville? I don’t think I’ve ever seen you around town before.

PRIVATE EYE

Quite right, Princess. I am not from Ponyville. I hail from Canterlot. The reason I’m leading this investigation is because Princess Celestia ordered me to.

TWILIGHT

Princess Celestia?

PRIVATE EYE

Indeed. As soon as the murder was reported, she requested that I take charge of this particular case.

TWILIGHT

Why you?

PRIVATE EYE

[Hesitant] Well, that’s…

*Private Eye bows.*

PRIVATE EYE

[Regretful] I’m sorry, Princess. As much as I wish I could tell you, I’m afraid that, if I revealed anything, Princess Celestia would be...less than pleased, you see.

TWILIGHT

[Dejected] Oh… I see…

ATHENA

[Confused] *(What? Why did Twilight sound so… dejected?)*

PHOENIX

…

PRIVATE EYE

So, you are here to investigate the crime scene, correct?

ATHENA

Yes, we are. We need to build our case to defend Scootaloo after all.

PRIVATE EYE

Ah, yes. The little filly who was arrested as the suspect.

PRIVATE EYE

Personally, I find it hard to believe that she is responsible; we found no link between her and the victim, after all.

PRIVATE EYE

But, alas, the evidence pointed to her as the culprit, so we had no choice but to issue a warrant for her arrest.

ATHENA

*(No link, huh? So that means there’s no motive for Scootaloo to commit this crime. I wonder how the prosecution plans to counter* THAT*issue.)*

PRIVATE EYE

So long as you are the defense attorney for this case, and especially if you have Princess Twilight’s permission, then you are free to investigate the crime scene.

PRIVATE EYE

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask.

ATHENA

Thank you, sir.

PRIVATE EYE

Think nothing of it, miss.

TWILIGHT

…

ATHENA

*(Twilight still seems really out of it. I wonder what’s bugging her?)* [Concerned] Hey, Twilight, you okay?

TWILIGHT

[Deflecting] Y-Yeah, I’m fine. Let’s begin the investigation.

ATHENA

[Concerned] *(The emotions I’m hearing say otherwise, Twilight, but I suppose that’s a can of worms that can wait to be opened.)*

PHOENIX

All right, Athena, so what’s our first step going to be?

ATHENA

Well, uh… first… I’d like to know more about the victim. Can you tell me anything about them, Private Eye?

PRIVATE EYE

W-well, now. You see, that’s a matter that I’ve been instructed to keep quiet about, I’m afraid.

TWILIGHT

[Taken aback] Wait, seriously? You can’t even tell us who the victim is?

PRIVATE EYE

Well, not so much YOU, Princess. Just...the general public... Such as miss Apple Bloom.

APPLE BLOOM

[Surprised] ! Huh? Me?

TWILIGHT

Private Eye, I promise you, it’s fine. Apple Bloom here won’t say anything that will cause any trouble for you. [Looks at Apple Bloom expectantly] Right, Apple Bloom?

APPLE BLOOM

Yup! You can trust me! My lips are zipped, Mister!

PRIVATE EYE

[Pauses to think] ...Very well.

PRIVATE EYE

The victim’s name is Royal Order, a member of Princess Celestia’s royal guard back in Canterlot. He had just come home to Ponyville last night, you see.

PRIVATE EYE

His wife confirmed that he arrived home that night, alive and well, at half past nine.

PRIVATE EYE

However, for whatever reason, he decided to leave soon afterwards, and she never saw him alive again.

ATHENA

Royal guard? So that’s why…

PRIVATE EYE

Precisely. We’re doing our best to not make the citizenry panic.

PHOENIX

So, the victim had a family?

PRIVATE EYE

Yes, a wife and son. I have a photo of them here, if you wish to see them.

*Private Eye pulls out a photograph, and shows it to the group. Athena gasps when she sees the colt in the photo.*

ATHENA

[Gasp] Wait! That kid… That’s the same one from earlier, isn’t it?

TWILIGHT

It sure looks like him. So he’s the victim’s son, then?

ATHENA

What was he trying to do before, anyway?

TWILIGHT

He seemed intent on stopping the guards from arresting Scootaloo.

ATHENA

Are they friends or something?

TWILIGHT

[Unsure] I’m not sure. I’ve never seen her hanging out with him before.

APPLE BLOOM

…

PRIVATE EYE

His name is Turning Page. Unfortunately, we don’t know where he was, or what he was doing last night.

PRIVATE EYE

His mother said that he wasn’t at home when Royal Order arrived.

ATHENA

*(Hmm, I wonder if he has some sort of connection to this case, then. It’d be a good idea to track him down and talk to him.)*

ATHENA

*(At the very least, he should be able to tell me more about his father, and I’d like to know what kind of connection he has with Scootaloo as well.)*

ATHENA

Is there any word on the cause of death?

PRIVATE EYE

Unfortunately, the body is still undergoing autopsy, so we cannot be certain as of yet.

PRIVATE EYE

However, the leading theory is that he died from blood loss due to a small stab wound to the right side of his head.

PHOENIX

[Curious] A stab wound to the head? That’s kind of an odd place to stab someone, don’t you think?

PRIVATE EYE

We thought so, as well. We’re hoping to find a reason for that once the autopsy is complete.

ATHENA

When you say “small stab wound,” just how small are you talking?

PRIVATE EYE

Look no further than that scooter over there to find your answer, Ms. Cykes.

ATHENA

Huh?

TWILIGHT

!!! [Shocked] Th-That scooter…! And that wagon…!

ATHENA

What is it, Twilight?

TWILIGHT

Those… Those are Scootaloo’s!

ATHENA

What!?

APPLE BLOOM

…

*Everyone rushes over to the scooter and wagon parked at the foot of the bridge.*

TWILIGHT  
Wh-What are THESE doing here?

PRIVATE EYE  
We found the victim’s body sitting right in front of that scooter.

PRIVATE EYE  
If you look at the left handle, you’ll notice that it’s broken, and caked in blood. Tests confirmed that the blood belonged to Royal Order.

PHOENIX  
You’re right. The handle looks like it was snapped off. Only the metal bolt is still intact.

ATHENA

Wait, are you telling me that the victim was stabbed… with the scooter?

PRIVATE EYE

That is our current interpretation of the facts, yes. The stab wound on the victim’s head appears to be a perfect match with the metal bolt on this scooter.

PRIVATE EYE

We confirmed it just before the victim’s body was taken away for autopsy.

ATHENA

[Shocked] That’s… That’s insane! How would that even be possible!? And for a little kid, no less!?

PRIVATE EYE

We have a theory at the moment, but we’ll have to wait until the autopsy is complete to be sure.

ATHENA

*(And until it’s certain, I suppose I shouldn’t be expecting an answer.)*

PHOENIX

Hmm?

ATHENA

What is it, Boss?

PHOENIX

It looks like the handle isn’t the only part of this scooter that’s broken. Look at the front wheels.

ATHENA

Huh? They’re… twisted and bent.

PRIVATE EYE

Sharp eye, Mr. Wright. We tested it earlier, and confirmed that this scooter no longer works - it can’t move an inch on its wheels.

ATHENA

*(Hmm, that sounds like it could be an important detail.)*

**Added to Court Record: Scootaloo’s Scooter - Found at the crime scene, right next to the victim’s body. The scooter is missing its left handle, and the exposed metal bolt is covered in the victim’s blood. The front wheels are also dented, making riding the scooter impossible.**

TWILIGHT

Apple Bloom, you wouldn’t happen to know how the scooter ended up like this, would you?

APPLE BLOOM

[Hesitant] S-Sorry, Twi, I have no idea. The last time I saw the scooter, it was workin’ fine.

TWILIGHT

When WASthe last time you saw it?

APPLE BLOOM

[Pensive] Uh… Yesterday afternoon. Around 3:30 pm.

TWILIGHT

And what about Scootaloo? Do you know where she was, or what she was doing yesterday?

APPLE BLOOM

We were hangin’ out all day yesterday. We each went home around 3:30, [Hesitant] so… Ah… Ah can’t say that Ah know what she did afterwards.

ATHENA

[Suspicious] *(I didn’t even need my hearing to know that you’re hiding something, Apple Bloom. But what?)*

ATHENA

*(I doubt she’ll tell me without direct evidence, especially if she’s hiding the reason to protect her friend from suspicion.)*

PHOENIX

What’s up with this wagon attached to the scooter?

APPLE BLOOM

That’s what Sweetie Belle and I ride in when we’re with Scootaloo.

PHOENIX

I see. It looks like something else has hitched a ride this time, though.

TWILIGHT

Let’s see here; two red capes, and a roll of golden silk?

ATHENA

Hey, these capes have some sort of emblem on them.

APPLE BLOOM

Yup! That there’s the emblem of the Cutie Mark Crusaders!

ATHENA

[Confused] Cutie Mark Crusaders?

APPLE BLOOM

That’s what Sweetie Belle, Scootaloo, and I call ourselves! Ever since we first met, we were all so eager to get our cutie marks!

APPLE BLOOM

So, we started a club dedicated to tryin’ out all kinds of things in hopes of makin’ our marks appear!

ATHENA

Is that… how that works?

TWILIGHT

[Exasperated] No, but no matter how many times we tell them, they just don’t seem to listen.

PRIVATE EYE

[Warmly] Haha. You needn’t worry, Princess. I’m sure it’s simply a phase.

APPLE BLOOM

All this work’ll pay off someday. Just you wait.

APPLE BLOOM

My friends and I are goin’ to get the best, most amazin’ marks anypony’s ever seen. Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon won’t be laughin’ at us then.

ATHENA

Who?

APPLE BLOOM

[Deflecting] Uh… D-Don’t worry about it for now. We gotta focus on savin’ Scootaloo!

ATHENA  
[Dismayed and Overdramatic] *(Et tu, Apple Bloom!?)*

PHOENIX

Right… so this means that these capes belong to you and your friends, Apple Bloom?

APPLE BLOOM

That’s right.

PHOENIX

But you mentioned that the Cutie Mark Crusaders has three members, right? So, why are there only TWO capes?

APPLE BLOOM

[Unsure] I… I’m not sure.

PRIVATE EYE

The third cape is in police custody. It is currently undergoing examination, the results of which, I assume, will be announced at the trial.

ATHENA

[Curious] *(Hmm, I wonder why just one of the capes was taken, and not the other two?)*

*Athena flips over one of the capes in the wagon.*

ATHENA

Huh? Wait a second. These capes are lined with gold silk on the inside.

PHOENIX

It looks like it’s the same as the gold silk in the wagon.

APPLE BLOOM

Yeah. Sweetie Belle was the one who made the capes - she used some of Rarity’s custom-made golden silk to line the insides.

ATHENA

So this “Sweetie Belle”... She knows Rarity, then?

APPLE BLOOM

‘Course she knows her! She’s her little sister.

ATHENA

*(I wonder if she’s just as dramatic and over-the-top as Rarity.)*

**Added to Court Record: CMC Capes - Two were found in Scootaloo’s wagon; the third was taken in by the police for examination. The outside of the capes are red, and each has a blue emblem. The insides are lined with golden silk.**

**Added to Court Record: Roll of Golden Silk - Rarity’s custom-made silk. Sweetie Belle used it when making the CMC capes. A roll of it was found in Scootaloo’s wagon.**

TWILIGHT

Apple Bloom, do you have any idea why this stuff is here - the scooter, the wagon, the capes, and the roll of golden silk?

APPLE BLOOM

[Distracted] I, uh… Huh?

PHOENIX

What’s wrong?

APPLE BLOOM

There’s a mark on the floor of the wagon - look.

ATHENA

You’re right - it looks like… a hoof? Though, it looks incredibly small.

PHOENIX

What’s it been left in, dried mud?

TWILIGHT

Looks like it.

PRIVATE EYE

Right you are. We’re not entirely sure what this means or if it’s even relevant. We can’t even tell what it’s meant to be an imprint of.

APPLE BLOOM

Well, it must’ve been made last night, ‘cause it sure wasn’t there yesterday.

**Added to Court Record: Scootaloo’s Wagon - A wagon that attaches to Scootaloo’s scooter. Usually used to carry around Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle. There is a strange mark on the floor left in dried mud - wasn’t there on the afternoon of the murder.**

PRIVATE EYE

[Thoughtful] Is that so? Hmm… How perplexing.

TWILIGHT

Hmm?

PHOENIX

What is it, Twilight?

TWILIGHT

I thought I saw something glinting.

*Twilight leads the others a little ways away from the scooter.*

TWILIGHT

Right here. See?

PHOENIX

Hmm. These look like… glass shards?

ATHENA

[Amazed] Wow! Those things are TINY! I’m surprised you caught them, Twilight.

TWILIGHT

Hehe, thanks.

PRIVATE EYE

Careful analysis of those shards revealed that they belonged to a pair of near-sighted glasses.

PHOENIX

Do you know who they belong to?

PRIVATE EYE

Not a clue - neither the victim nor the suspect wear glasses, so it’s possible these were here before the crime even took place.

**Added to Court Record: Glass Shards - Shards found at the crime scene that had once belonged to a pair of near-sighted glasses. Their owner is unknown.**

ATHENA

Hey, what’s down that staircase?

TWILIGHT

[Deflecting] It’s, uh… let’s just say it’s something important and leave it at that. Trust me, we do *not* need to get into that whole story right now.

ATHENA

[Determined] *(After this is over, I’m gonna drag the answers out of you, Twilight!)*

TWILIGHT

I think that just about covers the crime scene investigation, though. Unless there’s something else you can tell us, Private Eye?

PRIVATE EYE

In regards to the crime scene, there’s nothing more I can say - you all did a splendid job uncovering every clue that my team and I managed to discover.

PRIVATE EYE

However, there is one more detail you should probably know.

PHOENIX

Oh? What’s that?

PRIVATE EYE

I assume you are familiar with the Nightmare Night statue, Princess?

TWILIGHT

Of course.

PRIVATE EYE

Well, we’re not certain if it’s connected to this crime, but we discovered something… rather peculiar behind that statue.

TWILIGHT

[Concerned] What was it?

PRIVATE EYE

Blood.

TWILIGHT

[Shocked] B-Blood!?

ATHENA

[Confused] How could that NOT be related to the case!?

PRIVATE EYE

Because it’s not the victim’s, you see.

PHOENIX

[Confused] The blood… isn’t the victim’s?

PRIVATE EYE

Correct. That’s why we’re uncertain if it has anything to do with the case or not.

PRIVATE EYE

And that’s why I think you should see it for yourselves - perhaps you’ll discover something we didn’t.

TWILIGHT

I think we’ll do just that. Thank you, Private Eye.

*Private Eye bows*

PRIVATE EYE

You are more than welcome, Princess. And please, simply “Private” is fine with me.

ATHENA

All right, let’s get going, then.

PRIVATE EYE

Ah, one moment. There *are* two more things I would like to give you - these diagrams the police made.

PRIVATE EYE

One of the Everfree Forest, and one of the crime scene. I think you’ll find them most useful. Take care!

**Added to Court Record: Everfree Forest Diagram - A diagram that shows the path leading from the entrance of the Everfree Forest to its various destinations.**

**Added to Court Record: Crime Scene Diagram - A diagram showing a detailed overview of the scene of the crime - the foot of the bridge leading to The Castle of the Two Sisters.**

ATHENA

Thank you, sir. Alright, guys, let’s go.

# **Scene 7**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom**

***February 13, 2:10 PM***

***Everfree Forest - Pathway***

TWILIGHT  
It’ll likely be another thirty minute walk back to where the path splits.

TWILIGHT  
You should probably take this time to familiarize yourself with the path, Athena - it could be useful to know exactly how the forest is laid out.

ATHENA  
Roger that, Twilight.

PHOENIX  
[Concerned] Hold up, where’s Apple Bloom?

ATHENA  
Huh?

PHOENIX  
She was right behind us a second ago.

APPLE BLOOM  
I’m comin’, I’m comin’!

TWILIGHT  
Apple Bloom, what were you doing?

APPLE BLOOM  
[Apologetic] Sorry, Twi. [Hesitant] I… I didn’t realize y’all were leavin’ already.

ATHENA  
[Confused] *(Was she not paying attention to our conversation earlier?)*

APPLE BLOOM  
Anyway, where are we headed?

TWILIGHT  
[Confusion] The Nightmare Night statue…?

APPLE BLOOM  
[Confident] Alright, cool, let’s get moving!

*Apple Bloom walks ahead, with the others trailing behind.*

ATHENA  
[In a suspicious tone] Is it just me, or has Apple Bloom been acting… off… ever since we started investigating the scooter and wagon at the crime scene?

TWILIGHT  
[Just as suspicious] No, I’ve noticed it too. She never even answered my question about why those things were there.

PHOENIX  
She clearly knows more than she’s letting on - perhaps she’s trying to hide something from us in order to protect Scootaloo?

TWILIGHT  
That’s what I thought, too. But, how are we going to get her to open up?

ATHENA  
Well, I can try. I can’t guarantee that she’ll open up completely, but I might be able to squeeze some information out of her.

PHOENIX  
If anyone can get her to talk, it’s you, Athena. Go for it.

ATHENA  
On it, Boss!

*Athena walks up to Apple Bloom*

ATHENA  
Hey, Apple Bloom. Mind if I walk with you?

APPLE BLOOM  
[Distracted] Oh? Uh, sure, Miss Cykes.

ATHENA  
Thank you, and please, call me Athena.

*The two walk side-by-side for a short while in silence.*

ATHENA  
[Hesitant] Hey, uh, I’m sorry about what I said earlier. You know, about Zecora.

APPLE BLOOM  
Oh… Don’t worry about it. [Saddened] You… You were just sayin’ what you were thinkin’. Nothin’ wrong with that.

ATHENA  
Right… um… So, how did you and your friends first meet?

APPLE BLOOM  
[Perks up] Well, we became friends because we were the only fillies in our class who hadn’t yet gotten a cutie mark.

APPLE BLOOM  
I was bein’ bullied by these other two filles - Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon - and Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle stood up for me.

APPLE BLOOM

Ever since then, we’ve been the best of friends, and formed the Cutie Mark Crusaders.

ATHENA

You all enjoy each other’s company, don’t you?

APPLE BLOOM

[Beaming] Of course! We have lots of fun together, and we’re always there for each other, through thick and thin.

APPLE BLOOM

We’re like… a family. Ah couldn’t imagine life without them by mah side.

ATHENA

[Pensive] A family, huh…

*Athena thinks about Phoenix, Apollo, and Trucy.*

ATHENA

[Understanding] I think I get what you mean. It’s the same for me, with Mr. Wright, Apollo, and Trucy

APPLE BLOOM

Are they those other humans you were with?

ATHENA

Yeah. It’s strange...I haven’t even been with them for a year, but I can’t imagine life without THEM, either.

ATHENA

They’re always there for me, too. Even during one of the worst experiences I ever had...

APPLE BLOOM

What was that like?

ATHENA

[Hesitant] I… don’t think it’s something I should be talking to you about.

ATHENA

[Neutral] Let’s just say, if it weren’t for my friends, I definitely wouldn’t be here right now. They helped me out when I needed it most… in more ways than one.

APPLE BLOOM

… Then I guess that’s what we should be doing for Scootaloo, right? Sweetie Belle and I both.

ATHENA

I’m sure she’d appreciate that very much, but don’t go getting yourself into trouble.

APPLE BLOOM

Don’t worry, Athena. I’m gonna uncover the clue that’ll save the day, you’ll see!

ATHENA

[Chuckle] I’m sure you will, Apple Bloom.

*The rest of the walk continues in silence.*

# **Scene 8**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom, Turning Page, Fair Devotion**

***February 13, 2:44 PM***

***Everfree Forest - Nightmare Night Statue***

TWILIGHT

Well, here we are.

PHOENIX

So, this is the Nightmare Night statue, huh?

TWILIGHT

Uh-huh.

PHOENIX

It’s extravagant, I’ll give it that.

ATHENA

What’s it here for?

APPLE BLOOM

It’s for Nightmare Night! It’s a holiday where fillies and colts go from house-to-house collecting candy.

APPLE BLOOM

And then, at the end of the night, we all come here, and give up some of our candy so that Nightmare Moon won’t gobble us up!

PHOENIX

So, it’s like Halloween, then?

APPLE BLOOM

[Confused] Hall-o… what?

PHOENIX

Uh, never mind.

ATHENA

So, this statue… Is this “Nightmare Moon?”

APPLE BLOOM

Yup. Back when she was still evil.

ATHENA

[Confused] “Still” evil?

TWILIGHT

[Deflecting] Why don’t we talk about this another time? Let’s investigate what we came here to see.

ATHENA  
[Annoyed] *(What is it with all the deflecting and cryptic clues today? It can’t be that hard to just explain it, can it?)*

PHOENIX

Private Eye said that there were small traces of blood behind the statue, right? Blood that didn’t belong to the victim.

ATHENA

Let’s go take a look.

*Everyone moves behind the statue. They see a small bloodstain on the ground.*

TWILIGHT

There it is.

APPLE BLOOM

[Nauseous] Ulp. I think I’m going to be sick…

TWILIGHT

I warned you, Apple Bloom. This isn’t really the kind of thing a filly like you should be doing.

APPLE BLOOM

[Shaky] No. No, I…

*Apple Bloom looks to Athena.*

APPLE BLOOM

[Shaky] I have to do this, for Scootaloo.

TWILIGHT

… Alright, if you say so.

PHOENIX

I don’t think this is enough blood to have been from anything fatal, but the real puzzle is what it’s doing here in the first place.

ATHENA

So, you really think this pool of blood has nothing to do with the case?

PHOENIX

Hmm… Oh, wait! Athena! Do you still have that forensic flashlight on you?

ATHENA

I do. !? Oh, I see. You want me to use it to check for any blood that might’ve been wiped away, right?

PHOENIX

Exactly.

ATHENA

Alright, give me a second.

*Athena pulls out the flashlight.*

ATHENA

Here goes nothing!

*Athena shines the light on the back of the statue. A trail of blood, leading from the small pool, leads back around to the front of the statue.*

ATHENA

Huh?

TWILIGHT

There… There really WAS more blood!

PHOENIX

Come on! Let’s follow it!

*Athena and the group move back in front of the statue. They see that the bloodstain covers the entire front side of the statue. A pool of blood also lies at the base, and a trail extends from the pool to the center of the small clearing, where another small pool is collected.*

APPLE BLOOM

…! AAAHHHHHH!!!

TWILIGHT

[Concerned] Apple Bloom!

*Twilight rushes over to the filly after hearing her scream, and immediately begins comforting her.*

TWILIGHT

[Soothing] Shh, calm down, it’s okay.

APPLE BLOOM

[Hyperventilating]

ATHENA

[Disturbed] Oh… my… That’s… a lot of blood.

WIDGET

Urp!

PHOENIX

[Serious] No kidding. The amount that was visible may not have been fatal, but this...there’s no way someone could still be alive after losing *this* much blood.

TWILIGHT

What… what does this mean? Did the crime actually occur here?

PHOENIX

No, it couldn’t have. Remember? This ISN’T Royal Order’s blood.

TWILIGHT

But, if it’s not the victim’s blood…

ATHENA

Then whose is it?

PHOENIX

I have no idea. But whoever’s blood it is, they are unmistakably dead.

TWILIGHT

Wait, you mean this case… might have a SECOND victim?

PHOENIX

I can’t say for certain, but… I wouldn’t rule out the possibility.

ATHENA

[Distressed] *(This is insane! Just what is going ON here!?)*

**Added to Court Record: Statue Bloodstain - A bloodstain found on, in front of, and behind the Nightmare Night statue. The blood does not belong to the known victim, Royal Order. All visible traces of the bloodstain have been removed, except for a small pool behind the statue.**

TURNING PAGE

HYAAAAH!!!

*Out of nowhere, a colt smashes into Athena, knocking her to the ground.*

ATHENA

Oof!

TURNING PAGE

I finally found you, you ugly henchpony! You thought you could hide from me in this forest!? Ha! No such luck!

*Turning points his sword at Athena.*

PHOENIX

Athena!

TURNING PAGE

Stand back, you spiky-haired villain! I’m interrogating your henchpony, and I will not allow you to interfere!

*Turning uses his magic to swing his sword at Phoenix, hitting him.*

PHOENIX

Oww! Watch it!

*Turning directs his sword back to Athena.*

TURNING PAGE

Now, tell me, what is it that you’re doing here? Looking to cover up evidence? Trying to frame Miss Scootaloo for a crime she didn’t commit? How vile!

ATHENA

[Placating] Hold on! I’m not trying to do anything like that! I’m trying to save her!

TURNING PAGE

A likely story. I saw you and this other… creature… with those disrespectful guards earlier - you were trying to stop me from saving Miss Scootaloo.

TURNING PAGE

That must mean you want her to be arrested and found guilty for a murder she’s innocent of! A truly villainous act!

ATHENA

No! You have it all wrong!

TWILIGHT

If I may interject…!

TURNING PAGE

And who would dare…?

*Turning Page gasps when he turns and sees Twilight.*

TURNING PAGE

[Gasps] [Surprised] P-Princess Twilight!

*Turning immediately rushes up to her and bows.*

TURNING PAGE

[Repentant] I’m so sorry! I didn’t mean to shout at you! Please, punish me however you wish!

TWILIGHT

It’s… alright. I’m not going to punish you.

TURNING PAGE

R-Really?

TWILIGHT

Yes, really. Although, [Stern] I WOULD like to ask you to please stop attacking these two “humans.”

TURNING PAGE

[Justify] But… But they were trying to get Miss Scootaloo arrested! They’re villains, Princess! We have to stop them, and save her!

TWILIGHT

No, they’re not villains. They’re trying to save Scootaloo as well.

TURNING PAGE

T-They are?

TWILIGHT

Yes. We all are.

TURNING PAGE

[Confused] But then, why did they try to stop me earlier?

TWILIGHT

They were trying to stop you from getting into trouble. Attacking royal guards is a serious offense, and so is helping somepony resist arrest.

TWILIGHT

You’re lucky you both are just kids. The guards were willing to let it slide.

TURNING PAGE

[Embarrassed] O-Oh… I-I didn’t know that. I thought… I thought I was helping…

*Turning turns back to Athena and Phoenix. Phoenix is helping Athena up off the ground.*

TURNING PAGE

I’m sorry I attacked you. I thought you were working against Miss Scootaloo.

PHOENIX

It’s fine. At least no one was seriously hurt. Right, Athena?

ATHENA

Y-Yeah… I’m all good. *(I hope that kid didn’t do something to my back. I am too young to start turning into Mr Wright!)*

TWILIGHT

Now, while you are here, we would like to ask you a few questions.

TURNING PAGE

M-Me?

TWILIGHT

You *are* Turning Page, are you not? Royal Order’s son?

TURNING PAGE

[Disheartened] Y-Yeah…

TWILIGHT

I understand that this may be a hard time for you, but we need to ask you some questions about… what happened last night.

TURNING PAGE

…

ATHENA

*(We’ll need to handle this delicately, otherwise, he might clam up on us.)* Let me take it from here, Twilight.

TWILIGHT

Sure thing, Athena.

TURNING PAGE

…

ATHENA

*(Let’s start with something a little bit more innocent. Once we learn more about him, it should be easier to approach the topic of his father.)*

ATHENA

So, Turning, you know Scootaloo?

*Turning immediately perks up at the mention of Scootaloo.*

TURNING PAGE

[Enthusiastic] Yeah! She and I are friends! Look at this ribbon she gave me yesterday!

*Turning shows the group the ribbon.*

ATHENA

And what was this for?

TURNING PAGE

[Beaming] It was a thank-you gift for standing by her side when she was confronting a pair of bullies. [More serious, but still warmly] It means a lot to me.

ATHENA

[Shocked] Bullies?

TURNING PAGE

Yeah, there were these two bullies who were causing trouble for Miss Scootaloo and her friends yesterday, so I stepped in and scared them off.

*Turning brandishes his sword as he says that last part.*

ATHENA

[Concerned] What’s this about, Apple Bloom?

APPLE BLOOM

[Deflecting] Uh, hehe, you know… It wasn’t that big of a deal. I guess the whole thing just slipped my mind.

ATHENA

[Doubtful] *(I seriously doubt that. Why is she trying to hide this? Does it somehow have something to do with Scootaloo’s arrest?)*

TURNING PAGE

We all hung out for a little while after that. Miss Scootaloo and I got along really well, and that’s why, later that day, she gave me that ribbon.

**Added to Court Record: Turning’s Ribbon - A ribbon Scootaloo gave Turning Page as thanks for helping her confront a pair of bullies.**

ATHENA

But, Twilight said that she’s never seen you and Scootaloo together before. How long have you two been friends?

TURNING PAGE

Well, just since yesterday, I guess. We only became friends after the whole incident with the bullies.

ATHENA

Had you met her before then?

TURNING PAGE

No, but I knew who she was - she’s Ms. Dash’s honorary sister.

TURNING PAGE

Not only that, but she’s also the president of the Rainbow Dash fan club, ANDa founding member of the Cutie Mark Crusaders.

PHOENIX

That’s… a lot of info for only having “heard” of her.

TURNING PAGE

Well, she has connections to one of the Element Bearers - some of my biggest heroes. [Excited] How could I NOT know who she is?

ATHENA

[Flustered] *(Element Bearer…… Jeez, I could really do with a guidebook or something. I’ve never felt so lost.)*

TWILIGHT

So, you learned of Scootaloo because of her connection to Rainbow Dash?

TURNING PAGE

Yup!

ATHENA

*(I guess that explains why Rainbow got so defensive of Scootaloo, if she’s her honorary sister.)*

TWILIGHT

Huh. I would’ve assumed you two knew each other through school; you look to be about her age.

TURNING PAGE

Nope. I don’t even go to school.

TWILIGHT

[Surprised] What? You don’t? What about your education?

TURNING PAGE

[Confident] I don’t need school to teach me a bunch of useless stuff. I can learn everything I need to by getting out into the REAL world, and experiencing it myself.

TURNING PAGE

All that school and books will do is slow me down. I want to learn new things by traveling the land and discovering them for myself. THAT’Show you really learn.

TWILIGHT

[Sputtering] A… uh… buh?

*Twilight stands agape, unable to form any words at the incredible blasphemy against books.*

ATHENA

[Amused] *(I think Twilight just broke.)*

PHOENIX

And your parents are okay with that, Turning?

TURNING PAGE

[Exasperated] Well, my mom isn’t. She’s been trying to get me to go to school since… forever. [Peppy] My father was okay with it, though.

TURNING PAGE

He was happy that I wanted to follow in his hoofsteps, and become a member of the royal guard.

TURNING PAGE

He spent a lot of time in Canterlot, but whenever he came home, he and I would always practice sparring.

*Turning pulls his sword out again. It has a noticeable break.*

TURNING PAGE

He actually made this wooden sword for me.

ATHENA

Hmm? It looks like it broke at some point. How did that happen?

TURNING PAGE

[Nonchalant] Oh, that? That happened when I was fighting the bullies yesterday.

ATHENA

[Shocked] Wait, what!? You attacked them with your sword!?

TURNING PAGE

Of course! My father always told me: the true mark of the royal guard is more than their strength and bravery.

TURNING PAGE

It’s their willingness to put everything on the line to defend what they believe in. What kind of future royal guardspony would I be if I DIDN’T fight those bullies?

ATHENA

(*I guess...but pulling a sword out seems a little overkill. I mean, they’re just kids, right?*)

**Added to Court Record: Turning’s Sword - A wooden sword that was a gift from Royal Order to his son, Turning Page. The sword broke on the day of the murder when Turning was fighting against a pair of bullies.**

ATHENA

[Hesitant] So, about your father… do you know what happened to him?

TURNING PAGE

[Deflated] Y-Yeah… He was… murdered last night.

ATHENA

[Sympathetic] I’m so sorry for your loss, Turning.

TURNING PAGE

[Deep, shaky breath] [Crestfallen] It’s… It’s fine. This is just… It’s just another test of strength for me to go through.

ATHENA

Huh?

TURNING PAGE

[Sad] Something else my father always told me: that you need to remain strong, even in times of hardship.

PHOENIX

!

TURNING PAGE

[Determined] That’s why I’m not going to cry; I won’t be sad.

TURNING PAGE

I *have* to show him that, even though he’s gone, I’m still strong. I’m going to soldier on, just like he would want me to…

ATHENA

[Saddened] *(This kid...his heart is crying out in sadness, but he’s trying so desperately to act like everything is fine.)*

ATHENA

*(It’s almost too much for me......I know he wants to stay strong in his father’s memory, but this is doing him more harm than good.)*

PHOENIX

If you think you can handle it, Turning, would you mind answering some questions for us, regarding what happened last night?

TURNING PAGE

!? Umm, s-sure…

PHOENIX

Thank you. Now, first off, we would like to know what YOU were doing.

PHOENIX

According to your mother, you weren’t home when your father returned from Canterlot last night. So, where WERE you?

TURNING PAGE

[Hesitant] I… um… I was…

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Angry] TURNING PAGE!!!

*A mare suddenly approaches the group.*

ATHENA  
[Gasp] *(It’s her - the mare from the photograph. Royal Order’s wife…)*

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Stern] There you are! I told you not to run off again! What are you doing in this forest!?

TURNING PAGE  
[Defensive] I was trying to find a way to save Miss Scootaloo. She didn’t kill Father, and I’m going to prove it!

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Stern] No, you won’t. I told you, stay out of the investigation; leave the job to the professionals. If Scootaloo really is innocent, they’ll prove it.

TURNING PAGE  
[Angry] Grr…

PHOENIX  
We’re sorry for causing you any trouble, Ma’am. We were just asking your son a few questions.

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Bluntly] Well, I’d rather you didn’t, if I’m being honest.

PHOENIX  
[Sheepishly] ! W-would you be kind enough to give us your name?

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Curt] … Fair Devotion. And you are?

PHOENIX  
P-Phoenix Wright. A-attorney at law.

FAIR DEVOTION  
… Nice to meet you.

ATHENA  
[Awkwardly] (*If this is how Mr. Wright engages in small talk back home, then Trucy’s gonna be waiting on that “new mommy” for a while.)*

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Curt] As much as I’d love to stick around and chat, we really must be going now.

ATHENA  
Hold on! We have some questions for you!

FAIR DEVOTION  
For me?

ATHENA  
Yeah, you’re Royal Order’s wife, right?

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Somber] Yes… Or, at least, I was…

ATHENA  
[Saddened] *(Oh, she sounds so devastated… Just like Turning… I can’t let that stop me, though. I have to ask her about her husband to find the truth…)*

ATHENA  
I’m sorry for your loss, but would you mind answering some questions for us regarding the murder?

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Deep breath] I already talked to the police at length regarding this. I do not wish to talk about it further. If you want to know what I had to say, just ask them.

ATHENA  
We already did, but…

FAIR DEVOTION  
[Curt] Then that’s all you’ll be getting from me. Let’s go, Turning. It’s not wise to be in this forest in the first place.

TURNING PAGE  
But… But…!

FAIR DEVOTION

[Reassuring] The police will find a way to save Scootaloo, I promise. Just come back home with me, and DON’Trun off again. Do you understand?

TURNING PAGE  
…

ATHENA  
*(It’s pointless to try and get any more information out of either of them right now.)*

ATHENA  
[Reassuring] It’s okay, Turning. Like your mom said, we’ll find a way to prove Scootaloo’s innocence, and bring the real killer to justice.

TURNING PAGE  
[Unsure] Y-You… will?

ATHENA  
[Reassuring] I will. I promise.

*Athena holds out her hand for Turning to shake. Turning looks back to Fair, before putting his hoof in Athena’s hand.*

TURNING PAGE  
Okay. You better. Because…

*Turning once again looks back to Fair, and then back to Athena.*

TURNING PAGE  
[Gravely] If you don’t, I’ll find a way to do it myself. No matter what…

ATHENA

It’s a deal.

*The two stop shaking hand and hoof, and Turning leaves with Fair.*

APPLE BLOOM  
What are we gonna do now?

TWILIGHT  
I think it’s about time we also got out of this forest. We need to go visit Scootaloo in the detention center soon.

ATHENA  
Right.

PHOENIX  
Let’s get moving, then.

# **Scene 9**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom**

***February 13, 3:00 PM***

***Everfree Forest - Crossroads***

PHOENIX  
[Pensive] Hmm...

TWILIGHT  
What’s up, Phoenix?

PHOENIX  
Twilight, how long did you say it takes to walk from here to the statue clearing?

TWILIGHT  
About three minutes. Why?

PHOENIX  
[Pensive] I think… we might want to keep these times in mind. They could be useful later. Athena, do you still have the diagrams Private Eye gave us?

ATHENA  
Yeah, I got them right here.

PHOENIX  
Can I see the diagram of the whole forest?

ATHENA  
Sure, Boss. Here you go.

*Phoenix takes the diagram, and a pen, and begins writing.*

APPLE BLOOM  
What’re ya doin’, Mr. Lawyer?

PHOENIX  
I’m writing down the time it takes to get to various locations throughout the forest. See?

*Phoenix shows everyone the new diagram.*

PHOENIX  
As Athena pointed out earlier, it takes about five minutes to get from the entrance of the forest to here, where the path splits.

PHOENIX  
Then, it takes three minutes to get to the statue clearing, and thirty minutes to reach the castle ruins.

PHOENIX

I have a feeling I know what this other clearing on the map is, so I’ve just marked down that it takes... ten minutes to reach it from here.

PHOENIX

As for the path from Zecora’s hut to the ruins, that took fifteen minutes, according to Twilight.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Exasperated] Ugh… Mah head hurts...

PHOENIX  
Those are all the times we’ve figured out so far. If we find out any more, it’d be a good idea to mark them on this diagram.

ATHENA  
[Grateful] Wow, thanks, Boss! I’ll definitely keep that in mind.

**Court Record Updated: Everfree Forest Diagram - A diagram that shows the path leading from the entrance of the Everfree Forest to its various destinations. The time it takes to get to each location has also been added by Mr. Wright.**

ATHENA  
Hmm…

TWILIGHT  
What is it, Athena?

ATHENA  
I’m just wondering what else is hiding in these woods. They’re so… mysterious.

TWILIGHT  
You’re telling me. This place is home to all kinds of unnatural things.

TWILIGHT  
Bizarre apple trees, clouds that move on their own, oh, and I can’t possibly forget about the mirror pool.

ATHENA  
The… mirror pool?

APPLE BLOOM  
Oh! Isn’t that the thing that Pinkie Pie used to clone herself over and over again?

ATHENA  
[Shocked] What!?

TWILIGHT  
Indeed it is, Apple Bloom. The mirror pool is a strange pond that houses a very peculiar kind of magic.

TWILIGHT  
If you look into the pool, and recite an incantation, the pool will create a near perfect clone of the one reflected on its surface.

ATHENA  
[Shocked] That’s insane! And you’re saying Pinkie Pie used it to clone herself… multiple times!?

APPLE BLOOM  
Yup! Those clones were causing havoc all over town. Applejack had to use her herding skills to gather them all in one place so we could get rid of them.

ATHENA  
Wow, that sounds like quite the ordeal…

TWILIGHT  
[Exasperated] Oh, it was, trust me. Cleaning up that mess was no fun either.

TWILIGHT  
[Neutral] After the whole incident was over, I made sure to cover up the entrance to the cave leading to the pool with a large, heavy rock.

TWILIGHT  
That way, nopony can accidentally walk in.

PHOENIX  
[Thinking] Couldn’t another unicorn just lift the rock, though? Not exactly what I’d call secure.

TWILIGHT  
I… guess. I didn’t really have a way to seal the cave completely, though.

PHOENIX  
Hmm, well, anyway, we have no time to continue standing around here talking about this stuff.

PHOENIX  
We need to go visit Scootaloo, and hear what she has to say.

ATHENA  
*(Yeah, as much as I enjoy finally getting some answers, Scootaloo is our top priority…)*

ATHENA  
You’re right, Boss. Let’s keep moving. We need to get to the detention center before visiting hours are over, after all.

TWILIGHT  
Right then. Follow me. I’ll show you how to get there.

# **Scene 10**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom**

***February 13, 3:27 PM***

***Everfree Forest - Entrance***

APPLE BLOOM

Uh, Twilight…

TWILIGHT

Yes, Apple Bloom?

APPLE BLOOM

[Hesitantly] Do you… think we could stop at Carousel Boutique first?

TWILIGHT

Why?

APPLE BLOOM

I want Sweetie Belle to come with us to see Scootaloo. We have to support her, together.

TWILIGHT

… Is that okay, Athena?

ATHENA

Of course. With both her friends there, Scootaloo is sure to be more open with us when we go see her, and it’ll reassure her that her friends are on her side.

ATHENA

Not that she needs to be reminded of that, I’m sure.

TWILIGHT

All right, then.

TWILIGHT

We’ll stop by Carousel Boutique, check back at the castle to see if we received a reply from the High Council, and then we’ll go straight to the detention center.

ATHENA

Sounds like a plan.

PHOENIX

Speaking of your castle, I can see it from all the way over here.

ATHENA

Wow, you’re right. I’m so envious of you, Twilight, getting to live in a castle like that.

TWILIGHT

[Confused] You’re… envious? Why?

ATHENA

What do you mean “why?” You get to live in a giant castle! What more could you want?

TWILIGHT

[Disgruntled] I’d like my OLD home back, for one!

ATHENA

[Taken aback]Your… old home?

TWILIGHT

[sigh] Do you mind if we take a little detour?

ATHENA

S-Sure… *(What’s this about, I wonder?)*

# **Scene 11**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom**

***February 13, 3:50 PM***

***Ponyville - Golden Oak Ruins***

ATHENA

Whoa. What is this place?

TWILIGHT  
[sigh] [Reminiscing] This… this was where I used to live… Before I moved into my castle…

ATHENA  
[Shocked] This is… your old home?

PHOENIX  
[Shocked] It’s completely destroyed… What happened to it?

TWILIGHT  
[Slowly growing more downcast] It was about two or three months ago - Equestria was under attack from a centaur named Tirek.

TWILIGHT  
He had sucked out the magic of nearly every single pony in Equestria, making him extremely powerful.

TWILIGHT  
I eventually had to fight him, and in the process, he… he destroyed this library… my home…

ATHENA  
[Saddened] Oh… I… I didn’t realize… I’m sorry, Twilight…

PHOENIX  
You had to fight this “Tirek” alone? What about your friends, or the princesses?

TWILIGHT  
[Maintain the same tone as the previous Twilight line] My friends had been captured, and drained of their magic.

TWILIGHT  
As for the princesses, they knew that Tirek would be after their magic, so they decided to transfer all of their powers to me in an effort to “hide” it.

TWILIGHT  
They believed that Tirek wouldn’t be able to find the magic since I was Equestria’s newest princess, and it was possible he didn’t even know I existed.

TWILIGHT  
But he eventually discovered me, and we ended up having to battle each other.

PHOENIX  
All of the princesses’ magic versus all of Equestria’s magic; that must have been quite the battle. So, where’s Tirek now?

TWILIGHT  
[Still glum] He’s locked up in Tartarus, where he originally escaped from.

PHOENIX  
Tartarus?

TWILIGHT  
[Still glum] Yeah, it’s like a high-security prison of sorts for all kinds of dangerous creatures. It’s guarded from the inside by Cerberus, a large, three-headed dog.

ATHENA  
Still, you managed to beat him, right? And you got a castle as a result?

TWILIGHT  
[Dejected] S-Sort of… I guess. I… I just wish that, instead of a castle, I was given this place back…

PHOENIX  
You don’t like your castle?

TWILIGHT  
It’s a nice place and all, but it just… It doesn’t feel like it’s mine…

ATHENA  
What do you mean?

TWILIGHT  
[Dejected] I mean, I didn’t really ever ask for it… I didn’t really ask for… any of this… Being a princess was never something that I ever had any desire to pursue… I was just… given the title… [Overall tone and volume drops off towards the end]

PHOENIX  
But… surely it must’ve been for a reason, right? I doubt Princess Celestia would’ve given you the position otherwise…

TWILIGHT  
[Melancholic] I guess there was a reason, but in the end, it doesn’t change the fact that the life I now have wasn’t one I ever wanted.

TWILIGHT  
[Melancholic] I was just… forced to accept it, and act accordingly. And that’s exactly how I feel about this tree here…

TWILIGHT  
[Melancholic] This was my old home, and now, it’s been taken from me, and replaced with something I never asked for, nor wanted.

TWILIGHT  
[Melancholic] There were so many precious memories I had in this place. Of my friends, of you, Phoenix…

PHOENIX  
…

TWILIGHT  
[Wistful] I just… I just wish, sometimes, that I could have it back, even if just for a day… To remember what it was like…

ATHENA

… [Pensive] *(A life you never wanted, but were forced to follow…)*

PHOENIX  
Athena? What’s wrong?

ATHENA  
N-Nothing, Boss. *(Am I… any different?)*

***\*Flashback\****

ATHENA  
*Yes. I was accused of killing my own mother.*

***\*Flashback\****

ATHENA  
*But Mr. Wright, he believed in me. He stuck true to his beliefs, and not only was I found “Not Guilty,” but he found the real killer.*

ATHENA  
*And I was able to save a dear friend of mine, when he was going to be given the death sentence for the same crime.*

***\*Flashback End\****

ATHENA  
[Pensive] *(The whole reason I became an attorney… The reason I even decided to study law at all…)*

ATHENA  
[Pensive] *(It was all to save Simon from that faulty verdict that I couldn’t save him from all those years ago…)*

ATHENA  
[Pensive] *(If only I’d been able to convince everyone...if only I’d been stronger...my life would be completely different.)*

ATHENA[Pensive] *(I wouldn’t have met Mr. Wright, Apollo, or Trucy. I certainly wouldn’t have gone into law.)*

ATHENA[Pensive] *(“Forced…”. Forced by who? ...Fate? Like with Twilight, was all this just meant to be? But now that he’s been saved, what else is there?)*

ATHENA[Pensive] *(I still want to be a lawyer, but what if I’m just not good enough?* [Becomes dejected] *Not like I did much to free him, anyway...that was all thanks to everyone else.)*

PHOENIX  
[Calling out] Athena!

ATHENA  
[Stammer] Wha-!? Huh? Oh, uh, sorry… Boss…

APPLE BLOOM  
Are you all right, Athena? You look a little sick.

ATHENA  
Y-yeah. I just… kinda zoned out…

*Apple Bloom looks on, concerned for Athena, and Twilight*

PHOENIX  
[Exasperated] I’ll say…

TWILIGHT  
[sigh] [Sullen] Sorry, it’s my fault… I shouldn’t have brought you all here… This is just wasting time…

PHOENIX  
[Comforting] No, it’s okay, Twilight. I understand. Change can be hard. Especially when you’re not expecting it.

TWILIGHT  
[Sullen] Thanks. I can reminisce some other time, though… For now, we should be focusing on the case at hoof.

PHOENIX  
If that’s what you want, what do you say, Athena?

ATHENA  
 …I …Let’s get going. We don’t want to miss visiting hours at the detention center, and we still have quite a bit to do before we get there.

PHOENIX  
…

**TO BE CONTINUED...**