**Crusading for a Turnabout Part 2**

# **Scene 1**

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

***February 13, 3:58 PM***

***Ponyville - Carousel Boutique***

APPLE BLOOM

Here we are.

PHOENIX

I remember this place; this was where I first met Rarity.

TWILIGHT

Makes sense. This ISher house and shop, after all.

ATHENA

So, Sweetie Belle lives with her?

APPLE BLOOM

Not normally. Their parents are just out of town this week, so Rarity’s lookin’ after her until they get back.

*[Apple Bloom goes to open the door, but it is locked]*

APPLE BLOOM

Huh? That’s weird. The door’s locked.

TWILIGHT

Rarity must not have returned here after the arrest.

PHOENIX

Either that, or she’s just decided not to open up shop today.

APPLE BLOOM

Hopefully Sweetie Belle’s still here; I’m not sure where to start lookin’ if she’s not.

*[Apple Bloom* *knocks on the door. After some rustling, Sweetie Belle’s face appears in the window by the door]*

SWEETIE BELLE  
Oh, h-hi Apple Bloom…

APPLE BLOOM

Hey, Sweetie Belle! Could you let us in? We need to talk!

SWEETIE BELLE

[Hesitant] U-Uh… S-Sure. One second…

*[Sweetie vanishes]*

ATHENA

Is… she normally like this?

APPLE BLOOM

[Unsure] No… she’s not. Something’s not right…

*[The door unlocks]*

SWEETIE BELLE

[Hesitant] C-Come on in...

*[Everyone enters the shop]*

APPLE BLOOM  
[Concerned] Are you alright, Sweetie Belle?

SWEETIE BELLE  
[Deflecting] Y-Yeah, I’m fine. Who are these guys, Apple Bloom?

APPLE BLOOM  
Oh, uh, this is Mr. Wright and Ms. Cykes. They’re here to help defend Scootaloo! You heard about… how she was arrested, right?

SWEETIE BELLE  
Yeah… I heard what happened from Rarity.

SWEETIE BELLE  
She came by earlier to tell me what was going on, but went back to Princess Twilight’s castle to comfort Rainbow Dash.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Curious] You didn’t go with her?

SWEETIE BELLE  
[Lying] Well… uh… I wasn’t feeling 100% this morning, and I… couldn’t get out of bed, yeah!

TWILIGHT  
[Suspicious] Well, you’re looking a lot better for somepony who couldn’t get out of bed a few hours ago...

SWEETIE BELLE  
[Lying] Well… uhh… I guess it was just a passing bug.

APPLE BLOOM  
Okaaay… Well anyway, I wanted to come by and ask if you wanted to join us. We’re going to visit Scootaloo.

SWEETIE BELLE  
[Lying] Ohh… uhh… I don’t really think it’s a good idea for me to leave the house. Rarity might come home early and worry about where I am.

TWILIGHT  
[Reassuring] Sweetie Belle, I’m sure she’ll understand that you went to visit Scootaloo at the detention center.

TWILIGHT  
[Reassuring] I can tell her myself if that makes you feel any better.

SWEETIE BELLE  
Uhhhh….

APPLE BLOOM  
[Pressing] What’s goin’ on Sweetie Belle? You’ve been acting weird since we arrived. You don’t even want to go and visit Scootaloo?

SWEETIE BELLE  
…

APPLE BLOOM  
[Hesitant] Sweetie Belle… do you think Scootaloo actually did it?

SWEETIE BELLE  
[Defensive] WHAT!? No no no! I never said anything like that! I just… I’m just confident that, at the end of the day, Scootaloo will be found innocent!

*[Twilight and Apple Bloom look at each other, concerned]*

TWILIGHT  
[Unsure] If you say so.

PHOENIX  
Excuse me. Sweetie Belle, was it?

SWEETIE BELLE  
Y-Yeah?

PHOENIX  
I’ve been looking around, and I couldn’t help but notice that there’s something a little unusual in your trashcan.

SWEETIE BELLE  
…

PHOENIX  
[Suspicious] An assortment of leaves, vines, and branches. That doesn’t seem like the kind of thing Rarity would’ve collected. Do you have any idea what that’s about?

SWEETIE BELLE  
…

*[Suddenly, Athena sees sets of chains appear around Sweetie Belle, alongside four psyche locks]*

ATHENA  
[Confused] *(What the- what’s going on!? Chains... and locks!? Wait... Are these the Psyche-Locks that Mr. Wright mentioned?)*

SWEETIE BELLE  
[Lying] Uhhh… I’m suddenly not feeling so well anymore, I think I’m just going to head back to bed. You should all go and visit Scootaloo; don’t worry about me.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Suspicious] What do you mean? I thought you said it was a passin’ bug?

TWILIGHT  
Apple Bloom, I think we should head out and give Sweetie Belle the space she needs, especially if she wants to support Scootaloo at the trial tomorrow.

TWILIGHT  
We still need to speak to her at the detention center anyway.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Dejected] Ok Twilight, if you say so…

PHOENIX  
…

*[The group leaves, and the door to the boutique locks behind them*]

APPLE BLOOM  
[Apologetic] I’m sorry about Sweetie Belle, y’all. [Concerned] I don’t know what was up with her; she’s usually not like that.

PHOENIX  
From the look on her face, I’d say she’s hiding something. Am I right, Athena?

ATHENA  
H-Huh?

PHOENIX  
You still have my Magatama, right? You never gave it back to me after you got it back from Turning Page.

ATHENA  
Oh, yeah. Sorry. Here it is.

*[Athena hands Phoenix the Magatama]*

PHOENIX  
Thanks. So, tell me. Did you see any locks appear when we were talking to Sweetie Belle?

TWILIGHT  
!!!

ATHENA  
Yeah, I did. Are those the… uh, the “Psyche-Lock” things you told me about?

APPLE BLOOM  
Psyche-Locks?

PHOENIX  
You see this stone here, Apple Bloom?

APPLE BLOOM  
Uh huh.

PHOENIX  
This is called a “Magatama.” It’s enchanted with spiritual power, and lets the holder see the secrets that people, or ponies, in this case, are hiding.

PHOENIX  
Those secrets take the form of “Psyche-Locks,” and the more that appear around someone, the deeper the secret they’re keeping.

APPLE BLOOM  
Oh! I think I remember Twilight going on about some sort of locks the last time you were here.

TWILIGHT  
Yeah. That was because I accidentally absorbed some of that Magatama’s power. I started seeing locks all over the place. It DID eventually wear off, though.

APPLE BLOOM  
Wait, so, Athena, you saw those psycho-lock things on Sweetie Belle?

ATHENA  
Yeah. Four of them.

PHOENIX  
When did they appear?

ATHENA  
When you asked her about that stuff in the trash can.

PHOENIX  
Hmm, I figured as much.

APPLE BLOOM  
So… since there were four locks… that means the secret she’s keeping must be pretty deep, huh?

PHOENIX  
Indeed. And it must have something to do with that debris I found.

APPLE BLOOM  
But that was just a bunch of twigs and leaves. What secret could she possibly be keeping about that?

PHOENIX  
I don’t know. But, for now, we don’t have enough evidence to pursue any sort of questioning with her. We’ll have to come back to this later.

PHOENIX  
For now, let’s get back to the castle. We should report our findings to everyone there, and hopefully, your badge will be waiting for you, Athena.

ATHENA  
[Deflated] …Yeah.

# **Scene 2**

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

***February 13, 4:15 PM***

***Twilight’s Castle - Throne Room***

*[The rest of the Mane Six, Apollo, Trucy, and Spike are talking with a mail pony as Athena, Phoenix, Apple Bloom, and Twilight enter the room]*

TWILIGHT  
We’re back!

APOLLO  
[Relieved] Oh, thank goodness. I was going to go crazy if I had to listen to another of Pinkie Pie’s ridiculous songs.

TRUCY  
Oh, come on, Polly. They’re really catchy.

APOLLO  
[Annoyed] Which is exactly why I never want to hear her songs ever again!

APOLLO  
[Annoyed] If I have to hear her sing about making other ponies smile or whatever, I’m going to lose it! It’s like something you’d play for little kids!

PINKIE  
Aww, you’re welcome, Polly!

APOLLO  
[Exasperated] … Please. Just… call me Apollo.

*[Rainbow Dash and Applejack rush up to the returning group]*

APPLEJACK  
[Stern] Apple Bloom! You know better than to run off like that without permission.

APPLEJACK  
[Stern] I know Twilight was with you and all, but you should’ve asked me first before you go galavanting off on some dangerous investigation.

APPLEJACK  
[Stern] Remember what happened the last time you went off on your own?

APPLE BLOOM  
[Apologetic] I know. I’m sorry, sis, but I really wanted to help Scootaloo.

RAINBOW  
[Desperate] So, did you guys find out what happened?! Did you find any evidence to prove that Scoots is innocent?!

ATHENA  
Well… I can’t say we really have a clear picture of what happened yet, and none of the evidence we found is, at all, decisive.

RAINBOW  
[Sighs] I was afraid you’d say that.

TWILIGHT  
[Reassuring] Don’t worry, Rainbow. There’s still the trial. More evidence and testimony will be presented there, as I’m sure you remember.

TWILIGHT  
[Reassuring] We still have plenty of chances to get Scootaloo out of this mess.

RAINBOW  
Yeah, you’re right, Twilight. After all, ‘Nix wasn’t able to save ME right away either.

RAINBOW  
I just have to continue believing in him and Athena, and they’ll work their courtroom magic, right?

PHOENIX  
Absolutely.

ATHENA  
We’ll do our best.

SUGAR STAMP  
Excuse me. Would you happen to be Ms. … Athena Cykes?

ATHENA  
*(Hmm? Who’s this pony? She was talking with everyone else when we walked in.)* Yeah, that’s me. Who are you?

SUGAR STAMP  
[Chipper] Sugar Stamp, aaaat your service, ma’am! I have something for you!

*[Sugar searches through her bag.]*

SUGAR STAMP  
Herrrre you go! An Equestrian attorney badge! Sent directly from the High Council!

ATHENA  
[Amazed] Wow, Thanks! That was really fast.

SUGAR STAMP  
[Bashful] Aww, you’re too kind! But if you must thank somepony, you should thank the head of the High Council, Lawkeeper Equity!

SUGAR STAMP  
[Pause] Princess Twilight, you’ll be happy to know that as soon as she got your letter,

SUGAR STAMP  
she immediately set aside allll of her other duties to make sure this got to you as soon as possible!

TWILIGHT  
[Proud] See? I told you they’d give special attention to a princess’s request. Thanks for taking care of that for me, Spike.

SPIKE  
You’re welcome, Twilight.

ATHENA  
[Amazed] *(Wow. I can’t believe the amount of clout Twilight has. She sure is a powerful ally.)*

SUGAR STAMP  
And do my eyes deceive me, or is that little Apple Bloom over there?

APPLE BLOOM  
Hi, Mrs… Er, Ms. Stamp! Good to see you again!

TWILIGHT  
Huh? Apple Bloom, you know Ms. Stamp?

APPLE BLOOM  
Yeah, she’s always coming by Scootaloo’s house to drop off letters from her parents.

SUGAR STAMP  
[Sympathetic] Speaking of which, I heard from the others that Scootaloo got arrested this morning. The poor thing...

APPLE BLOOM  
Yeah, she did… Don’t worry, though. Mr. Wright and Ms. Cykes are gonna save her.

SUGAR STAMP  
[Understanding] Ah, so that’s what the badge is for, then?

ATHENA  
Yep. I can’t exactly stand in court without one.

SUGAR STAMP  
I see, I see! Beeeest of luck for the trial! And Apple Bloom, when you see Scootaloo, you should give her this; it’s another letter from her parents.

SUGAR STAMP  
I bet she could really use it.

APPLE BLOOM  
Of course, Ms. Stamp.

SUGAR STAMP  
Aaaand here’s a liiittle treat for your trouble!

*[Sugar gives Apple Bloom a piece of candy]*

APPLE BLOOM  
[Bashful] Aww, Ms. Stamp, you don’t have to give us candy every time you come by.

SUGAR STAMP  
Hehe! Don’t be silly. It’s the least I can do for the sweet children I meet on my travels.

APPLE BLOOM  
Heh heh, thank you!

SUGAR STAMP  
Well, I ought to be going now. I’ve still got plenty of other letters to deliver. Seeeeee you around, everypony!

*[Sugar Stamp leaves the castle in a hurry]*

APOLLO  
[Flatly] Odd mare.

TRUCY  
[Happily] I agree!

PINKIE  
[Even happier] Me too!

PHOENIX  
And she’s quite a fast flier.

TWILIGHT  
[Smug] She might even rival YOU, Rainbow.

RAINBOW  
[Prideful] Oh-ho-kay, let’s not get carried away here. We all know there’s nopony faster than me. [Under her breath] Well, nopony who’s legit, anyway.

TWILIGHT  
What was that, Rainbow?

RAINBOW DASH  
Uh, nothing! So, um, what did you guys find out during your investigation?

TWILIGHT  
Well…

APPLE BLOOM  
A member of the royal guard was killed!

RARITY, APPLEJACK, SPIKE, PINKIE PIE, RAINBOW DASH  
[Shocked] WHAT!?

TWILIGHT  
Yeah… He was killed at the foot of the bridge leading to the Castle of the Two Sisters.

RAINBOW DASH  
[Shocked] The police think that Scootaloo killed a member of the royal guard?! Why?!

PHOENIX  
We’re not really sure what the motive they’re going to put forth is right now, but they do seem to have some evidence that at least points to her.

APPLEJACK  
[Concerned] What do they have?

PHOENIX  
Her scooter was found at the crime scene, and it may very well be the murder weapon.

RAINBOW DASH  
[Outraged] That’s… ridiculous! How could a little filly like her kill a fully grown stallion!?

APOLLO  
Pretty sure that’s going to be something the prosecution will try to explain at the trial.

ATHENA  
And hopefully, we’ll be able to use that explanation to find a hole in their story.

RAINBOW DASH  
Right. Just like last time…

TWILIGHT  
By the way, Rarity, there’s something we need to ask you.

RARITY  
[Curious] What is it, Twilight?

TWILIGHT  
We stopped by Carousel Boutique on our way back here, to check in on how Sweetie was handling this whole situation with Scootaloo.

TWILIGHT  
We couldn’t help but notice that she was acting a little strangely, though. Would you happen to know why?

RARITY  
Unfortunately, I haven’t the faintest idea, darling. She’s been acting like that ever since I got home last night.

ATHENA  
Do you think something might’ve happened to her?

RARITY  
I don’t know. She won’t tell me anything, and I’m not sure what she was up to at all yesterday, what with the trial and the party afterwards.

TWILIGHT  
Right. We were all pre-occupied for the entire day.

RARITY  
However, I DID find something this morning that raised a few questions.

RARITY  
I’m not sure if it’s directly related to Sweetie’s recent behavior, but a note was left in my shop last night… and it’s from Scootaloo.

ATHENA, TWILIGHT, AND APPLE BLOOM  
[Shocked] WHAT!?

PHOENIX  
… What does it say?

RARITY  
Here. You can read it for yourself.

PHOENIX  
[Reading out-loud] “Dear Ms. Rarity, I’m sorry for what I’m about to do, but I’m taking one of your rolls of golden silk fabric, and I won’t be returning it.”

PHOENIX  
“I’m not able to pay you back in bits, but I’ll do whatever you want in order to make up for it. I’m sorry, but I have to do this.”

APPLE BLOOM  
…

RAINBOW DASH  
[Nervous] Wh-What does that mean?

TWILIGHT  
It means… Scootaloo stole a roll of golden silk from Rarity’s shop last night.

**Added to Court Record: Scootaloo’s note - A confession from Scootaloo to Rarity for stealing one of her rolls of golden silk fabric. It was left in Carousel Boutique at some point yesterday.**

RAINBOW DASH  
[Worried] N-No. She wouldn’t have… Right, Rarity?

RARITY  
Unfortunately, Rainbow, I’m afraid she did.

RARITY  
I checked through my stock after finding that note, and I discovered that one of my rolls of golden silk had INDEED gone missing.

TWILIGHT  
And we know exactly where it ended up…

ATHENA  
!!! [Realizing] You mean… That roll of golden silk at the crime scene…

TWILIGHT  
It’s a safe bet that Scootaloo was the one who brought it there, after stealing it from Rarity.

RAINBOW DASH  
But… But why would she do that?

APPLE BLOOM  
…

TWILIGHT  
…

ATHENA  
…

PHOENIX  
[Pensive] I think… I might know the answer to that.

RAINBOW  
Y-You do?

ATHENA  
What is it, Mr. Wright?

PHOENIX  
Let’s go visit Scootaloo at the detention center. If I’m right, we can hear it straight from her.

TWILIGHT  
Then let’s get going.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Determined] I’m coming with you!

APPLEJACK  
[Stern] Apple Bloom!

APPLE BLOOM  
[Pleading] Please, Applejack, I’ve got to go see Scootaloo! She has to know that I’m there to support her.

APPLEJACK  
… [sighs] Twilight, what do you think?

TWILIGHT  
As long as she stays with us, she should be fine. We don’t plan on heading anywhere else anyway.

TWILIGHT  
Normally, only those of immediate family or attorneys are allowed to visit the primary suspects on trial, but I SHOULD be able to get her in there.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Pleading] PLEASE, Applejack! What kinda friend would I be if I didn’t go support her?

APPLEJACK  
[Defeated] … Alright, fine. You can go, but come straight back as soon as you’re done. No more investigatin’, you hear me?

APPLE BLOOM  
Of course! Thank you, sis.

# 

# **Scene 3**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom, Scootaloo, Diamond Tiara, Silver Spoon, Turning Page, Guard #2**

***February 13, 4:33 PM***

***Ponyville - Detention Center***APPLE BLOOM  
[Nervous] Wow… This place is rather… gloomy. I’d hate to be locked up in here.

ATHENA  
Yeah, it’s not exactly the most pleasant experience, that’s for sure. But, that’s why it’s important we prove Scootaloo’s innocence, and get her out as soon as possible.

*[Scootaloo is escorted into the room]*

SCOOTALOO  
…

APPLE BLOOM  
[Overjoyed] Scoots!

SCOOTALOO  
!? [Elated] Apple Bloom!

APPLE BLOOM  
[Concerned] How are ya holdin up? Are they treatin’ you fine?

SCOOTALOO  
Yeah, I’m okay. Most of the guards have been really nice… [Muttered] except for one... But they’ve got me locked up in this tiny cell!

SCOOTALOO  
[Impatient] I can’t stand it! I need to get out and take my scooter for a joyride to stretch my wings!

ATHENA  
[Determined] Don’t you worry, Miss Scootaloo, we're going to get you out of this.

SCOOTALOO  
[Confused] Hm? Aren’t you… one of those human things?

ATHENA  
Y-Yeah… I guess? I’m a defense attorney. I’m here to offer my assistance, and defend you in court.

SCOOTALOO  
… Are they seriously accusing me of… murdering… that stallion…?

TWILIGHT  
It looks that way.

SCOOTALOO  
…

PHOENIX  
Don’t worry, Scootaloo. We’re here to support you and get you through this.

SCOOTALOO  
Hey! You’re that human from last time, right? The one that helped Rainbow Dash?

PHOENIX  
Yes. I don’t think we were properly introduced, were we? My name’s Phoenix Wright. This perky young lady is one of the lawyers who works in my law firm.

ATHENA  
Yup! Athena Cykes is--

SCOOTALOO  
So, you’re here to defend me then, Mr. Wright?

PHOENIX  
Ah, well, actually… Athena here was going to be the one to lead your case. I was just going to be her aide...

ATHENA  
Y-Yeah, I was hoping--

SCOOTALOO  
But YOU’RE the one who saved Rainbow Dash, right? I want YOU to defend me!

ATHENA  
*… [Dejected Sigh]*

TWILIGHT  
Scootaloo, Rainbow Dash agreed to let Athena handle the case.

SCOOTALOO  
Sh-She did…?

TWILIGHT  
Uh-huh. So, I think you should at least CONSIDER letting Ms. Cykes defend you.

SCOOTALOO  
…O-Okay.

PHOENIX  
Athena, don’t you have some questions you’d like to ask Miss Scootaloo?

ATHENA  
H-Huh? Oh, right…

ATHENA  
So, uh, Scootaloo… Have your parents been here to visit you yet?

SCOOTALOO  
… No, and they probably won’t be coming.

ATHENA  
What!? Why not?

SCOOTALOO  
They’re off on an assignment at the moment. My parents study dangerous creatures and rare plants. Their research helps to forward Equestrian science and medicine.

ATHENA  
Wow. Your parents are really something else…

SCOOTALOO  
Hehe, thanks. Don’t tell anypony I said this, but they actually used to be part of some sort of secret monster agency in Canterlot.

TWILIGHT  
!?

SCOOTALOO  
When it was shut down years and years back, they moved to Ponyville and had me.

SCOOTALOO  
They never lost their love for their job, though, so they started assisting a bunch of research institutes with their studies.

SCOOTALOO  
Unfortunately… that means that they don’t really spend that much time with me…

ATHENA  
So, who do you live with, then?

SCOOTALOO  
My aunts, for the most part, though there are some other ponies in Ponyville who agreed to watch over me when my aunts can’t make it to town.

ATHENA  
I see.

SCOOTALOO  
But, I always write to my parents whenever I get the chance. I tell them what’s been happening with me, and they tell me all about the exciting adventures they’ve been on!

APPLE BLOOM  
Oh! Speaking of which, Scoots, Ms. Stamp delivered another letter from them! She told me to bring it to you.

SCOOTALOO  
Really?! Thanks, Apple Bloom!

TWILIGHT  
Why don’t you hand it over to that guard over there, Apple Bloom. He’ll make sure it gets to Scootaloo.

APPLE BLOOM  
Okay, Twilight.

ATHENA  
So, Scootaloo, did you know the pony that was killed?

SCOOTALOO  
I… Um…

ATHENA  
His name was Royal Order, a member of the royal guard. He had a son named Turning Page.

SCOOTALOO  
?!

ATHENA  
I’m sure you remember him, right? He was the one battling against those guards for you earlier today.

SCOOTALOO  
...

ATHENA  
We met up with him again after that. You two have something in common, you know - you both have a parental figure you really look up to.

SCOOTALOO  
Y-Yeah, I guess. [Concerned] Is… um… is he doing okay?

ATHENA  
He’s fine, for now. The death of his father has greatly impacted him, but he’s strong - he’s carrying on, as best he can.

SCOOTALOO  
That’s good to hear.

ATHENA  
So, you must be close friends with him then, I take it?

SCOOTALOO  
Wh-What makes you say that?

ATHENA  
Well, you’re clearly concerned about him, not to mention the fact that he was fighting off several guards in order to save you from being arrested.

SCOOTALOO  
…

ATHENA  
It kind of gives off the impression that you’re connected in some way. Am I wrong?

SCOOTALOO  
… He… Turning and I know each other, yes, but that’s all. We’re just acquaintances - we only see each other around town from time to time.

ATHENA  
That’s all?

SCOOTALOO  
Y-Yeah… It’s not that strange for fillies and colts living in a small town like Ponyville to be familiar with each other, right?

ATHENA  
I… guess not.

PHOENIX  
Hold up, Athena.

ATHENA  
What is it, Mr. Wright?

PHOENIX  
Scootaloo’s lying.

ATHENA  
Huh? How can you--? Wait. Did those locks appear?

PHOENIX  
Yeah. My Magatama activated. The same thing happened earlier today, when she claimed that she had never gone into the Everfree Forest.

ATHENA  
!? You think her knowing Turning and her relation to this case might be connected?

PHOENIX  
It’s possible. Psyche-Locks can appear whenever someone is hiding a secret of any kind.

PHOENIX  
There’s even a chance that multiple sets of locks could be unrelated, but I don’t think that’s the case here.

PHOENIX  
I’m pretty sure the locks I’m seeing now are the same as the ones from this morning.

APPLE BLOOM  
…

PHOENIX  
If you don’t mind, Athena, I’d like to take over Scootaloo’s questioning for a moment. I’ll see if I can’t break these locks of hers.

ATHENA  
Sure. Go ahead, Boss.

PHOENIX  
Thank you.

*[Phoenix prepares to use the Magatama]*

PHOENIX  
Now, Scootaloo, tell me one more time: how do you know Turning Page?

SCOOTALOO  
Wh--!? I just told you! We’re JUST acquaintances. We’ve barely interacted at all!

PHOENIX  
***TAKE THAT!***

*[Three Psyche-Locks show up, just like before]*

--Relation to Turning Page--

PHOENIX  
*(Alright. Time to see what secrets these locks are hiding.)* Sorry, Scootaloo, but I don’t think you’re being truthful with us.

SCOOTALOO  
Wh-What!? You think I’m lying!?

PHOENIX  
Turning Page seems to be far more than just a mere “acquaintance” to you. After all, he was fighting very hard to prevent you from being arrested.

SCOOTALOO  
That’s just the kind of colt he is.

SCOOTALOO  
He wants to be just like his father: protecting the innocent ponies of Equestria from danger, and fighting for justice and peace.

SCOOTALOO  
He’d do the same for anypony, right?

PHOENIX  
True; that alone isn’t proof enough to say that HE knows YOU all that well. However, YOUseem to know an awful lot about HIM and his ideals.

SCOOTALOO  
!?

PHOENIX  
I don’t think that’s the kind of info you can just pick up on by virtue of living in the same small town.

PHOENIX  
You and he have not only met, but you’ve clearly had at least one conversation with him before.

SCOOTALOO  
Rggh! Y-Yeah… That’s because… We go to the same school! Yeah!

PHOENIX  
Oh?

SCOOTALOO  
Yes! Ponyville only has one school, so we share some classes. That’s how I learned all that stuff about him.

PHOENIX  
I hate to break it to you, Scootaloo, but that’s also not possible.

SCOOTALOO  
Wh-Why not?

PHOENIX  
Because Turning Page… doesn’t go to school.

SCOOTALOO  
!!!

PHOENIX  
We heard it straight from the horse’s mouth… literally. So, you couldn’t have learned anything about him from there.

SCOOTALOO  
Ugh! Fine! How do YOU think we know each other, then?

PHOENIX  
I’m glad you asked, Scootaloo. ***TAKE THAT!*** Does this ribbon look familiar to you?

SCOOTALOO  
!? Th-That’s…

PHOENIX  
It’s the ribbon YOU gave to Turning Page after he stood up for you against a pair of bullies yesterday.

SCOOTALOO  
ACK!

PHOENIX  
You and he became friends after that encounter, isn’t that right?

PHOENIX  
You gave him this ribbon as a thank you gift, and I bet both of you spent some time getting to know each other afterwards.

PHOENIX  
That’s why he was so concerned about you this morning. After all, you’d become close friends with each other just the day before!

SCOOTALOO  
[sigh] Yeah, that’s what happened.

*[The first lock breaks]*

SCOOTALOO  
After he stood up for me against those bullies, Turning and I hung out for a little while, before his mom called him away.

SCOOTALOO  
I gave him that ribbon to thank him for what he did. That’s really all there is to it, though.

PHOENIX  
*(The two remaining locks say otherwise. We’re just getting started.)* Unfortunately, Scootaloo, I don’t think that’s really all that happened.

SCOOTALOO  
Wh-What do you mean?

PHOENIX  
I’m certain that your connection with Turning has some relation to why you were in the forest last night.

SCOOTALOO  
W-why are we still talking about this? I already said that I never went in there!

PHOENIX  
And once again, I don’t think you’re being truthful with me.

SCOOTALOO  
!!!

PHOENIX  
If you don’t mind me asking, what exactly were you being bullied about?

SCOOTALOO  
H-Huh? I mean, it wasn’t really anything all that serious. I could’ve handled things myself, but Turning came along and intervened.

PHOENIX  
Nothing serious, huh?

SCOOTALOO  
What...What is it now?

PHOENIX  
Well, I was just thinking back to something Turning said, and how it proves that what you were facing was no little argument.

SCOOTALOO  
What do you mean?

PHOENIX  
I’m confident that your little “encounter” with the bullies was far more serious than you’re letting on. Serious enough to invoke a physical fight between you and them.

SCOOTALOO  
!? N-No! Th-There was no fight! We didn’t… We didn’t have to fight anyone!

PHOENIX  
Sorry, Scootaloo… But this proves otherwise! ***TAKE THAT!***

SCOOTALOO  
T-Turning’s sword?

PHOENIX  
Both times we saw him today, Turning was carrying this sword.

SCOOTALOO  
Y-Yeah, but… he always carries that sword around! It was a gift from his father!

PHOENIX  
I know. And it’s a testament to just how much he loves his dad, seeing how he still carries it around… even though it’s broken.

SCOOTALOO  
It’s… broken?

PHOENIX  
According to Turning, it broke during that fight with the bullies yesterday.

SCOOTALOO  
!!!

PHOENIX  
So, tell me Scootaloo… If there really was no fight, [slightly more forcefully] then how did this sword break during that incident with the bullies?

SCOOTALOO  
A… AAAAAAGGGGGHHHHHH!!!

*[The second lock breaks]*

PHOENIX  
Tell me the truth! What happened between you and those bullies?!

SCOOTALOO  
I… I…

PHOENIX  
If you won’t tell me, then I’ll just have to show you… with evidence.

SCOOTALOO  
[Nervous] Evidence…?

PHOENIX  
This piece of evidence reveals the truth behind your encounter with the bullies yesterday. ***TAKE THAT!***

SCOOTALOO  
A… A piece of paper?

PHOENIX  
Read what’s written on it, and I’m sure you’ll understand.

SCOOTALOO  
… AHH! NOOOOO!

PHOENIX  
You snuck into Carousel Boutique, and stole one of the rolls of golden silk fabric.

SCOOTALOO  
…

PHOENIX  
We found that golden silk in your wagon at the crime scene, attached to YOURscooter. I can only assume that means that you transported it there.

SCOOTALOO  
…

PHOENIX  
Now why? Why did you do that? Why did you feel the need to steal from one of your friends’ sisters, and then take the stolen goods into the middle of the forest?

SCOOTALOO  
…

PHOENIX  
[Less forceful] There’s only one answer I can think of. You were being blackmailed by these bullies, weren’t you?

SCOOTALOO  
!!!

PHOENIX  
And Turning Page, valiant royal guard-in-training that he is, would never let you face them alone, would he?

PHOENIX  
You and he entered the forest together that night to meet those bullies, and make the drop-off.

SCOOTALOO  
But… that would…

PHOENIX  
Yes, I know. That would contradict what you and Turning have already said.

PHOENIX  
Both of you implied that there was only one interaction you had with them. But that’s not the case, is it?

SCOOTALOO  
…

PHOENIX  
In truth, you had TWO encounters with the bullies on that day.

PHOENIX  
The first one was where Turning stood up for not just you, but the rest of the Cutie Mark Crusaders as well, correct?

SCOOTALOO  
Wh--!?

PHOENIX  
That would explain why Apple Bloom has been acting a little off throughout the entire investigation.

SCOOTALOO  
...

PHOENIX  
The three of you became friends with Turning after that incident, but the bullies weren’t done with you.

PHOENIX  
Later that day, they blackmailed you all, and that led to the second encounter where you and Turning went into the forest to settle the deal.

PHOENIX  
It was during THISmeeting that a fight broke out between you and them. Does that sound about right?

SCOOTALOO  
… Wow.

PHOENIX  
Hm?

SCOOTALOO  
You… really are… as good as she said you are.

*[The final lock breaks]*

--Unlock Complete--

APPLE BLOOM  
Scootaloo! Are you sure you want to be tellin’ ‘em all this?

SCOOTALOO  
Well, it’s not like we can really hide it anymore, Apple Bloom.

SCOOTALOO  
 Besides, Rainbow trusted Mr. Wright enough to reveal her secrets to him. I think… I think I should try to do the same.

APPLE BLOOM  
…

PHOENIX  
So, it’s true then. You were blackmailed by these bullies you encountered yesterday?

SCOOTALOO  
Yes, we were.

ATHENA  
If you don’t mind, could you go over everything that happened yesterday, starting with when you first faced these bullies?

SCOOTALOO  
Sure. It was around noon yesterday...

ATHENA  
*(Noon… We were already in Manehattan by then.)*

SCOOTALOO  
Sweetie Belle, Apple Bloom, and I were riding through town on my scooter and wagon, off to try and get our cutie marks in being explorers.

ATHENA  
[Curious] *(Exploring… what, exactly?)*

SCOOTALOO  
Suddenly, we were stopped by these two fillies who go to our school: Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon.

ATHENA  
[Is thinking] Those names sound familiar…

***[Flashback]***

*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.*

***[Flashback Ends]***

ATHENA  
That’s right! Apple Bloom mentioned them earlier today.

APPLE BLOOM  
Those two fillies are always lookin’ to tease us because we’re the only ones in our class who haven’t gotten cutie marks yet.

SCOOTALOO  
We’ve pretty much learned to ignore them by now, but yesterday was different.

***[Flashback]***

[Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon step out in front of Scootaloo’s wagon, forcing her to come to a stop.]

*SCOOTALOO  
WHOA!*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
Hey there, blank flanks! Nice capes you got there!*

*SCOOTALOO  
Oh, great.*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
Just ignore them, Scootaloo. Come on, let’s get going.*

*SILVER SPOON  
Hold up. You’re not even going to admire the view for a little while?*

*APPLE BLOOM  
What’s there to admire, other than wherever you two aren’t?*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
Ooh. Sassy today, aren’t we?*

*SILVER SPOON  
We just thought we’d be kind today, and let you three admire our new dresses.*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
Aren’t they gorgeous? My mother got them for us - tailored just for the two of us by one of the biggest designers in Canterlot!*

*SILVER SPOON  
See, when you actually have MONEY, like us, you don’t have to bother hoof-making your own clothes… like you guys have clearly done with these drab capes.*

*SCOOTALOO  
… You two do realize that none of us are actually poor, right?*

*APPLE BLOOM  
Yeah, in case you’ve forgotten, Diamond Tiara, your dad owes his current business to Sweet Apple Acres. Without us, you wouldn’t have all that money to throw around.*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
!!! Grrrr!*

*SCOOTALOO  
And my parents donate all of the extra money they earn to help fund a ton of science and research projects that help Equestrian advancement.*

*SCOOTALOO  
So if it weren’t for that, I’d be living in luxury, just like you two.*

*SILVER SPOON  
Rgh!*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
And some day, you’ll be ordering your “special” dresses from my sister, Rarity. She’s the one who made the fabric I used to create these capes!*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
Oh, really? You think someone who makes fabric as shabby as THIS has any sort of future in--*

[Diamond Tiara notices the silk on the inside of the capes.]

*DIAMOND TIARA  
Huh? What’s… that?*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
I told you. It’s the fabric my sister made. It took sooo long to make, but I think it adds just the right touch.*

*SILVER SPOON  
Hmph. Whatever, we don’t care--*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
It WOULD add just the right touch to these new clothes. You’ll let me borrow some, riiight?*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
What!? Of course not! This fabric is very special! Rarity only uses it for VERY important clients.*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
Like I said, it takes a long time to make, and it costs a LOT of money.*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
And yet, she was willing to waste a good amount of it making these horrendous capes for you three.*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
Hmph. That’s where you’re wrong. I did it myself, actually.*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
!!! Oh, did you now? I see...*

*APPLE BLOOM  
We don’t have time to chat with you all day, Diamond. We got some Crusader business to attend to.*

*SCOOTALOO  
Yeah! We’re going to get our cutie marks in being explorers! So, if you don’t mind, we’ll be on our way now.*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
Ah, ah. Not so fast.*

[Diamond is still holding on to the cape, preventing the CMC from leaving.]

*SWEETIE BELLE  
Let me go, Diamond!*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
[Demanding] No! Not until you get me some of this golden fabric!*

*SILVER SPOON  
Hey, DT, I think maybe you’re going a little too--*

*TURNING PAGE  
HIYAH!*

[Turning arrives on the scene swinging his sword, and knocking both DT and SS to the ground.]

*DIAMOND TIARA  
OW!*

*SILVER SPOON  
OOF!*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
WHAT THE HAY!? YOU! LOOK AT WHAT YOU’VE DONE! YOU GOT MY NEW DRESS ALL DIRTY!!!*

*TURNING PAGE  
You’ll get no sympathy from me. Only cowards would dare prey upon those less fortunate than themselves. You have no one but yourself to blame.*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
You… How dare you!?*

*TURNING PAGE  
If you wish to fight anypony, then I shall be your opponent! The unjust deserve to be punished, and I will not allow any harm to befall the innocent!*

*TURNING PAGE  
As a future member of the Royal Guard, this is the creed I stand by!*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
Grrr!*

*SILVER SPOON  
Come on, DT, let’s get out of here. Ponies are starting to stare, and I really need to get out of this dress.*

*DIAMOND TIARA  
[Sigh] Fine! But marks my words, Cutie Mark Crusaders - this isn’t over!*

***[Flashback Ends]***

ATHENA  
I can’t believe those two would go so far as to STEAL from you.

PHOENIX  
[Serious] Do their parents know about how they bully you three?

APPLE BLOOM  
Silver Spoon’s parents are doctors at Ponyville General Hospital; they don’t often spend their time watching after their daughter.

APPLE BLOOM  
As for Diamond Tiara - her father’s real busy managing his company, so her mother is the one who looks after her.

APPLE BLOOM  
And, honestly, I don’t think she really cares how Diamond treats us.

ATHENA  
[Upset] That’s horrible. At least Turning was there to help you.

SCOOTALOO  
Yeah. I’m sure we could’ve handled the situation ourselves, but showing up like that was pretty awesome of him.

TWILIGHT  
So what happened after that whole incident?

SCOOTALOO  
After Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon ran off...

***[Flashback]***

*TURNING PAGE  
You fillies okay?*

*SCOOTALOO  
Y-Yeah, thanks.*

*APPLE BLOOM  
Wow, that was incredible. I don’t think I’ve ever seen somepony scare those two off so quickly before.*

*TURNING PAGE  
It was no problem. Just doing what I can to help out.*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
You certainly did that much. What’s your name?*

*TURNING PAGE  
Turning Page.*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
Nice to meet you. I’m--*

*TURNING PAGE  
I already know who you three are. You’re the Cutie Mark Crusaders: Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo.*

*APPLE BLOOM  
Huh? How’d you know about us?*

*TURNING PAGE  
How could I NOT know about the little sisters of Equestria’s greatest heroes, especially if I live in the same town as them?*

*SCOOTALOO  
Actually… I’m not REALLY Rainbow Dash’s sister…*

*TURNING PAGE  
But you two are so close that you might as well be sisters.*

*SCOOTALOO  
[smiles] Thanks. So, you said that you’re a “future member of the Royal Guard?”*

*TURNING PAGE  
Uh-huh. My dad’s a member, and I want to be just like him one day. That’s why I practice with this sword he gave me whenever I get the chance.*

[Turning raises sword into frame]

*TURNING PAGE  
Have you guys ever been inside the Everfree Forest? It’s such a thrill to take on the monsters in there!*

*SCOOTALOO  
Wow! That’s awesome! I kinda want to do the same thing, actually.*

*SCOOTALOO  
My parents go on lots of adventures all over Equestria, fighting dangerous creatures and seeing all kinds of things ordinary ponies never get a chance to.*

*TURNING PAGE  
Your parents sound really brave!*

*SCOOTALOO  
Thanks! I hope, one day, that they’ll take me with them on an expedition, though. I don’t really get to see them as often as I’d like to…*

*TURNING PAGE  
I understand that feeling… My dad’s always being given assignments, so he rarely ever comes home. And over the past year, for whatever reason, it’s been getting worse…*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
Well, at least you still have your mom, right?*

*TURNING PAGE  
… She and I… don’t really get along all that well.*

*APPLEBLOOM  
Why’s that?*

*TURNING PAGE  
She doesn’t really want me to be practicing to be a royal guard all the time. She’d rather have me locked up in school.*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
Wait, you don’t go to school!?*

*TURNING PAGE  
Nope. Never have. Never will. I don’t need school to teach me a thing!*

*TURNING PAGE  
I can learn all I need to know by getting out into the real world and experiencing it for myself.*

*SCOOTALOO  
Aww, lucky…*

*APPLE BLOOM  
Hey, are you guys hungry? Why don’t we stop somewhere and get some lunch?*

*SWEETIE BELLE  
Good idea. We’ll need to keep our strength up for when we go exploring.*

*SCOOTALOO  
Hey, Turning, why don’t you join us?*

*TURNING PAGE  
[Elated] I’d be happy to! Thanks!*

***[Flashback Ends]***

SCOOTALOO  
After that, we ate lunch together at a nearby restaurant.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Slyly] Scootaloo and Turning REALLY hit it off.

SCOOTALOO  
Apple Bloom!

APPLE BLOOM  
What? Come on, it was obvious you two really enjoyed each other’s company. Only reason we stayed at that restaurant for so long was because ya’ll couldn’t stop talkin’!

SCOOTALOO  
[Bashful] Sh-Shut up…

ATHENA  
*[Smug]* *(The more you try and hide it, the more obvious it gets, Scootaloo.)* [Neutral] So, what happened after lunch?

APPLE BLOOM  
See, that’s the thing. For some reason, while we were talkin’, Turning’s mom showed up all of a sudden.

PHOENIX  
Fair Devotion.

SCOOTALOO  
She dragged Turning away without saying much. We never found out what was up.

APPLE BLOOM  
Still, it was a shock to learn that his mom was our substitute teacher. No wonder she wants him to go to school.

ATHENA  
Wait, hold on. His mom works for the school?

APPLE BLOOM  
Uh-huh. She teaches class whenever Ms. Cheerliee is unable to.

ATHENA  
Huh. *(The more you know, I guess.)*

TWILIGHT  
So, what did you three do after lunch?

APPLE BLOOM  
Unfortunately, thanks to Scootaloo and Turning, it was too late to go explorin’ like we wanted to. We went back to my place for our scheduled sleepover.

PHOENIX  
And what time was that?

APPLE BLOOM  
I’d say it was probably around 3:30 PM.

ATHENA  
3:30… That was right around the time we got back from Manehattan.

PHOENIX  
Right, and we all went to the party straight after.

APPLE BLOOM  
Yeah, I had a feeling that was why Applejack wasn’t home when we got back.

ATHENA  
Hm?

APPLE BLOOM  
As soon as we got back to Sweet Apple Acres, we left our capes, and Scootaloo’s scooter, in front of our clubhouse.

APPLE BLOOM  
We went inside my house to find Applejack, but no one was home.

TWILIGHT  
No one? What about Big Mac and Granny Smith?

APPLE BLOOM  
They’re off visiting our relatives in the Hollow Shades. They’ve been pretty distant as of late, so we’re tryin’ to reconnect with them.

APPLE BLOOM  
Applejack was gonna go instead of Big Mac, but she had to cancel last-minute, so my brother had to go instead.

TWILIGHT  
You didn’t want to go?

APPLE BLOOM  
If I hadn’t already made plans with the CMC, I would’ve, but it takes a couple days to travel to and from the Hollow Shades, not including the time they plan on stayin’ there for.

ATHENA  
*(Applejack didn’t cancel her travel plans just to welcome Mr. Wright and the rest of us to this world, did she?)*

ATHENA  
(*It’s not like we’d have minded if she said she was busy, after all…)*

APPLE BLOOM  
Anyway, since Applejack wasn’t home yet, we decided to go back to the clubhouse and wait for her. That’s when we found that the scooter, wagon, and capes had been stolen!

PHOENIX  
So, it happened during the few minutes you three took your eyes off of them.

SCOOTALOO  
Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon must have been watching us, waiting until we left everything unattended.

ATHENA  
So, if they stole the scooter, the wagon, and the capes as part of a blackmail attempt, that must mean they left you a letter or something, right?

APPLE BLOOM  
Yep. This one right here.

*[Apple Bloom takes out the blackmail letter, and shows it to Athena.]*

ATHENA  
Wait...cut-out letters from a magazine? People-er, ponies actually do this? I thought this was a thing that only showed up in movies.

PHOENIX  
[Chuckles] Haha, well you’d be surprised the lengths someone will go to avoid having their identity revealed.

ATHENA  
“Hey there, blank flanks! In case you’re wondering, your scooter, wagon, and capes are with us.”

ATHENA  
“If you don’t want them to be destroyed, come to the foot of the bridge leading to the Castle of the Two Sisters at 10:00 tonight with a roll of that golden silk fabric.”

ATHENA  
“If you don’t, or if you bring any adults with you, the capes will be ripped to shreds, and the scooter and wagon will tumble to the bottom of the gorge.”

TWILIGHT  
Is this what held you back at the crime scene, Apple Bloom?

APPLE BLOOM  
…

ATHENA  
What do you mean, Twilight?

TWILIGHT  
I highly doubt that Apple Bloom has just been carrying that blackmail letter around ever since this morning.

TWILIGHT  
In fact, I think she picked it up from somewhere, and the only time I wasn’t keeping a close eye on her was just after we had left the crime scene.

ATHENA  
Oh! That’s right!

***[Flashback]***

*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.*

***[Flashback Ends]***

TWILIGHT  
Apple Bloom, you fell behind back then because you went to pick up this letter, didn’t you?

APPLE BLOOM  
Y-Yeah… Yeah, that’s right. I saw that letter caught in some bushes a little ways off from the crime scene.

APPLE BLOOM  
I figured that the wind had blown it there, and that the police hadn’t found it yet. So, before they could, I… took it with me.

TWILIGHT  
Apple Bloom! You can’t mess with a crime scene like that! It’s a crime!

APPLE BLOOM  
Sorry, Twi… I just wanted to protect Scootaloo…

SCOOTALOO  
Apple Bloom…

TWILIGHT  
[*Sighing*] Well, at least we uncovered some new information.

ATHENA  
Right. The blackmail letter made its way to the scene of the crime. That was because of you, right, Scootaloo?

SCOOTALOO  
Y-Yeah...

**Added to Court Record: Blackmail Letter - A message written with letters cut out from a magazine, ordering that the CMC must come to the bridge leading to the Castle of the Two Sisters at 10:00 on the night of the crime. Brought there by Scootaloo. The letter was found in some bushes near the crime scene.**

PHOENIX  
So, how did this all lead to Scootaloo going into the forest with Turning?

APPLE BLOOM  
I don’t know myself. When we found that letter, we decided it wasn’t worth the trouble to go after Diamond and Silver.

APPLE BLOOM  
Not only is the Everfree Forest scary at night, and trust me, I’d know, but there ain’t even a guarantee that we’d get our stuff back anyway!

APPLE BLOOM  
They’d probably try and make off with everythin’ just to spite us!

ATHENA  
But what about your capes? And the scooter?

APPLE BLOOM  
Sweetie said that she could easily make new capes for us, just like she did before, and as for the scooter, Scootaloo agreed to let me build another one for her.

ATHENA  
Build one?

APPLE BLOOM  
Uh-huh. [Proud] I’m mighty crafty when given the right materials! I even fixed up our entire clubhouse from one that was practically falling apart!

PHOENIX  
Wow. That’s impressive.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Happy] Thanks. Anyway, after we settled on letting the whole blackmail thing go, Scootaloo suggested that we cancel the sleepover plans until the next day.

APPLE BLOOM  
She said it would probably be better if we were in our own homes until this whole thing blew over.

APPLE BLOOM  
Sweetie and I didn’t really get it, but we agreed anyway, and the two of them went home. That’s… all I know.

PHOENIX  
So, Scootaloo, it looks like it’s up to you to tell us what happened next.

PHOENIX  
Why did you obey the orders on the blackmail letter despite you and your friends agreeing to ignore it?

SCOOTALOO  
… The truth is, I never really wanted to ignore the blackmail letter.

SCOOTALOO  
But when Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom said that it wasn’t worth fussing over, I didn’t feel right asking them to go along with it anyway.

SCOOTALOO  
I, uh, lied to them, and said I agreed to leave it be so that they wouldn’t have to get involved, and then…

SCOOTALOO  
I suggested canceling the sleepover so that neither of them would notice me leaving that night.

APPLE BLOOM  
What!? Scoots! Why would you do that?

SCOOTALOO  
Because… I couldn’t lose my scooter…

APPLE BLOOM  
Huh? But… I said I would make you a new one; a faster one!

SCOOTALOO  
I know… But, you don’t understand. That scooter… that was a gift from my parents.

APPLE BLOOM  
!!!

SCOOTALOO  
I couldn’t let it be destroyed. I’m sure… you understand, right, Apple Bloom…?

APPLE BLOOM  
…

ATHENA  
*[Softly]* *(...I get it, Scootaloo...)*

PHOENIX  
And so, this is why you got Turning involved?

TWILIGHT  
He knows exactly how you feel when it comes to something sentimental your parents gave you, so you asked him to help you get it back.

SCOOTALOO  
… What he said earlier that day left an impression on me…

***[Flashback]***

*TURNING PAGE  
Uh-huh. My dad’s a member, and I want to be just like him one day. That’s why I practice with this sword he gave me whenever I get the chance.*

[Turning raises sword into frame]

*TURNING PAGE  
Have you guys ever been inside the Everfree Forest? It’s such a thrill to take on the monsters in there!*

***[Flashback Ends]***

SCOOTALOO  
Turning and I are very alike, but there’s one big difference. He doesn’t get scared like I do...

ATHENA  
That’s nothing to be ashamed of, though. Fear is a natural response to dangerous situations - it stops you from doing things that could hurt yourself or others.

SCOOTALOO  
I know. Trust me, I had to learn that the hard way… But, because I was scared, I didn’t want to go into the Everfree Forest by myself.

SCOOTALOO  
And since I didn’t want to get Sweetie or Apple Bloom involved, Turning was the only other pony I thought I could turn to.

PHOENIX  
Because if Diamond and Silver saw you showing up with an adult, they would’ve destroyed the scooter right away.

SCOOTALOO  
Exactly. Even then, though, I still hadn’t made up my mind to ask him. Just like with Sweetie and Apple Bloom, I didn’t want to risk hurting Turning, either…

TWILIGHT  
Then, what made you change your mind?

SCOOTALOO  
It was that ribbon I gave Turning.

ATHENA  
The ribbon?

SCOOTALOO  
Rainbow Dash was the one who first gave me that ribbon. She said it was the ribbon she got for winning her very first race - the one where she got her cutie mark.

TWILIGHT  
What!? She gave you something as special as that!?

SCOOTALOO  
Yeah… It was when I had to face a fear of mine - that there’s a chance I may never be able to fly…

ATHENA  
Wait… You can’t fly?

SCOOTALOO  
No, not yet, at least. I’m still holding out hope that I will one day, though.

SCOOTALOO  
But, even if I don’t, I know I’ll be able to handle it now, and because I realized that, I was able to help my friends win a very important contest.

SCOOTALOO  
That ribbon is a reminder from Rainbow that I overcame that hurdle.

SCOOTALOO  
She said that it represents drive, guts, and a certain don’t-give-up-ness that everypony should have.

SCOOTALOO  
And most of all, it represents the courage to stand up and do something awesome for yourself and your friends.

TWILIGHT  
Wow. Rainbow really said all that to you?

SCOOTALOO  
[*Chuckles*] She’d never admit it, of course, but she can be pretty sweet when no one’s watching.

ATHENA  
So, seeing that ribbon again gave you the courage you needed to go into the forest?

SCOOTALOO  
Yeah. I took the ribbon with me for the same reason. The first place I headed was Turning’s house. I already knew where his mom lives, so I figured he’d be there.

TWILIGHT  
And was he?

SCOOTALOO  
Yeah, and he was alone.

SCOOTALOO  
I told him what had happened, and that was all it took to get him onboard.

SCOOTALOO  
He wanted to just go after them right then and there, but I convinced him that we’d be better off if we at least got what they were asking for first.

PHOENIX  
And that’s what led to you stealing from Rarity’s store…

SCOOTALOO  
… I’m really sorry that I did, but… I didn’t really see any other option. I couldn’t just ask Sweetie for it, otherwise she would’ve known what was going on.

TWILIGHT  
How did you pull off the theft without her noticing? I can’t imagine it was easy to sneak by her and steal a whole roll of fabric right from under her nose.

SCOOTALOO  
Actually, it was VERY easy.

TWILIGHT  
Really?

SCOOTALOO  
Turning was the one who came up with the plan.

SCOOTALOO  
Since he’s never been inside Carousel Boutique, he decided that he would lure Sweetie out by getting her to come outside to talk, and leave me to find the fabric.

SCOOTALOO  
So, I went in behind her back, and started poking around. After finding the fabric, and leaving a note in Rarity’s bedroom, I left.

SCOOTALOO  
The whole thing took less than five minutes. Sweetie never suspected a thing, according to Turning.

TWILIGHT  
Huh. That was… deceptively simple.

PHOENIX  
Around what time was all this happening?

SCOOTALOO  
Well, I spent a few hours sitting at home, just thinking about whether I should actually go through with all this or not, and then I had to go ask Turning to help me…

SCOOTALOO  
It was probably around 8:00 PM.

TWILIGHT  
8:00 PM… The party was still going on at that time, although Applejack and Fluttershy had left.

TWILIGHT  
Rarity and Rainbow were still there, likely thinking that Sweetie and Scootaloo were still having a sleepover with Apple Bloom.

SCOOTALOO  
The two of us went back to our homes after we got the fabric. We agreed to meet up at the entrance to the forest around 9:20 PM.

ATHENA  
And when that time came, you went inside the forest together, right?

SCOOTALOO  
Yeah… Before we went in though…

***[Flashback]***

*TURNING PAGE  
You ready, Scootaloo? You brought the fabric?*

*SCOOTALOO  
Y-Yeah…*

*TURNING PAGE  
Why don’t you let me carry it? That way, it won’t hinder your movement, in case you need to run, or something.*

*SCOOTALOO  
[Gulps] O-Okay…*

*TURNING PAGE  
Are you alright? You’re shaking.*

*SCOOTALOO  
I-I’m just… a little scared. I’ve never been in the Everfree Forest at night. Apple Bloom told me it’s so dark, you can’t see a thing.*

*TURNING PAGE  
Don’t worry. You won’t have to be afraid tonight.*

*TURNING PAGE  
Look up. It’s a full moon. The paths throughout the forest will be completely visible. Plus, you’ve got a unicorn by your side!*

*TURNING PAGE  
I can cast an illumination spell for us, just in case we have to head off the path, and into the trees where it WILL be too dark to see what’s in front of you.*

*SCOOTALOO  
Wow, Turning… You really are… very brave.*

*TURNING PAGE  
Heh. That just comes from all the training I do. I used to be scared of these woods once, too, you know.*

*TURNING PAGE  
But I’ve since taught myself to never be afraid of anything! No matter who, or what, we find in there, we’ll face it together.*

*SCOOTALOO  
Th-Thanks, Turning… Um… If you don’t mind, would you take this?*

*TURNING PAGE  
Hm? What’s that?*

*SCOOTALOO  
I-It’s a ribbon… I got it from Rainbow Dash a while ago… It’s supposed to represent the courage one has to do something awesome for yourself and your friends.*

*TURNING PAGE  
It’s from Ms. Dash? Well… I can’t take this from you, then. And besides, with the way you’re trembling, it sounds like you’re going to need it.*

*SCOOTALOO  
N-No, I want YOU to have it.*

*TURNING PAGE  
But why?*

*SCOOTALOO  
Well, as thanks for earlier today, and for standing by my side now, for one.*

*SCOOTALOO  
But more importantly, I want you to have it so that you don’t forget while you’re in there… To have the courage to keep moving forward…*

*TURNING PAGE  
!?*

*SCOOTALOO  
To me, you represent everything that ribbon stands for… So, as long as you don’t forget it, I’ll be fine standing by your side…*

*TURNING PAGE  
Th-Thank you… Scootaloo… I’ll take good care of it…*

*SCOOTALOO  
… Well, are we ready to go?*

*TURNING PAGE  
Y-Yeah… Let’s go…*

***[Flashback Ends]***

SCOOTALOO  
After that, we entered the forest… right around 9:25 PM.

TWILIGHT  
I’m impressed, Scootaloo. That ribbon meant so much to you, and you were willing to give it up to inspire courage in someone else.

SCOOTALOO  
I knew he didn’t really need it.

SCOOTALOO  
But, it made me feel better believing my gift would make sure he stayed his confident, courageous self while we were traveling through the forest.

ATHENA  
So what happened after you entered?

SCOOTALOO  
Well…

*[Suddenly, a guard enters the visiting room]*

GUARD #2  
Alright. That’s enough. This visit is over.

ATHENA  
Hey, what gives?! We still have questions to ask!

GUARD #2  
The prosecutor in charge of this case needs to question the defendant as well. You’ve had plenty of time to talk to her.

ATHENA  
!!!

PHOENIX  
And who is the prosecutor assigned to this case, if you don’t mind us asking?

GUARD #2  
That is none of your concern right now. You’ll find out for yourself at the trial tomorrow.

TWILIGHT  
Please, can’t we just ask her a few more questions?

GUARD #2  
[*Sigh*] I’m sorry, Princess, but no. Now that a second arrest has been made, the prosecution has demanded that they speak to both suspects immediately. Starting with her.

ATHENA  
A second arrest?

PHOENIX  
Someone else is suspected of having murdered the victim?

GUARD #2  
That’s correct.

TWILIGHT  
Who… is it?

GUARD #2  
[Smug] See for yourself…

*Another guard escorts Turning into the visitor’s room.*

SCOOTALOO  
T-Turning?!

TURNING  
...

TWILIGHT  
Wait… You can’t seriously be suggesting…

GUARD #2  
Indeed we are. The second suspect believed to be responsible for the victim’s death… Is none other than his own son: Turning Page!

ATHENA, PHOENIX, TWILIGHT, APPLE BLOOM, SCOOTALOO  
WHAAAAAAAAAAT!?

ATHENA  
This is insane! Are you seriously telling us that Turning is suspected of killing his own father?!

SCOOTALOO  
Turning would never have done something like that! He loved his father!

PHOENIX  
[Serious, but still a little caught off-guard] What… exactly was the basis for this arrest?

GUARD #2  
An anonymous tip was mailed to the police station just a little while ago.

TWILIGHT  
What did it say?

GUARD #2  
The tip informed us that there was another pony in the forest with Scootaloo on the night of the crime - Turning Page.

GUARD #2  
After speaking with our witness, and asking Turning ourselves, we confirmed the tip’s validity.

TURNING  
...

SCOOTALOO  
Wh-Who… Who made that tip!?

GUARD #2  
You do know what ANONYMOUS means, right? We don’t KNOW who made the tip.

SCOOTALOO  
Those bullies… I know it was them…

GUARD #2  
Now, then. Come on, kid. I’ll let you say your goodbyes, but hurry up. You don’t wanna make the prosecutor wait.

SCOOTALOO  
Grrrr… Mr. Wright!

PHOENIX  
[Surprised] Y-Yes?

ATHENA  
*(Whoa. I don’t think I’ve ever heard a child sound so angry before…)*

SCOOTALOO  
Turning Page is innocent! You believe that, right?

PHOENIX  
Of course.

SCOOTALOO  
So, you’ll defend us both, then, right?

ATHENA  
!!!

TURNING  
!!!

TWILIGHT  
Hold on, Scootaloo. Didn’t you say that you were going to give Athena a chance?

SCOOTALOO  
Yeah… But the situation’s changed now. I want to have someone who I know I can trust to defend Turning Page.

ATHENA  
[Hurt] And… you don’t trust me?

SCOOTALOO  
W…[sigh] I didn’t mean it like that, okay? I just meant that I know Mr. Wright’s got what it takes. I can’t afford to take any risks.

SCOOTALOO  
Not when Turning’s life is on the line...

ATHENA  
...

TURNING  
Scootaloo...

SCOOTALOO  
Besides, Mr. Wright’s already defended twice before in Equestria, right? He probably knows best how to handle all this.

ATHENA  
… Actually, Scootaloo, you’re wrong.

SCOOTALOO  
!?

ATHENA  
[Tentatively, but grows determined as the line proceeds] The situation HAS changed, but there’s one aspect in which I think only I can understand, when it comes to this case.

ATHENA  
The way things are now, with Turning under suspicion of his father’s murder, I can confidently say I know how to best deal with this.

ATHENA  
Not only from a legal standpoint, but also a psychological one.

PHOENIX  
!?

SCOOTALOO  
What!? What do you mean?

ATHENA  
… Not long ago, I was in the same place as Turning. I was suspected of having killed my own mother.

APPLE BLOOM AND SCOOTALOO  
WHAT!?

PHOENIX  
It got to the point where even she herself was convinced that she did it, and while I was the one who defended her, I can’t deny that I felt a little overwhelmed by it all.

PHOENIX  
Throughout my years of lawyering, never had I dealt with a situation so psychologically precarious as that.

PHOENIX  
I know better than anyone to not underestimate Athena’s knowledge of psychology and ability to connect with others.

PHOENIX  
After all, it’s one thing to save others from being put in prison. It’s something else entirely to be able to save them EMOTIONALLY.

ATHENA  
[Serious] What you kids need is not just someone who can defend you, but someone who can empathize with your situation. I want you both to put your complete trust in ME.

SCOOTALOO  
?!

TURNING  
?!

TWILIGHT  
Wait, Athena, you aren’t suggesting…?

ATHENA  
[Serious] I am. I’d like to handle this case by myself.

PHOENIX  
[Concerned] … Are you sure you’re up to leading a case solo, Athena?

ATHENA  
[Determined] I am, Mr Wright. Is that okay?

PHOENIX  
… Only two of us here get to decide that. What do you say, Scootaloo, Turning?

SCOOTALOO  
…

TURNING  
…

ATHENA  
[Determined] Trust in me, and I promise I’ll get you both off the hook, and find the true culprit behind this heinous crime.

SCOOTALOO  
… Alright. I’ll trust you, Ms. Cykes.

TURNING  
?!

ATHENA  
What about you, Turning?

TURNING  
… If that’s what Miss Scootaloo wants, then I’ll trust you as well. Whatever it takes to make sure she gets out of this.

ATHENA  
Thank you, you two.

SCOOTALOO  
[Warmly] It’s okay. Refusing two offers in one day isn’t exactly a great idea, anyway.

TWILIGHT  
Wait… someone already came down here and offered to defend you?

SCOOTALOO  
Yeah. It was right after I got arrested. They came in, and asked me if I wanted them to defend me, but I was waiting for Mr. Wright to come by, so I turned them away.

PHOENIX  
Who was it?

SCOOTALOO  
I didn’t catch her name, but she was a dark-coated unicorn with glasses, and an eyeball for a cutie mark.

PHOENIX  
!?

TWILIGHT  
!?

ATHENA  
What is it? Why’d you two suddenly tense up?

PHOENIX  
[Nervous] I-It’s nothing, Athena…

ATHENA  
*[Annoyed]* *(Are we really going back to the “Tell Athena Nothing” game?)*

GUARD #2  
[*Clears throat*] [Irate] Ok, that’s more than enough. I think it’s time for everyone to leave.

TWILIGHT  
We better get back to my castle now. We’ll have to rest up for the trial.

ATHENA  
Okay. See you tomorrow, you two!

SCOOTALOO  
Wait! Hold on!

GUARD #2  
[*Exasperated sigh*]

PHOENIX  
What is it?

SCOOTALOO  
Um, I’ve been wondering this for a while, but… Where’s Sweetie Belle?

ATHENA  
! *(Uh oh…)*

TWILIGHT AND PHOENIX  
…

APPLE BLOOM  
Um, she said she… wasn’t feeling well, so she couldn’t come down here to support you…

SCOOTALOO  
[Disheartened] O-Oh… O-Okay… Well, I… hope she gets better…

APPLE BLOOM  
Mmm-hmm…

ATHENA  
… *(We may have dodged the bullet for now, but we’re going to have to confront the real source of this issue soon: I can feel it.)*

ATHENA  
*(Until I have a grasp on exactly what’s going on, though, we better not pursue it any further.)*

ATHENA  
(*It wouldn’t be good to hurt Scootaloo when she’s already suffering so much…)*

SCOOTALOO  
…

APPLE BLOOM  
Don’t worry, all right? You just have to hang in there until tomorrow. Ms. Cykes will save both you and Turning. I promise!

PHOENIX  
…

SCOOTALOO  
[Downcast] Y-Yeah… Okay… Bye, Apple Bloom.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Saddened] Goodbye, Scootaloo. See you tomorrow.

# **Scene 4**

**Characters: Athena, Phoenix, Twilight, Apple Bloom, Apollo, Trucy, Applejack, Rarity, Rainbow Dash**

***February 13, 5:32 PM***

***Ponyville - Throne Room***

ATHENA  
We’re back!

RAINBOW DASH  
[Concerned] How’s Scootaloo? Is she holding up ok in there?

ATHENA  
[Reassuring] Scootaloo is doing alright, despite the circumstances. She’s a courageous filly, and she’s staying strong while going through this.

RAINBOW DASH  
[Relieved] Well… That’s good to hear, at least. Hopefully they’re treating her well at the detention center.

TWILIGHT  
It seems that way. Although, our meeting was cut off when the guard had to take her away to be questioned by the prosecutor.

APPLE BLOOM  
[Annoyed] And pretty rudely, too.

ATHENA  
Right, the prosecutor. We still have no idea who it’s going to be. Twilight?

TWILIGHT  
Yes, Athena?

ATHENA  
Do you think you’ll be able to gather any info on who I’ll be facing tomorrow?

TWILIGHT  
You can count on me!

ATHENA  
Thank you, Twilight.

APPLEJACK  
Alright, sugarcube, I think it’s time we went home. You’ve been out all day and you need to rest.

APPLE BLOOM  
Yeah, ok, sis. Before we head back, can we pass by Carousel Boutique? I want to tell Sweetie Belle what’s been happening.

ATHENA  
*(Right… I almost forgot about all that.)*

ATHENA  
*[Pensive]* *(It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that there’s something going on with her. I mean, Mr Wright’s Magatama confirmed that she’s hiding something.)*

ATHENA  
*(Even so, why was she so hesitant to help out Scootaloo? Does she really suspect her?)*

RARITY  
I’ll go with you two. It’s about time I get back home anyway, especially with Sweetie Belle in her current state. The poor thing said that she couldn’t even get out of bed this morning!

*[Phoenix and Twilight share a concerned look]*

ATHENA  
Hmm? Hold on a second. Where are Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, and Spike?

APOLLO  
Spike headed out just after you guys left for the detention center.

RARITY  
I asked him to go check in on Sweetie Belle for me. I suppose he must still be with her.

TRUCY  
You just missed Pinkie and Fluttershy, too. They mentioned something about “continuing preparations,” and then, after saying goodbye, they just left.

TWILIGHT  
Preparations? For what?

APOLLO  
[sighs] Not another party, I hope.

RARITY  
A-Anyway, darlings, I’d best be heading home now.

TWILIGHT  
No worries, Rarity. You go check up on Sweetie Belle and get some rest yourself. See you at the trial tomorrow! You too, Applejack and Apple Bloom!

RARITY  
Good night, darling.

APPLEJACK  
G’night, y’all!

APPLE BLOOM  
Best of luck tomorrow!

## *[Rarity, Applejack, and Applebloom leave.]*

PHOENIX  
…

ATHENA  
Is something wrong, Boss?

PHOENIX  
[Pensive] It’s… nothing, really. I was just thinking about what Scootaloo was telling us just before we left the detention center.

ATHENA  
Oh? You mean about that other defense attorney who came to see her? *(At least someone is telling me something this time...)*

APOLLO  
Wait, someone else already came by the detention center to see Scootaloo?

TWILIGHT  
Yeah, but she turned her down because she was waiting for Phoenix. Not exactly the wisest decision, in my opinion, but I understand where she’s coming from.

TRUCY  
What do you mean, Twilight? Wouldn’t it make sense to have a lawyer you’re familiar with, rather than a stranger?

TWILIGHT  
Yes, but what I’m saying is that the fact that ANYPONYoffered to defend her at all is, in itself, a miracle.

APOLLO  
How so?

TWILIGHT  
Because defense attorneys in Equestria are loathe to defend somepony accused of murder. I learned that the hard way the last time Phoenix was here.

PHOENIX  
However, I’m pretty sure this defense attorney is not like most others.

APOLLO  
Do you know her?

PHOENIX  
Not as a defense attorney, but yes, we’ve met before.

TRUCY  
Who are they?

TWILIGHT  
Sonata.

RAINBOW DASH  
!?

APOLLO  
Sonata… Where have I heard that name before…?

ATHENA  
Wait! Didn’t you mention her before? When we first got here… something about how she was arrested last time Mr. Wright was here?

TWILIGHT  
That’s right. She was released from prison about a year ago, but I had no idea what she was doing up until now.

TRUCY  
So she became a defense attorney? Maybe she was inspired by you, Daddy!

PHOENIX  
[Melancholic] Heh… Wouldn’t that be something?

ATHENA  
???

TWILIGHT  
[Pensive] Regardless, I don’t know why she would be trying to take on a murder case like this, but Scootaloo was taking a big risk in turning her down.

RAINBOW DASH  
[Blunt] Hmph. It’s a good thing she did…

APOLLO AND TRUCY  
!?

ATHENA  
!?

PHOENIX  
...

TWILIGHT  
[Shocked] R-Rainbow. What do you mean?

RAINBOW DASH  
[Curt] … Nothing. I think I’m gonna head home now, Twilight. See you all at the trial tomorrow.

TWILIGHT  
W-Wait! Rainbow!

## *[Rainbow Dash leaves.]*

ATHENA  
*(Whoa… what was with that response?)*

APOLLO & TRUCY  
…

ATHENA  
*(Looks like I’m not the only one who noticed how antagonistic that sounded.)*

PHOENIX AND TWILIGHT  
…

ATHENA  
*(I guess the only way I’m going to find out the reason for it is by asking them about the case, but that’ll have to wait until another time.)*

ATHENA  
*(I have my own case to focus on. Defending Scootaloo and Turning Page…)*

ATHENA *(Two kids’ fates rest in my hands… I… I can do this! I know I can… But… what’ll happen if I fail…?)* [Nervously]… Hey, Twilight?

TWILIGHT  
What is it, Athena?

ATHENA  
What’s the severity of punishments for ponies that commit crimes?

TWILIGHT  
Well, for the most part, disagreements usually resolve themselves relatively quickly.

TWILIGHT  
Most crimes that are taken to court typically carry light sentences which usually amount to community service of some kind.

TWILIGHT  
More serious offenses could see you locked up in prison for a set period of time, though.

ATHENA  
[Nervously] How about murders? What would be the punishment for those found guilty?

TWILIGHT  
Well, as you know, murder is… mostly unheard of, until recently. The most serious punishments tend to result in banishment outside of Equestria.

TWILIGHT  
These range from expelling them from Equestrian borders, locking them up in Tartarus, or even sending them to the Sun or Moon.

ATHENA  
[Shocked] Wait, WHAT!? THE SUN!?

TWILIGHT  
Yeah, Equestria is a pretty peaceful place, and most ponies know not to do the wrong thing.

TWILIGHT  
I guess banishment is the best deterrent to ponies doing something really bad, like murder.

ATHENA  
…

TRUCY  
[Concerned] Athena, what’s wrong?

APOLLO  
Yeah, you’re looking really pale at the moment.

PHOENIX  
Athena decided to take on this case solo. So I won’t be up on the stand with her tomorrow.

TRUCY  
Oh, ok, but I’m sure you’ll do just fine defending Scootaloo tomorrow, Athena!

WIDGET  
Not just Scootaloo!

PHOENIX & TWILIGHT  
!!!

ATHENA  
[Dismayed] Widget!

APOLLO  
Uh… Athena?

TWILIGHT  
We just found out before we left the detention center that they’ve identified a second suspect in the case.

TRUCY  
A… second suspect?

TWILIGHT  
The victim’s son: Turning Page.

APOLLO AND TRUCY  
WHAT!?

TRUCY  
Two defendants in one case?

APOLLO  
And children, at that…

ATHENA  
[Flustered] Yeah, I get it!

ATHENA  
[Panicked] *(What was I thinking!? Two defendants! I mean, yeah, I meant what I said before, but if I fail, that’s two little kids being banished from Equestria!)*

TRUCY  
Why’d you take on two clients?

APOLLO  
I’m sure there’s a good reason for it. You wouldn’t normally be so reckless.

ATHENA  
It’s because I know what it’s like to be a kid caught up in a murder trial, and being accused of murdering their own parent.

ATHENA  
I know exactly the kind of toll both these things can take on you, and I want to be there for them.

ATHENA  
Not just as a lawyer, but as someone that can empathize with them. I meant every word I said back at the detention center.

PHOENIX  
But you’re also worried about what’ll happen if you fail, right?

ATHENA  
…

TRUCY  
[Encouraging] You shouldn’t worry about failing, Athena! You need to focus on how you’ll save them!

TRUCY  
Put all your energy into fighting for both Scootaloo and Turning Page as hard as you can! If you do that, I just know you’ll come out on top!

APOLLO  
And hey, you said it yourself. You’re the best fit out of all of us. Trucy’s right, Athena. Keep your mind on what’s important: proving your clients’ innocence.

ATHENA  
T-thanks guys. [Pause] Boss?

PHOENIX  
Yeah?

ATHENA  
Is this all right? Do you trust me? I mean, not even YOU’VEtaken on a case with two defendants at the same time before… right?

PHOENIX  
… I trust you to make the right call when it comes to our clients.

PHOENIX  
I can see how much this case means to you, and if you genuinely believe that you should be the one to handle it, [Supportingly] then you have my full support.

ATHENA  
[Relieved sigh] Thank you, Mr. Wright. I won’t let you down, I promise.

TWILIGHT  
… We should probably get some rest soon. We’ve got a big day ahead of us tomorrow, after all.

PHOENIX  
Agreed.

ATHENA  
…

# 

# **Scene 5**

**Characters: Athena, Twilight**

***February 13, 11:34 PM***

***Ponyville - Balcony***

ATHENA  
[Nervous] Tomorrow’s the big day. Just got to give it my all!

WIDGET  
Don’t want to let Scootaloo and Turning Page down!

ATHENA  
[Annoyed] Oh, quiet you! You’ve caused me a lot of trouble today, you know that?

TWILIGHT  
[Teasing] Talking to yourself?

*[Twilight joins Athena on the balcony]*

ATHENA  
[Surprised] Oh, Twilight! Ah, that was just Widget. He has a habit of saying what’s on my mind.

ATHENA  
[Awkwardly] Definitely got me into a few uncomfortable situations with some less-than pleasant individuals.

TWILIGHT  
Yeah, I can see how that might be a bit of an issue. [awkward silence] … I heard you talking from down the hall, and I came up here to see what you were doing up so late, especially with the trial tomorrow.

ATHENA  
[pause] I’ve just been thinking a lot. Not only about the trial, but also about me, in general.

TWILIGHT  
I guess with the trial, it has something to do with defending Scootaloo and Turning Page?

ATHENA  
You got it.

ATHENA  
I could tell neither she nor Turning Page are really confident that I can save them.

***[Flashback]***

*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.*

*TURNING PAGE  
Okay. You better. Because… [Threatening] If you don’t, I’ll find a way to do it myself. No matter what…*

***[Flashback]***

*TWILIGHT  
Hold on, Scootaloo. Didn’t you say that you were going to give Athena a chance?*

*SCOOTALOO  
Yeah… But the situation’s changed now. I want to have someone who I know I can trust defend Turning Page.*

***[Flashback]***

*SCOOTALOO  
W…[sigh] I didn’t mean it like that, okay? I just meant that I know Mr. Wright’s got what it takes. I can’t afford to take any risks.*

*SCOOTALOO  
Not when Turning’s life is on the line...*

***[Flashback Ends]***

ATHENA  
I mean, I’m still a defense attorney. This trial shouldn’t be that much different from the last one.

WIDGET  
It’s totally different! There are two defendants!

ATHENA  
[Annoyed] Ok, that’s enough from you!

TWILIGHT  
[Understanding] I get where you’re coming from.

TWILIGHT  
[Understanding] There’s the expectation from Scootaloo, and to an extent, Turning Page, that you can pull out a win even when everything is stacked against you.

TWILIGHT  
[Motivating] I don’t doubt that you’ll show everyone what you’re made of! I’m certain that you’re an incredible defense attorney, Athena.

ATHENA  
[Disheartened] But that’s just it. I’m not. I kinda suck.

TWILIGHT  
[Slightly shocked] W-why would you say that?

ATHENA  
Because it’s true. Scootaloo and Turning Page were right to be wary of me. I’ve only actually led one case from start to finish before, and I needed so much help…

TWILIGHT  
Athena…

ATHENA  
[Pause] Wanna know something? I didn’t even want to be a lawyer when I was a kid.

TWILIGHT  
Really?

ATHENA  
Yeah. The main reason why I studied law and psychology in the first place was because I wanted to save a dear friend.

ATHENA  
He was accused and convicted of murdering my mother when I was younger, and I studied as hard as I could so that I could free him.

ATHENA  
That big case that Mr. Wright mentioned before was where he was finally acquitted.

ATHENA  
[Melancholic] Looking back, if things were different and none of that ever happened all those years ago, I’d almost definitely not be standing here right now.

ATHENA  
I don’t know if it was fate, or whatever, but I feel like I only really pursued a career in law because I had to.

TWILIGHT  
[Understanding] … I get it.

ATHENA  
Hmm?

TWILIGHT  
[Sympathetic] Following a calling because you had to, not because you wanted to. I get it. It’s the same with me, being a princess.

TWILIGHT  
I miss the days before I became one, when I was able to learn about the magic of friendship, while also being able to pursue my own interests.

TWILIGHT  
[Melancholic] … But ever since I became a princess, I’ve been given so much responsibility to bear. It’s a far cry from when I was still Princess Celestia’s student.

TWILIGHT  
I’ll never be able to go back to those days at the Golden Oak Library, simply spending time studying or being with my friends.

TWILIGHT  
I’ve been given the duty of a Princess when really, I don’t know if it’s something I ever really wanted...

ATHENA  
[Talking to herself] Being forced into a profession because you felt obligated to do so…

TWILIGHT  
[Talking to herself] Burdened by others’ expectations to act accordingly and lead by example…

ATHENA & TWILIGHT  
[In unison] Because you know there are those you can’t afford to let down.

*[Athena and Twilight share a look]*

TWILIGHT  
[Chuckle] You know, the two of us are more alike than I believe either of us thought.

ATHENA  
Well, I certainly never thought I’d be able to relate to a pony from another world, let alone a princess.

## *[Athena and Twilight share a smile, before Athena faces Twilight]*

ATHENA  
Twilight?

TWILIGHT  
Yes?

ATHENA  
What do you say about being my co-counsel for tomorrow’s trial?

TWILIGHT  
!? I thought you wanted to go solo?

ATHENA  
I did, but… I might as well just admit that I’m in over my head at this point. I’m nowhere near Apollo’s level, and especially not Mr. Wright’s.

ATHENA  
I feel like if I don’t take on cases, then I’m never gonna catch up to them. I know that sounds incredibly self-centered, with lives on the line…

ATHENA  
Like you said, you and I are more alike than either of us thought. I think you might actually be the perfect partner for me.

ATHENA  
With you by my side, someone whose experience with the law is equal to mine, I feel I can still prove myself,

ATHENA  
without worrying I’ll be putting those kids in danger just for my own, selfish interests.

ATHENA  
[Determined] So, Twilight, will you stand with me in court tomorrow?

TWILIGHT  
…

*[Twilight gives Athena a smile]*

TWILIGHT  
Of course I will, Athena.

*[The two stand in silence for a moment]*

TWILIGHT  
[Yawns] Well, I’d better head to bed. I’ve got to be well-rested for the trial tomorrow.

ATHENA  
Yeah. I’m going to head back soon as well. Just gonna stay out for a couple more minutes.

TWILIGHT  
[Teasing] Don’t stay out too long. Goodnight, Athena.

ATHENA  
Goodnight, Twilight.

*Twilight starts heading towards the doorway before Athena stops her.*

ATHENA  
Wait, Twilight. Why were you up so late anyway?

TWILIGHT  
What? [Nervously] Oh, uh, I just… I couldn’t get to sleep. That’s all.

*[Athena hears discord in Twilight’s voice on that last remark]*

ATHENA  
?! *(What? Her voice is… shaking?)*

TWILIGHT  
Anyway, I’m sure I can get some shut-eye now. Good night, Athena. I’ll see you in the morning.

ATHENA  
A-Alright, Twilight. See you tomorrow...

*[Twilight departs, leaving Athena alone on the balcony once more]*

ATHENA  
[Whispering to herself] … Twilight… Are you… hiding something…?

**TO BE CONTINUED*...***

# 

# **After-Credits Scene**

**Characters: Equity and Sonata**

***February 13, 11:50 PM***

***Canterlot - Royal Court***

*[Two ponies are talking in the Canterlot courtroom]*

EQUITY  
So, she turned down your request to defend her?

SONATA  
Yes. Instead, she, and the new suspect, have opted for one of those human attorneys.

EQUITY  
… And what of the Princess?

SONATA  
It seems as if she will be aiding the defense once more.

EQUITY  
…

SONATA  
So, what will you have me do now? I hate to say it, but it’s starting to look like we won’t be able to keep these secrets much longer.

EQUITY  
… Indeed. For now, return to Ponyville, and continue the investigation on your end. The guards will not bar you from the scene, so long as you have my permission.

SONATA  
Yes, ma’am.

*[Sonata leaves]*

EQUITY  
…

*[Equity looks at the letter she received from Spike, requesting the attorney’s badges.]*

EQUITY  
[Annoyed] … Hmph.