

((MAKE SURE TO COMMENT LOLOLOL))

MLP: The Aftermath

I'd rather do this as a comic and will be doing so asap but until then I'll try to write it as a story

Prologue

At any single moment in history it is evident that no matter the situation, no matter the problem and no matter the risk, good seems to always triumph over evil...in a new day and age the same could be said still, but the difference is the ones who are facing the task...this is the story where all that changed, 12 years of peace will be forfeit and the only hope for anypony is three unsuspecting troublemakers

Chapter 1 A slight change of pace

It had been 2 weeks into their trip, a trek across the unforgiving wasteland of the west to visit a very special town. They stopped in appaloosa and ended up getting chased out of town was a bit of a letdown but it wasn't their goal anyway, Dark Chords was sitting on the train that in his opinion 'was moving to slow' while his friends, Razor and Waves, sat across from him "It feels like 200 degrees in here, where the hell are we going anyway?" Razor said in his stubborn way, he might've gotten up to vent some rage at the conductor were it not for him waking Waves up and calming him down, "Calm down, we should be there in an hour or so...but I'm curious, where *are* we going?" he looked to Dark who was the one who said they should start this little tour and he had made a point of going here so he might as well tell them "Well, remember a few months back, I said we NEED to come out here..." he got a nod from both of them "Well, that's because I need to talk to somepony very important, I don't want to ruin the surprise but I will tell you the reason we, I, need to see her because I...I've had this weird feeling, like something's out-a-place, I can't figure it out. I gotta feeling she might have an answer." Waves nodded and laid back in the uncomfortable bench to try and sleep again and Razor looked as if he might join him in getting some shut eye but then asked "Wait...who's *she*"

"Don't worry about that, like I said I want it to be a surprise."

"Oh come on, not even a hint?"

"nope."

Razor knew he wouldn't get any information so he slumped in the bench, eventually resting his head on the window in boredom, to kill time Dark did what he always did, thought, if there was on thing that could rid him of boredom it was his overactive imagination, others have said that it hindered him, 'you'll never do anything if you got your head in the clouds' his old teacher always told him, then an odd realization hit him *that's the first time I actually thought about my past in years...odd*. Then that unsettling feeling came back to him, he couldn't describe it but it was like he forgot something, something important, and for the life of him, he couldn't remember. He pushed the feeling as far back as he could and only thought of potential songs and stories.

Chapter 2 a new face in town

After an hour spent, Twilight had finally finished organizing the books in the library, every category, every genre had been put in order, and yet she still was feeling...off... she was about to call for Spike when she sadly remembered he was gone, even though Spike simply moved in with Rarity a few months ago it was bitter-sweet knowing her baby dragon wasn't hers anymore.....*that's it!* Her head shot up as she said "No more of this negative thinking! It could easily be worse and I'm happy!" she only half convinced herself but in order to cheer up she began looking for a reason to go...anywhere! Just get out of the library and do something, she began to rummage around looking for something that required her attention, when she didn't find anything on the first floor she bolted upstairs, she was sure it was a spectacle for owlicious but after looking around upstairs she found that she needed...paper...*close enough* she thought, she threw on her bag and brazenly ran out the door, of course what she didn't know was there was somepony passing her house and in her haste, ran straight into him, dazed from the hit, it took Twilight a moment to recover, already chastising herself for the mistake, but as she looked up she saw not one pony but three, one short with a red coat and grey mane that looked unkempt for years and even had a piece of his ear missing! Looking angrily down at her, another was the tallest of the three, looking much calmer than his companion, with a grey coat and long blue mane with red at the end of it, the third, Twilight didn't know what to make of him, it was the middle of summer and he was wearing a dark hoodie with the hood concealing his face and had a traveling bag that you could tell was heavy just from the look, what she could gauge was his coat was an extremely dark blue and he had a goatee but that was all she could see. "Uhhh, sorry for running into you" she laughed nervously "guess I'm in a bit of a hurry..." the short one shot her a judgmental look and added a snarl with it, *what the?* In all her experience no pony was truly bad because of looks but for once she thought that rule might not apply here, the middle one laughed "Come on Razor, ease up." He picked her up to her hooves and brushed off some of the dirt that managed to stick to herself, "Sorry about Razor here, he just enjoys making a complete ass of himself while in public, normally we don't let him outside." Razor looked back at the hooded one and laughed a warm and friendly chuckle and although he still looked angry he smiled at Twilight and said "Sorry for scaring ya, heh, I always have too much fun doin that." The grey one grinned and said "Yes, Razor, you just love that everypony runs from the horrid sight that is," he motions to Razor and in mock disgust "you..." the three shared a laugh and had Twilight completely confused, there was an

awkward silence between them and under pressure Twilight had to say *something* “Welcome to Ponyville i guess” The hooded one started to stop laughing and looked around, “Thanks, it nice to be ‘welcomed’ in a town rather than ran out for a change.” he let the sentence trail off as he looked around the town, landing his gaze at a nearby barren hill, he looked to Twilight and said “Anypony own that plot of land?” he was referring to a currently unused part of Applejacks field, she thought for a moment to regain her professional composure

“Yes, one of my friends owns that, why?”

the middle one answered “Well, maybe you’ve heard of us, were a band called The UnKnown” he waited, judging by his demeanor he was expecting a positive reaction but when Twilights only response was a shake of the head he seemed a little sad but only for a moment

“Well we play...unconventional...music, HAY I have an idea, you said you were friends with the owner, what was the name?”

“Applejack.”

“Applejack, right, if you can convince your friend to give us a deal on temporary usage of her land to build our stage and play for one night, you and all of your friends can get in backstage, trust me, you may have never heard of us, but it will be a night you won’t forget anytime soon.” Twilight was considering his offer, after all, at least it would be a change of pace, the daily boredom was getting to be more aggravating every day, so she agreed, of course AJ’s place was a bit of a walk so they chatted a bit, and eventually ran into Rainbow Dash who started acting weird when she saw Twilights companions

“Twilight! Wait- that’s- there-!” she stammered, trying to find the right words “ITS THEM!” she flew into the clouds in excitement but quickly came back down to greet the three. “DARK, WOW I NEVER THOUGHT I’D MEET YOU!”

“You know them?” Twilight asked, surprised that anypony in her town had heard of this odd trio.

“Of course I know them! I Love all your guys’ music...wait...if you’re here... THEN YOU DOING A CONCERT *HERE!*?” Dark started to project an air of pride or maybe it was all three of them, Twilight was getting a little tired of not knowing anything, “Hay guys, wait here for a minute, I need to talk to my friend here.” Razor snorted at the wind, Dark and Waves nodded and began talking amongst themselves

“Who are these guys?!” she tried to whisper, barely keeping he voice down.

“Ok, so the short one is Razor Skin, he plays electric guitar and sets up the amazing effects for the show, the tall one is Waves, he plays drums and takes care of sound, the hooded one is Dark Chords, he’s the bass player, singer and he manages the lights during the show.”

“What show?!” Twilight was almost yelling at this point.

"We have to go see! The shows are always different and they sell CD's there, I.MUST. HAVE ONE."

Twilight was not more curious than frustrated at this point, Dash was never this ramped up about something unless it involved people seeing *her* greatness so *why not* she thought.

"Alright then, fine, were almost to Applejacks, come on."

Chapter 3 The Show

Dark followed the purple one still happy that at least ONE pony in this town was a fan, if there's one then there's always more, and he couldn't wait to see the crowd tonight, that's when the thought hit him, *I never even got their names*, "Hay, sorry for not asking but, what's your name, the purple one turned her head away from them and answered "Twilight Sparkle" then the blue one chimed in "Rainbow Dash" the excitement still painfully obvious in her voice but as fans went she was sane, although the names hit something in his head *where've I heard those names before???* The answer hit him like a brick wall "Hay... I've heard of you" he gasped "You the ones that saved equestria all those times! Yea it was uhh, Twilight, Rainbow Dash, Applejack...aww.. AH Rarity annnd something with a P."

"That'd be Pinky Pie, and Fluttershy" Twilight supplied, Dark was surprised to see the rumors were true but with that realization came something else, an odd sensation of fear mixed with eagerness, he chalked it up to getting nervous for the show as he sometimes would get.

Twilight knocked on the door and waited a few seconds before laughing and said "Forgot, she's mostly in her barn trying to fix the roof, come on." She led them to the large barn located a few yards from the house and when they entered, called out "Hay Applejack! Some new folks want to talk to ya!" they heard the voice or rather a shout of a mare come from the rafters as a tool fell "GAH, shoot, ya know you don't need to shout like that, scares the dickens outta me. And who wants to see me?" they could hear her start to work her way down from the roof

"Just come down here and see!" Rainbow Dash shouted back. She landed like it had been a practiced routine, apparently she had been working hard because her body was practically drenched in sweat, Dark and Razor had to use all their restraint to not laugh, Waves' wings were standing straight up as if he was about to take off in a race, normally that was a joke between the three of them but this time it looked as if it wasn't intentional, in fact when Dark glanced at Waves he saw that his face had gone completely red, his saving grace was his incredible poker face and by the time Applejack had wiped the sweat off her brow Waves was back to normal, but Dark and Razor wasn't as good at hiding the hilarity of the moment, Waves was always a cool cat, never lost his groove or let someone get the better of him, until now at least. "What the hell are you laughing at?" they heard Dark and Razor's snickering, before they could answer though Waves cut in "NOTHING, nothing at all, nice to meet you, I'm- well- um- I'm

Waves.” Razor doubled over and lost it, which made all Dark’s effort in vain, both of them started laughing still trying to keep his composure, he managed to stop quickly, Dark sighed the last of the laugh out of himself and said “Sorry about that, just a joke me and my friend, Razor remembered, I’ll tell you about it later Waves.” The suffered sigh that Waves gave started Razor chuckling again but he quickly stopped, “I’m sorry, I haven’t even introduced myself yet, I’m Dark Chords, and this is Razor Skin and as he’s told you, this is Waves, we were wornding-” Dark was cut short as creaking was heard coming from the roof, Applejack had started explaining how the roof was in need of major repairs but Dark had barely heard anything, he was to intently focused on the roof, seeing wood splinter at the seams and hinges buckle , another large creak and a snap of wood and just as they looked up a large beam came crashing down, headed straight for Applejack, there was no time to get her out of the way and the beam was moving too fast for Twilight to catch it and slow it in time, Dark threw off his hood and dust covered the barn, Twilight was shocked, it all happened so fast and her friend was still under the wreckage, hurt or worse then she saw that Dark’s hood was now off and he looked as if he was struggling, he then waved off the scrap reveling her friend to be perfectly fine, shrouded in a field of protective magic. Applejack was stunned for a moment, she looked at the gaping hole now in the ceiling then to Dark now seeing his face for the first time,as he gave a friendly and comical smile she saw that he has a calm look, his mane parting at his horn into a separation of black on his right and white on the left, the colors merging and swirling down the back of his neck and deep, dark blue eyes that spoke of experience beyond his years as he added, “So...about that deal...”

Finally night had arrived, the stage was set, lights cued, and fireworks set, hell even Waves was able to convince an old friend of theirs, DJ Dr. Death defying, to come out and help with the sound board, they were lucky that he was able to come out too, Dark had a good feeling about tonight’s show...

Unfortunately this is where this stops, I have no intention of describing a concert, let alone all the things that happen during the concert that’s important to the story, here’s a brief- actuially, fuck it im gonna tell my damn story. The trio meets the mane six and spike AND end up meeting Applejack boyfriend *sniker* poor Waves, and Big mac, Fluttershys husband, :3 . either way big mac, fluttershy and Applejacks boyfriend leave leaving just Dash, Twi Pinky Pie, Rarity and Spike.....Rarity and Spike....yes... any who, unusal event: when the mane six meets the sub 3 as i’m now calling them, Pinkie pie being Pinkie Pie, examines the three without a reason, tail twitch at Dark and when she gets to Razor, she looks him in the eye and after a moment he says “What?” and she hops off happily humming. Y U NO MAKE SENSE? the songs they play are this <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUVZcLE20Eg> and, with no unusual events,the

mane 6 are having a blast, except fluttershy and applejacks boyfriend, so big mac, fluttershy and lets call him the third wheel :P. they decide to leave. Then they sing <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0XPGid7JY> Dark kicks ass with this song and manages to do something very exceptional for someone like himself, instead of simply using his magic to work the light show he manage to lift- well lift is a bit inaccurate, he broke the laws of physics and negated gravity around the entire stage and the audience, even cracked the ground underneath the stage, his eyes glow as well which arouse suspicions from Twilight...I pick it up after the show, Dark and his friends are packing up their gear and about to finish and leave, until...

Dark was finishing packing the gear while he and Razor gave Waves a hard time "I still can't believe Mr. Cool here actually lost it for a minute-" Razor laughed for a second while Waves packed the rest of his drum set and rolled his eyes, "AWW man! I should've yelled WING BO-" Razor was cut short by a knock from Waves as they realized they weren't alone, Twilight, Applejack and all their friends had walked up behind them, "oh, hay" Razor said, disappointed that his fun was over, the trio walked over to the six, or rather five? "What happened your three friends?"

"they liked your music, just the crowd and noise was getting to them and they left." Twilight was about to ask about how he pulled off such an amazing stunt and was still able to function let alone still use magic but she got her answer before she asked it Dark's face grew cold and his two friends took a more defensive posture, they were looking not only past her but above her, all of them turned to look, normally this sight would've been anything but bad, but something was amiss, Princess Celesta landed slightly ahead of Twilight and her friends, her face was as unreadable as usual but her demeanor spoke volumes, she was angry at something, then she spoke "What are *you* doing here?" her tone was nothing like Twilight- well no one expected, it was harsh, judgmental, and bitter, Dark's attitude changed as well, he defiantly scoffed "What's the matter PC, am I hittin' a little too close to home for ya? no that's not it is it, it never is....no, your angry about something I did, would you accept an heart-full apology and we leave " Celesta only glared at Dark "ah, that's ok, didn't plan on apologizing anyway, tell ya what, i accept your unconditional surrender and words of sorrow and how you'll get me one of these day and such, and you can leave." he was nothing if not sarcastic but no one knew what to expect now, the Princess was always kind to *everypony*, Celesta looked to Twilight and her friends "You should never had come here, these ponies taint every mind that hears their music, turning them into criminals or worse scum." "Criminals?! no no no, you've mean to say musicians, you need to work on your English, I mean criminals is a bit of a over exaggerated word." She looked again to Dark "Why did you come here? Are you trying to turn my most faithful students against me?" All of them were insulted, how could three ponies- "What the hay is goin on?!" Rainbow Dash simply said what everybody was thinking, something was definitely wrong. Celesta looked back to them again "I'm sorry, but you need to stay away from them, all throughout equestria these three are known as criminals," she looked back to Dark, "to be arrested at sight" said as a challenge, Dark laughed softly to himself, "Now, if you planned on *actually* arresting me, you really should've brought somepony who

could.” Celesta eyed Dark with nothing but contempt then said “I never planed on arresting you....Get back.” Twilight and her friends did so in an instant, as Celesta erupted in a ray of blinding light, much like she always did when using powerful magic, when there vision returned Celesta was still standing, still enraged, even worse by the looks of her, Dark, Waves and Razor were still standing, Dark though was actually smoldering, his eyes now bloodshot, and his hoodie a bit torn and his nose bleeding, he let out a long laugh that sounded almost menacing, and in a taunting tone “THAT was interesting, a bit tingly” he looked at his coat “Oh come on, look at this, its all static-y now.” at his hooves for a moment, something shifted in his features as he grew serious, “I wonder...this is the first time we’ve actually seen each other, this should be interesting.” his body almost exploded into shadow, “You really should’ve waited until later” a smoky spike of darkness shot out from the ground, driving straight through the Princesses throat, she moved backwards out of reflex, nothing had ever been able to hurt her, EVER, she was coughing blood and spasming, suddenly Twilight wanted to get away from this spot NOW, run home and wake up realizing that this was all a dream as blood began to run down the princesses nose but Dark had looked in Twilight's direction, seeing her and all her friends absolute horror made him reconsider, made him realize what he was doing, *I’m not a murder*, the darkness disappeared into smoke and left no mark on the Princess, she immediately coughed blood and started breathing again as she fell at the feet of Twilight and her friends, Celesta was quick to get up but this time hesitant to fight, Dark looked at his options...a quiet voice in the back of his head said....*finish it*....he pushed the deeply troubling voice back and stopped the shadows, he pulled his hood back to cover his face and said “Leave....Now...come back with as many guards as you like, I don’t care.” He turned to walk away, his friends already had the gear and was a few paces ahead of him, before he left he had the oddest compulsion, he looked over his shoulder “Hay, Twilight.... listen to Celestia...stay away from me...” he didn’t know why he said that or why he called out Twilight and not all of her friends but it felt right, besides, his mood was killed anyway so it didn't matter. *Nothing matters*. as he walked away he chuckled quietly and said to himself “every damn time...”

chapter 4 discoveries

The trio had made it into the everfree forest in search of a place to set up camp, most of the walk he was miserable, the night being killed by Celestia, as time went by though, Waves and Razor cheered him up a bit but something was nagging at Dark’s mind, something he was supposed to do...*damn*... he stopped to get a bearing on where they were “what’s the matter” Razor said looking up for trouble as usual, “Nothing, just forgot about the reason we came here that’s all. Now follow me.”

They began walking east, making sure to avoid the town as they were probably being looked for. After a few minutes of waking they found the site, an old statue of Nightmare moon, or Luna through a rough patch as Dark thought, in fact the statue really didn't matter that much to Dark; it was what happened here that had him coming back every few years, “Hello there” Dark began to talk to the statue “I really could use your help right now, or advice, rather....please?” suddenly he heard rustling in the bushes behind

him, they turned around and saw Rainbow Dash leap out of the foliage and beam at Dark, "SO THAT'S HOW YOU DID IT!" she yelled in an accusing tone, "you'll pay for hurting the Princess!" she charged at them just as the rest of the group ran out of the bushes,

"STOP"

Dash stopped her charge, the air was tense and no one knew who said that but the voice was familiar, the statue of Nightmare Moon came to life, no longer solid stone, more like a living being, gracefully stepping off the base of the stone and onto the grass, Dash looked back to her friends and said "SEE?! I told you guys something was fishy" she pointed at Dark, "their working with Nightmare Moon!"

"No." the stone moved its mouth like it was flesh, "This is not Nightmare."

No one knew what to say, how to respond, they simply didn't know anything, "What the hell's going on then?!" Dash was frustrated to the breaking point and wanted to attack *something*

"You have to promise that what I say will never be spoken of in front of Princess Celesta..."

The five looked suspicious, most of them looked at the three for any clues or anything that could explain the situation. Finally Twilight spoke up "okay. we promise." some of her friends looked as if they were going to protest Twilight's choice but never spoke up.

"Really? you don't recognize my voice, i mean its been awhile since we've seen each other but...Its me Princess Luna" Rarity gasped while everyone else was confused out of their minds. "How? I've never seen this kind of magic, how?" Rarity said, still in disbelief

"Its simple, I'm projecting myself into the statue, bringing it to life with my spirit inside of it. thus allowing me to be in two places at once." she gave a warm smile as if it was common knowledge then turned to Dark "Hello my student, I see you brought your friends this time. tell me, did you try that technique i showed you?" Dark gave a quick bow in respect and said "yea, it helped but its still kinda weird lifting things"

"Don't worry, your unique look on life may hinder you now but I'm sure you'll get it."

Twilight spoke up still a bit confused "Wait, not only are you powerful enough to...to do what you did at the show... Princess Luna is your teacher?" they both nodded "Then why are you having trouble doing the simplest thing?" Dark felt a little embarrassed, it was common to be able to move things that were immense compared to ponies but he had figured differently, "Well, i look at things a bit differently than you," he looked around "You see that tree, now you see an object that can be simply moved..i see an object with a high weight which requires equal force to move it, that force being

always in motion, the more force i apply the more i exert myself, now moving an object requires that same force and more in multiple directions, and to stop it is... i've lost you haven't I? Twilight was utterly surprised, astounded, to here something that not only was incredibly intelligent, but that he was right, Twilight was completely lost, "Sorry, I'm a bit of a science freak, I'll explain the details later, but i do have an advantage," he jumped into the air, teleporting as he took off, what was odd was that the teleport normally was soundless but his was a quick pop as air seemed to ignite,. then an instant later he was far above the ground, still climbing from the jump he took, he fell fast, but just before he hit the ground he vanished again only to reappear in the same place only flying upwards FAST, a moment later he used magic to safely land, "An object in motion stays in motion until acted on by another force." he said it as if Twilight could understand, she grasped the concept but still found it strange. "...Anyway Princess, I could really use your advice...there's something bothering me, i don't know what or why yet and i was hoping you might be able to shed some light on my problem" she thought about it for a minuet and said "Would it be that something is nagging at the back of your head, yet no matter how much you try you can't figure it out?"

"YES, that's exactly it, i think i forgot something, REALLY important. Normally it wouldn't matter but this feeling is persistent; i don't know." she looked into the night sky, none of them could read her emotions through the stone but something shifted. "Dark, there are times when we are tried, through our life decisions we make shape us into who we are, the final product is faced with a task," she put a hoof on Dark's shoulder "Try, keep trying until it hurts, try to unlock your mind and see what's hiding from you." she looked distantly into the trees but wasn't really looking at the trees "I must go now, I'm sorry if i didn't answer your question enough." she began to walk back to the stone base, "Wait, what do you mean 'see what my mind's hiding from me'?" Dark called back to her, Luna looked over her shoulder and smiled, but never answered, she left the statue and the light behind it's eyes was gone.

In a far away caste, at the heart of canterlot, Luna broke the connection between the statue, she looked at her bed for a second, considering simply going to sleep hoping to avoid the light of the coming day, but she knew that it was going to happen one day... she just wished that so many innocent ponies wouldn't be affected by this...most importantly...she just wished that her son wasn't in the center of all this....she heard her sister call from downstairs, before leaving the room she wiped the tear from her face and buried her emotions as deep as they could go.

Dark began explaining everything to Twilight and her friends, about Luna

and Celesta having such different opinions about him and his unusual powers slowly making his way up a mountain to find an empty cave so they could make camp, about an hour later they found a large opening in the mountain. They unpacked and made camp, it was nice for a while, Waves for once was being sociable and for some odd reason Pinkie Pie enjoyed following Razor she always sunk into the circle next to him and when ever he moved, she was there a few seconds later unnoticed, Dash was upset still about the confrontation and he could tell Twilight was still deeply disturbed by it but she held sympathy for him, she didn't know why but if he's a friend now, maybe she can help him later. There shared stories and laughter, Dark though was too focused on what Luna had said...*unlock my mind?*.... "Hey Dark!" Razor yelled, snapping Dark out of his mind and back into the conversation, "I was paying attention, don't worry" no one laughed, "What?" he looked around for any hint as to what was going on and unfortunately got an answer. Standing at the mouth of the cave was at least 30 royal guards, fully clad in armor and ready to attack, luckily Dark spotted a friend, more of acquaintance "Aquilinus?" the colt stepped out of the unit, clearly the leader as well, *i might be able to pull this off*, "Save your breath, you know how this is going to end." *or maybe not*, normally Dark and his friends didn't mind a fight, in fact, it happened on a regular basis, but he didn't want to run the risk of hurting Twilight and her friends, he nodded to Razor and Waves, telling them not to aggravate the situation. "I'm sorry? is that how friends greet each other, when did you make captain?!"

"don't make this harder than it has to be Dark, just come with us and no pony gets hurt."

he had see the hesitation and drove it home by pointing out the risk of hurting innocents, after tonight's event with Celesta almost instantly Twilights friends were put in a panic, "It's alright, don't worry, let me handle this." that calmed some of them down but the worry was still evident on their faces, "Aquilinus, you know as well as i do i'm not coming with you, now you can let these ponies pass and we'll fight here and now, or we can take this outside."

"And let you have a chance of escapeing, AGAIN?! not this time, you went too far....Its one way or the other Dark, i hope you chose the right way." Dark let out a suffered sigh, "Come on man, you remember all those years ago, who helped you catch that thief, who actually turned over information on a murder, you know the real me, Celestia is hiding something from us."

"Don't try to change the subject." Aquilinus took a offensive stance, as did every guard in his outfit,

"But even you know how this ends. I don't want any part of that." it was a long shot but Aquilinus stood down and cursed under his breath "I know, Dark just come with us, no pony gets hurt and..."

“And I get executed for treason.”

“You had to know what you were doing, what you were getting yourself into...and I’m not leaving until your coming with me...one way or the other.” Dark could hear the underlying text, if he came back empty hoofed, he would be striped of rank and sent home probably, Dark felt bad for the captain...so he compromised “Tell you what, this is going nowhere fast, i don’t want any bloodshed, lets fight.” Aquilinus visually prepared for the hit that never came,

“What, what do you mean?”

“Colt to colt, no magic, no wings, who ever wins decides what happens next, deal?” Dark gave the captain an ultimatum, refuse and look like a fool in front of this guard, or fight and possibly get him to agree. In fact, it was more than a possibility, when Dark and Aquilinus walked to each other, Dark already knew who’d win, he still felt he’d regret it though. Aquilinus let out a long sigh, probable calming himself so he could focus, Dark nearly cracked his neck, Aquilinus threw the first punch, Dark easily dogged it with a roll, which of course Aquilinus saw coming, the guard swept the floor with a strong kick, sending Dark back a bit, *This is going to be a long night*, Dark thought, not really thinking of the fight, but what was to come afterwards, Aquilinus was a master at close combat and an easy match for Dark without his magic. That’s why he agreed to fight, his plan from the start was to lose the fight, after that though was another matter. After a few minuets Dark was on his back, black eye, bloody nose, a few scrapes and bruises but nothing to serious. Aquilinus had a smiler shiner on his eye, blood ran from his lip but that was about it, the armor was helpful in this fight, “Alright, i quit.” Razor actually shouted in protest, Waves on the other hand saw what Dark had planned but had about as much an idea as to where this was going than Dark himself, Aquilinus’s surprise was visible, but he kept a professional composure, he signaled some guards to pick him up and chain him but Dark got up and waved them off, “I know when I’m beat, you don’t have to put salt in the wound, Razor? Waves? you coming?” Waves chuckled a little and said “Why the hell not.” Razor finally caught on to the act and said “Where you go I go i guess.”

“Wait...so that’s it?” Rarity asked

“Yup, that’s it,” Dark turned to the captain, “Take us away sarge.” Aquilinus almost immediately saw that it was too easy, and said “What ever you three are up to, it’s not happening , so cut it out.” he motioned for two other guards, “See you in court,” the world vanished as it did when teleporting, instantly it reappeared, Dark staggered for a moment, he hated normal teleporting, he would feel the motion but not be able to react to it which always threw off his perception or reality when exiting the teleport, his sight finally rectified itself and he saw the intimating visage of the grand hall filled with over a

hundred royal guards, including a squad of the Shadow Guard, last time Dark ran into them he barely managed to escape, then he saw Celestia, sitting on her throne all high and mighty, Luna wasn't to be found on the other hand, *odd*, Razor and Waves was standing next to him, already ready to fight by the looks of them, "Welcome back, I hope you know what comes next," it was morning now and Celestia looked certain of herself this time, and she was right too be, not even the three of them could win this fight, *I'm damn sure gonna try though*, Dark took his hood off, remembering that he never did so after the show that seemed a lifetime away already, he felt a stirring under his hoodie though, he settled himself down, that little bit was a card he would keep until he was out of ideas. He looked Celestia right in the eyes and said "Well i'm sure you have plans to try to kill us am i correct?" Celestia glaring at Dark was all the conformation he needed, "Then I'm sure all these guards are here to throw themselves at us until we fall? is that it? I hope you gave them good medical." the guards looked around nervously, apparently he struck gold, no one was told they would have to fight him, and all the guards had heard of him and his powers, no one was eager to fight Dark,

"kill him."

Celestia had given the order but the guards hesitated for a second and just as every guard was going to attack them, a miracle happened, Twilight and her friends had warped in the chamber, right next to the trio, immediately the guards held, Waves let out a sigh of relief and Dark had to use all his will not to praise Twilight, instead he keep his cool and said "Ah, hello Twilight, Applejack, Rarity and Pinkie...were missing a few but I think I'm glad your here either way." Celestia was furious, she even lost her calm composure to anger, "TWILIGHT SPARKLE, what are you doing?!" Twilight's resolve hardened, "Princess, whats going on? you show up and try to hurt somepony who hasn't done anything? what have they done?"

"...Destruction of royal property, attempt at theft of the elements of harmony, grand theft, arson, and as you witnessed, attempt at murder."

there went any chance at help, or at least rescue, the odd part was that all of it was true for once, the arson and royal property could be grouped considering he burnt down BlueBloods summer home, *on accident, more or less, you don't just shut down a perfectly legal concert and not get payback* the elements of harmony was a dare by Razor, he always intended to return them, "You know...the part about attempt at murder...the way I figure it is self-defence.." he let the words hang in the air as he backed Celestia into a corner, "sure i had done wrong but there's a court system for that, your playing a dangerous game.. judge...jury...and executioner.." the guards all looked to Celestia, disbelief in their eyes, except the squad if shadow guard, they were impossible to read but they kept their eyes trained on Dark, he had them on the ropes, now he was relying on Twilight to send his point home with, "Yes, Dark is

right Princess, I'm sorry but this isn't like you..." Celestia looked around the hall, all the guards were looking to her for any confirmation or anything, which gave Dark enough time to think of a way out, he put all his faith in one big gamble, "So, it seems a choice needs to be made, until then, I'll be leaving, come on guys." Razor sneered in Celestia's direction and quickly turned to follow, Waves followed in suit, the gamble failed, the shadow guard leaped from their positions and blocked Dark's exit, *damn*, Celestia's voice boomed behind them "You have no idea what crimes you have committed, because you haven't done them yet" now everybody was confused, but before anyone could ask a question, she quickly nudged a part of a wall that opened a door, letting in several more shadow guards, fully clad in riot armor to protect themselves, it was an intimidating presence, even Razor admitted it with an audible sigh, they were surrounded by the elite guards, all poised to fight, ready to die to kill him, *why?* he couldn't help wondering what Celestia was talking about, 'haven't done it yet'? even risk the safety of innocents to accomplish her goal, he tried to warp out hoping to draw their attention till his friends could get clear but he found that he couldn't, something was preventing him, his only choice was to fight his way out, then it hit him, he began to laugh uncontrollably "I'm an idiot." he remembered his special power didn't require magic, only will power, he made sure of where his friends were and sent out a shock wave of darkness knocking every guard around them on their ass, "FOLLOW ME!" surprisingly he was talking to Razor and Waves but Twilight and her friends quickly followed, he heard Celestia shout orders but it was lost as he jumped out a window, naturally with his luck they were some ten stories up, after a few seconds of falling he tried to slow them down, only to notice the shadow guard had flown out the window after them, "What are we doing?!" Applejack yelled, Dark was wondering that himself but he knew that escape was the best option, so he would give it his all. The shadow guard started to descend to catch them, Dark didn't have a plan for that, he was horrible at fighting in the air, and Waves, their only willing airborne fighter, was a pacifist, which didn't help their situation, Dash of course would never attack 'the good guys', but as if on request, he found he could warp again, as did Twilight for she nodded to him, he grabbed on to Razor and Waves while Twilight's friends huddled around her and they warped to the ground, instantly finding out why they couldn't get out of the city, something was happening, a hazy blue barrier had started to form around the city, unknown of its origins Dark assumed it was some plan Celestia had and whatever it was, they needed to take it down, for not only could they not warp, magic was useless everywhere, as if the barrier was sapping their energy. "We gotta move!" Razor had to yell over the guards now piling out of the entrance to the castle and the city starting to look like utter chaos, Dark picked a direction and ran.

Chapter 5 good times and bad

The trio felt that feeling of *dejà vu*, being chased through a town by every guard in sight, this time though he had his work cut out for him, as all of them drew near the edge of

town they saw bolts of fire fly over them, Dark figured the barrier didn't affect the guards and apparently now they were less concerned with public safety than killing him "This way!" he shouted, they ducked into a tight alley, and just as Dark planed, guards started to charge in after him, he heard a familiar voice "End it now Dark, your not getting away!" Aqilinus was hoping to at least make Dark hesitate

"No chance." Dark quickly turned to face the horde of guards and sent a pulse of energy, further hindering himself due to the odd barrier, the pulse cracked walls and shattered windows as it went, then sending every guard either through a wall or in the air, in response the shadow squad had sent a fire bolt at Dark, hitting him square in the chest, his whole body erupted in pain, he could feel the burns already start to cauterize themselves, he sent a much stronger wave of darkness this time, completely destroying an already weak building and sending the shadow guards into flight, Dark could feel his hoodie start to catch fire and he quickly put it out, and of course, hitting his wound, sending another jolt of fresh pain throughout his body, "Come on, were almost there." They began running again, Dark was still wondering why Twilight and her friends followed him, "Why are you following us?" Razor piped up, *always a straight shooter Razor, good job*, Twilight answered "Somethings not right, we need-" whatever she was going to say got cut off by the sight before them, running along the edge of the city was a network of metal pillars with electricity running through them creating the barrier. "What in tarnations?!" Applejack shouted, they looked around for a way past the barrier when the guards came into view again, a little beat up and a few missing but still enough to panic them, Dark looked at the metal towers, he noticed that they had to of come from the ground, somewhere, and he tried to get fix on the source of power but the field was much stronger now and couldn't do it, then an idea struck him "Everyone, we need to take down those towers, some how, any suggestions, please make it quick." he looked over his shoulder and saw that the guards were closing in on them, they all looked around and at the towers seeking weak points or ways to destroy them, nothing was near enough to use, no one was strong enough to simply beat it, then Dark had another idiot moment, "OH! MAN I'm a moron," he started searching in his pack for his emergency weapon, he found it a second later, a weapon of his design, a sleek but worn handle with the words 'The Encore' crudely etched into the grip then curving into a barrel, an unfitting, colorful paint job that was for humor, he checked the clip, *full as it should be*, he took aim and fired off five shots as fast as he could pull the trigger as jets of red light streaked from the barrel and hit a tower creating scorch marks and holes all along it, the field wavered and crashed a second after the barrage. Dark instantly felt his power return, it was an interesting feeling, like a torrent of water rushing through a small gap, he could tell Twilight had her power as well, along with Rarity, he gave the guards on last look as they were about 30 feet away from him and warped.

They re-appeared on a cliff, running off a mountain near canterlot a second later, the

scene was a grim one, the tower he had destroyed had exploded, completely obliterating a couple near by buildings and guards were on the ground, hurt or...worse...Dark hated thinking that he was to blame for that, although he felt a profound feeling of accomplishment at the sight, he almost beat his head into a wall for that! no one should feel *good* about needless danger to others or taking a life, not only that, but enjoying something like this wasn't like him, he thought about it for a moment, trying to find a reason anything that might explain this feeling, then he felt as if a nail was driven into his head, scraping it's way past his skull and slowly into the soft tissue of his brain, he collapsed and groaned from the sudden pain, "What the hell?!" Dark yelled as the pain was dropping him to the ground then he remembered Luna's words 'until it hurts', he pressed on, to what, he had no clue, suddenly he was looking at something, an empty meadow under the night sky, *what?* the pain still throbbing in his head, the pain was unbearable, it was too much, he forced himself back to reality, creating a small wave of darkness with the force he used and yelling from the shock, "What the hell was that?!" Razor said , picking himself off the ground from the blast, Dark was panting, *what the hell just happened?* everyone looked to him in concern, "Dark?...what was that?" Twilight asked "yea, are you okay?" Pinkie added

"Your guess is as good as mine." Dark lied, he needed to figure out what was happening before he made others worry about him, only to not be able to do anything about it so he quickly changed the subject "We need to get farther away, I don't want you to get mixed up in this, go home, we'll lay low for a while and this'll blow over." he tried to give a confident smile but he didn't seem convincing to himself.

"What?! and leave you guys when you need our help? plus we need to find out what's got the Princess so steamed at ya'll." Applejack's rumors preceded themselves, she was as kind and helpful as he heard, but this was another matter entirely, he needed *his* friends to handle this their way and he didn't want to put them in further danger, he had a feeling that with this blatant attack, things are going to get far worse before they get better.

"I'm sorry, but this is different than other times, somethings changed and *we*" he motioned to Razor and Waves "can and should handle this alone...go back to your home, don't worry about us." with that he saw that they still wanted to argue but he knew this was the way so with a quick farewell he warped himself, Razor and Waves away, there tell tale audible pop echoing along the mountain, and reappeared back at *their* home.

chapter 6 Home

The trio warped back to their home, a small cave at the top of a mountain, far above the cloud line, it was peaceful, quiet and only they knew it was here, it was simple two makeshift beds for Dark and Razor and Waves built himself a hammock at the roof of the cave, their

equipment strewn out on the floor, amps in the corner and several guitars, acoustic, bass and electric of different sorts and paint patterns, plus a larger drum set for Waves at the back of the cave, then Dark heard what he always did when they came home after a long trip, “ssssssssssssssssssssss” he saw his pet snake with its red and black coloration he knew it was poisonous but it never tried anything. It worked its way out from under Dark’s bed sheets and over to him, it climbed up his arm and coiled around his neck and laid its head atop his “Hello Seri, sorry we’ve been gone so long, its getting busy lately.”

“Busy is a way of putting it, i need some shut eye.” Razor deserved some sleep so Dark didn't stop him but he needed to talk to Waves so he motioned to him to meet him outside, Dark put Seri on her bed and saw that Razor was already asleep, *he was tired*, he took off his hoodie, allowing the fresh air to rush through his coat as he spread his wings, it was nice to finally unwind plus he needed to stretch, he continued to pop his various joints till he was comfortable, then proceeded to meet Waves, as he walked out he noticed the lack of stars tonight, the moon was the light tonight, “So...is there something you left out of that story you told me all those years ago?” Waves looked ashamed at first and when he didn't answer it made Dark nervous but Waves looked to the sky and said, “There might’ve been a bit.” originally when Dark first met Waves, he told him that there was a lot more to his life, he told him about the fact that when Waves was young he was drafted into the shadow guard, after some time he became the youngest captain to this day, and that he swore that he would join Dark to help him when the time comes, it’s been a few years and Dark simply forgot all that....until now...

“You have to trust me when i say, don’t worry, I can’t and shouldn't tell you anything, please, just trust me on this..” If anyone else had told Dark that, he wouldn't have believed them, but this was his friend, more than a friend, a brother, family, both Razor and Waves were the family he never had and that's the same for them, the tie that kept them connected was the same fact that at some point in time, family was nonexistent, they were loners, relying only on themselves for everything, but that was the past, and even though he had questions still unanswered, he trusted Waves judgement, so Dark gave a long sigh and nodded to him in understanding and went to his bed to sleep, even when the sun was on the horizon, he really needed to get some rest after today's events, unfortunately ‘rest’ wasn't an option for him, something was plaguing his dreams, something dark and forbidding, each time Dark woke up he was covered in sweat and his heart racing from terrors that he couldn't remember, he could only remember one detail, the odd, empty meadow under a full moon...

---3 months later---

Chapter 7 A Friend's Reunion

It had been two months since the incident, everything had returned to normal, Twilight had heard rumors of Dark showing up in places but she had a feeling that most were lies, she did worry about them though. At least she had her fill of excitement for a long time, but something was nagging at the back of her head, an odd anxious feeling, waiting for something to go down, she couldn't shake the feeling that *something* should happen.

Twilight decided to take a little trip to a town a bit away from Ponyville to get some new books for her library, after an hour on a stuffy train, she was browsing the collections, looking for something new, something different, something a little... "Miss? may i help you find what your looking for today?" Twilight was startled for a second being so immersed in her thoughts, she turned to see an old pony before her, greying hair and wrinkles settling under his eyes, "Uhh, yes, actually, I'm looking for a, different kind of book, do you by chance, and i know this is an odd request, but do you have any books that have a sorta murder mystery, something with monsters." he gave her a warm smile "I have just the thing..." he looked along the shelves and picked a dusty book off the shelf. "Now i love this author, his name is Dean Kooves, bit of an odd name but his books are fantastic." he left giving Twilight time to read a bit and he was right, the book was exciting, mysterious, funny and even a little bloody. After about ten minuets she found several books like the one she read and was about to leave...until she saw him.... talking with the bookkeeper with his hood up, concealing his face, Dark Chords was selling something in a large case, it seemed that they knew each other even, the old man spotted Twilight "Ah, i see you like the books"

"Twilight?"

"Dark? what are you-"

"AH so you two young-ens know each other? wouldn't surprise me Dark's been 'around' a lot if you ask me" Twilight glared at him as Dark laughed nervously

"Don't you got some books to organize, or something that's not here?" the old man laughed and nodded "But first, don't you and I have business?" Dark hurriedly pulled out a canvas from the case, its back to Twilight,

"Ahhhh, now this is a nice one, a little different than the others but well done, but i think i need outside opinion." he smiled at Dark and said "Go on then." Dark rolled his eyes and lifted the canvas with his magic and turned it towards Twilight, It was incredible, The painting was of a concert at Ponyville, only this one seemed to be in motion while frozen in time, the

lights casting a glare on the crowd, showing all walks of life coming together, young, old, rich, poor...and...Twilight looked hard at the corner of the painting, behind Dark, Razor and Waves were Twilight and her friends, having an amazing time and of course Pinkie pie frozen in mid leap while Dash was cheering the three on, but there was another misplacement, on a hill far above the stage and where no one was looking, sat a figure gleaming white with resentment in the eyes.

“Yea, its a bit of a Hobby of mine, this isn't my best though, kinda forced this one.” the bookkeeper laughed, “Please Dark, this is a great work you done, I'll take it for...200, sound good,”

“That's perfect, thanks.” Twilight laughed a bit “What? gotta make money somehow.” Dark handed the painting to the bookkeeper and he took it to a back room, “He's an old friend of mine.” .Things had returned to normal at Ponyville, it was touch and go for a while with Dark but things had indeed settled down, after a few minuets of talking Dark took a chance. “Hay, wanna see something cool?”

“What?”

Dark felt a bit awkward considering he had no clue what he was doing “It's a, sorta a place of mine- for inspiration, uhh” He felt like an idiot, and still he didn't know why he was doing this, but Twilight laughed softly and said “Sure, why not.” he could think of a million reasons why not but he stopped caring, he took Twilight by the hoof and warped.

Twilight had never warped like that, a tingle went up her neck and she felt a bit dizzy but as she focused again, she saw an amazing sight, they were on the peak of a mountain, the sun beaming down on them, reflecting on the melting snow and a forest below them, the air was cooler but not cold and the breeze added to the exquisite sight, Dark took a deep breath, taking in the crisp air “I know it's nothing special but I like it up here, no noise, no problems, its nice.....and there's this” darkness began to swell from the ground, startling Twilight for a moment but it quickly materialized itself as what appeared to be two thin slabs, Dark jumped on one as if it were a ride “Come on, this is a lot-a-fun” he grinned as he looked down the hill and a slab laid down next to her...

fuck it, that scene is too damn annoying to describe AND be a pro, so that will have to wait till i figure it out...so here's what happens... Dark and Twilight go snowboarding *quiet yay* boring fun until Dark runs over a dragon cave, hidden in the snow, dragons pissed and

they run, causing an avalanche , no real damage although....Dark's hoodie gets burned to a crisp from saving Twilight from the dragon, insert Twilight surprise here, after some time talking, she convinces Dark to go to canterlot with her and the 6 well actually only pinkie pie, Dash, Spike, and applejack would go why spike you ask? or don't ask...okay..., anyway, back on topic Dark of course brings Razor and Waves, to show the Princess something she already knows...DUN DUN DUNNNNN, no? nothing? damn, anyway, they go there to hope to help Dark n' friends out of their nasty situation, let the madness continue into the everfree forest on the way to canterlot where we find out Dark has some unusual ticks

Chapter 8 the two day journey

It had been only a few minuets into there 'quest' as the always energetic Pinkie Pie had put it, the trains were decided to dangerous due to still constant watch by the guard so they had to walk, and Dark was already having second thoughts, *I'm walking to my death, never thought it'd happen but here i am, walking with almost strangers and to my death* he let out a long suffered sigh and Pinkie asked "What's wrong?"

"...48 hours...wait...what?" Dark said it before he was even thinking , in fact, it never even occurred to him that he said it, until *after* the fact, he stopped and thought about it for a second, only to get a splitting headache in return, but it subsided quickly

"What? 48 hours?" Razor said

"I'm not even sure dude, lets just drop it and keep moving." Dark rubbed his head absently. The rest of the day was uneventful and quiet and when they settled for camp Dark had one of his 'urges' again

"Hay, I've got an idea, whose hungry?" again he didn't think before he spoke, all of them had already eaten and were about to settle down for the night but Dark couldn't help himself if his life depended on it "Uhh, dude, we just ate. are you feeling ok? you've been acting kinda wierd." Waves asked him, Dark wasn't really paying attention, he was to busy searching his bag for his fishing pole, "oh god." Razor said in a sardonic tone "He's at it again." Waves chuckled to himself but Twilight and her friends were completely lost "Listen, maybe ya reckon it might be a good idea to get some shut eye.."

"Nah, i have a much better idea." he found the pole but after examining it he tossed it back into the bag, "Ah, your determined to creep everpony out." Razor said in jest but in reality that was probably going to happen, Dark had a different quality than most ponies, he flew over a near by

river and used his magic to locate a fish, as soon as he found one, he yanked it out of the river as he broke out a collapsible table from his satchel as a large cutting knife propelled itself from the bag and in front of Dark with a gleam, then he set to work, a talent he found he had awhile back when food and money was short, he proceeded to cut off the scales and meat and toss the garbage into the river, "What are you doing?!" Dash yelled as others were looking sick, "Trust me, it taste really good." he was finished preparing the meat and he tossed it onto a pan in the fire, the sent wafted form the meat making Dark's mouth water as Razor said, "Cut me off a piece too man, that's really starting to look good." all three of them had developed a taste for fish after a while but apparently Waves wasn't interested in the meal, while Twilight and her friends simply looked more curious than sick. Meat of course wasn't apart of a normal diet, not even meant to be but Dark loved fish, to the point that he over time he had developed sharp K-9's meant just for eating meat, but even more so he couldn't stand missing an opportunity to eat steak or the incredible bacon he made one time. After a while the fish was thoroughly cooked and he tossed a piece to Razor and chowed down, of course as soon as he did he heard gasps from the mares, he knew he would feel a bit sick later but it was always worth it, he even convinced Dash to eat fish on a dare, she immediately spit it up of course but it was still good fun. Eventually they all found their way to their beds. Dark was the last to fall asleep, something was nagging at the back of his mind again, *why did i say 48 hours?.....because that's when it starts*, Dark shot up as he heard menacing laughter, he quickly scanned the area to confirm his guess, that was another voice, but no one spoke, he felt his chest start to burn, *damn fish*, he layed back down and ignored the voice and chalked it up to indigestion and his overactive imagination...he slowly layed on his back and stared at the stars, he always found comfort in the night sky for some odd reason, soon the swirl of cosmic light lulled him to sleep.

Dark woke up what felt like a moment later, *guess that's how sleep always is*, he sat up and stretched "Alright, let's get...." when he opened his eyes he was no longer in the middle of the forest, but in some blank plain, completely devoid of any life by the looks of it, "The hell?" he quickly got up and searched the area for anything, this place felt oddly familiar but he had no idea why, unfortunately Dark couldn't see very far, something was causing a dense fog so he did the only thing he could think of, explore, "Hello??!"

".....You need to remember...."

"What?" All Dark could tell was that the voice was from a young pony "Where am I." Dark began to feel his skin burn which put him in a panic, he looked around for anyway out but all he heard was 'remember' over and over, his skin on fire at this point, then he heard a menacing voice from behind him laugh "how did you end up here? well you always were full of surprises,"

"Who are you?" it was quiet for a moment

"...Your end..."

Dark shot awake, he was drenched in sweat and shaking, this *really* wasn't like him, and never had he had a dream like that, he noticed he was also panting, he went over to the river side and tossed the water in his face to cool off and calm down, *what the hell is happening?!*, he went back to his bed and never slept again that night...what he didn't notice was his reflection in the river was of someone else...someone smiler in looks but much darker, with pupils replaced with black slits and resonating pure evil...

Morning had come and Twilight was slowly awakend by the sound of gear packing and whispers "Come on lets go"

"You sure this is a good idea?"

"I dont want them involved with this mess, plus i've got a really bad feeling.."

"...about?"

"Not a clue, now come on."

"What? leave now? come on you guys!" Twilight said in frustration "You cant just ditch us and keep running, somethings wrong and we intend ti set it right." Dark stopped packing the gear and was frozen in frustration, he dropped what he was holding and walked off towards the river side "Really? this is how he's going to act?"

"Can't blame him, more unusual things keep happening, he keeps his thoughts to himself, hell even I don't know whats going on in that steel trap, all he said this morning was 'we need to leave'... just let him vent some frustration, not much we can do." Waves sounded assured but Twilight was still concerned, after a moment she decided to approach Dark but hesitated, Dark started to glow softly and the air around him shifted "You might want to stand back.." Waves added, "Whats he doing?" Dash asked while the ground under Dark started to shake and crack, "Just...letting off some steam." Twilight ventured a better look at Darks face, to get some idea at what was happening, for the most part all she could tell was that he was furious, his body started emitting darkness as he seemed to completely change personalities, then in a shock, the ground underneath him exploded in blue fire, not even singing Dark himself but everyone could feel the intensity of the flames, they could visibly see Dark struggling with the power as he forced the flames in whatever direction he chose, he stopped a moment, and focused all his energy into one blast of blue fire that ripped through the sky, splitting atmosphere and dieing off in space, Dark was panting now, completely drained of energy but

he turned and said "Ok, better, lets get moving." he picked up what gear he could and started walking "Wait? thats it? what was that?!" Dash shouted in anger at the sudden changes in mood and confusion "Ever get so angry that you go for a run..or fly in your case, just to tire yourself out?"

"Why would you do that though!?" she asked

"Well, now i'm to tired to be angry, but i can still move, it's what I do from time to time."

"Trust me, its easier to understand if you don't think about it." Razor said in unison, the mares sighed and continued walking. Later on it was a bit quieter, Waves made sure to keep an eye on Dark, after last night, it might be happening faster than they predicted, and even if he was Dark's Watcher, he was still his friend, brother, the story of his life he told him wasn't a lie...he simply left out some parts. It was about 7:24 when they settled down, Waves had keep an eye on the time after the odd incident with Dark, everything was normal, they conversed a bit and a few went to sleep, last awake was Waves, he put the dieing fire out and decided to take a walk, he needed to find more times to just walk, breath the fresh air and listen to the quiet, with his job quiet was hard to come by. He managed to find a hill overlooking a large part of the forest, he sat down and looked out at the stars, it even began to rain, adding to the calm view, he didn't even notice someone creep up behind him until he heard "Beautiful night, ain't it." It was Applejack, Waves was a bit surprised to see her, even nervous for a second but the feeling quickly subsided while she said "Sorry, i saw you wander off and...uhh, was curious."

"It's nights like these that I want to find a quiet, secluded spot and just rest, rest my mind mostly but it keeps me sane...sorry if it worried ya, didn't want to wake everyone up just to take a walk."

Applejack looked to the sky in confusion, "It's just stars, ya see em every night, whats so special about now?" In truth Waves never thought about it, some nights were the same as ever but on rare occasions, the night sky was pure inspiration, the calm, *everything* that appealed to him in one night so he said "Well, I just like to think, what if we couldn't see the stars, the moon? the natural beauty that is the star dust being pushed by cosmic winds, creating a canvas of a diamond storm...sorry, i get carried away, its just, sometimes, the night sky is the most interesting and..." he looked down to Applejack and found his gaze met by hers "Alluring, beautiful..." Waves caught himself, *she's taken man, slow. the fuck down*, he quickly looked back to the sky and cleared his throat, "and..stuff.." painfully trying to seem casual but failing miserably, "Alright...I uhh.. better get going...I guess" she turned awkwardly, trying not to trip on her own hooves for she was as red in the face as Waves. He sat there a while, thinking of what he said, *come on, no sense of wasting thought on somepony that-*, he chuckled to himself a moment, *who am I kidding*, for the first time he found somepony that shook him rather than

the other way around, he decided to take his mind off that and flew back to the camp, grabbing his favorite acoustic and flew back to the hill, for about an hour he played soft music, toying with a song idea

“Your a beautiful girl...so more than anything I've ever seen before...”

Chapter 9 The Brink

Dark felt as if it was the calm before the storm, on the outskirts of the city and although he wouldn't admit to it, he was getting nervous, but he tried to trust Twilight's judgment and hopefully he wouldn't have to watch his back when ever he went out. They found their way into the city by nightfall, most of the shops were closed and the streets were nearly empty, which was odd for the city...as Dark looked around he also noticed a few guards in alleys or attempting to obscure themselves with civilian ware, It put everyone on edge but they still reached the princess without trouble, they walked through the main hall, a bit of a sight with all the glass depicting the history of equestria, a bit nice but Dark's concern was the troop that cut them off from the exits when they entered Dark gritted his teeth trying not to falter in is step, all the while staring down Celesta, again Luna wasn't present, *what the fuck....am i doing*, he stopped a respectable distance form the throne, it was quiet for a moment but Twilight started out with “Princess...I know you must be furious with us-”

“You have no idea...”

That threw Twilight off, she was actually scared for a moment but she regained her composure and continued “Please hear these three out I mean, look at Dark, he's different, I'm sure that counts for something, I'm sure a solution can be found if we just talk it out...” Celestia let out a long sigh and said “No...Twilight....one day you might understand, but right now you must listen to me and leave this place, the guards will show you out.” as if rehearsed, two guards appeared and attempted to lead Twilight and her friends out but they stopped and Spike said “What, that's it?! You don't even take the time to listen to reason and you toss us out to finish the job?!?! I have the up-most respect for you but right now” he threw off the guards restraint “We need answers.” they both were glaring at each other, Spike eventually lost the new found confidence and shirked away, “What's the point, she's never going to listen to us, and I would never try to *explain* myself to *her*.” Razor added, making the deteriorating situation worse by stating the obvious in Dark's opinion. What did change was the guards were closing around

them, giving Dark horrible anxiety, he felt his arm twitch a bit but that wasn't what concerned him, he felt his head start to ache, it was a dull pain so he ignored it and said "Well, I could lie and say I didn't see this coming but, Razor, Waves, ready for another daring and narrow escape?"

"Will there be free drinks at the bar afterwards?" Razor added to agitate the princess

"OF COURSE" The two of them laughed but Waves was surprisingly quiet, his headache became a sharp pain now.

"You are not leaving this hall...alive."

some of Twilight's friends gasped at this, they knew what was coming but to hear it out loud is a different story "Please, you can't be serious..this is wrong!" Twilight shouted in vain, the guards closed around them further, cutting off escape from air, Dark also felt his magic being sapped again and the darkness wasn't responding to his will so for the first time, he really was trapped. Dark suddenly felt his headache worsen, to a crippling point, he felt himself struggle to stay upright but he saw the world darken as unconsciousness blurred his vision, "What the-" he managed to say as he saw Twilight and Waves catch him before he fell but Celestia was giving orders when the world went black...

Dark felt his body tingle from numbness, he expected to either be dead or in a cell, neither was the case, he felt only a warm flat, almost marble like ground underneath him, he sat up, eyes still unclear but he did hear a familiar voice "Welcome back, and I truly am sorry for this." Dark only had seconds to react, a hard force threw him far, he focused for a moment and uprighted himself before he landed, "The hell?" he was scared for once, he had no idea why, but the voice again spoke to him "Not as damaged as I thought, oh well." Dark felt a surge of power again, this time he braced himself for the hit and when it came, he was able to stand his ground, it wasn't easy, the force felt like it would rip his skin right off his body if he wouldn't move "Who are you?!" Dark shouted defiantly, he remembered the voice now, it was the same voice from his dream, "I said, who the hell ARE you?!" Dark's only response was arrogant laughter and "You know so little, yet you already know it all, its almost tragic, doing this." Dark felt his chest tighten, his breath was caught in his throat, "What-" was all he choked out before another hit came, Dark was sent flying, gasping for air he landed on his back and rolled for a second, "...NO!" Dark managed to yell, immediately air filled his tired lungs and he felt his power return, "Where the hell am I?!" He demanded, "Impressive, I really need to remember how strong you are, even without my help."

“What?” Dark could see a figure in the haze now, he couldn't tell any details but it was walking towards him

“You see, it has been because of me, that you have that ‘special’ power over darkness, because of me, you were able to do so much without breaking a sweat, ...Because. of.” Dark saw a grim visage of himself walk out of the haze, this wasn't him, it was more sinister, darker, and the pupils were black slits, “me...hello Dark.”

“no...no no no, not- I- why, am I-”

“Afraid? normally I would say that its just me but, we’ve met before...remember?” on cue, Dark’s head burst into pain “you *do* remember, I saved your life-”

“Only to save yours!...why did I say that?!” Dark yelled in pain

“Well, I see were still not on good terms, so while your here, take a tour, see good times and bad after all, it is your memories.” Dark felt his body grow lighter, he looked down to see his entire body start to fade, “Nightmare!”

“There it is-”

“I’m not going anywhere, no matter how hard you try I WILL find a way out, and when I do-”

“You will do nothing, in fact, you cant do anything-” Nightmare was cut off by a enormous burst of energy that sent him flying and into the ground, hard, Dark felt his body start to regain a bit, “I. will. NEVER give up!” Dark sent another blast of energy, this time it was darkness that was sent hurtling at Nightmare “What?!” he shouted as he was overcome with the burning blackness...it was quite a moment, Dark dared to hope that he won...but as quickly as victory was glimpsed, his body was fading again, “No no no, I wont go!”

“Your beginning to frustrate me, and I'll tell you what, if you do anything to compromise me, I'll be sure to let your friends know why they die, in bitter agony, staring with the one you care most about.”

“NO!”

“Yes, her death will be slow and painful unless you stay quiet. Understand?” Nightmare never said who he would hurt but Dark didn't have to think for long to figure it out, he didn't want any harm to come to Twilight, she was the first pony to accept him for who he was and yet never even heard of him, to see past the lies and fight on his behalf, even in the gates of hell she stood by him, whether or not she felt the same was a mystery, one that he would be sure to find out. but it was still his fight and as long as he won, no one would get hurt, *right?* Dark

could feel himself fade quicker, he needed to choose now, "...but I promise that i will find a way, some way and stop you...and if any harm comes to my friends i swear on my life, you will pay, no matter how far you run..." Nightmare started to fade as well, taking conscious control of his body most likely, "I *will* kill you." Nightmare stopped fading and gave a heavy sigh "No...You wont, and do you even know why?" Dark had hit a sensitive area, suddenly Nightmare was almost a foot from him and said "Nothing can kill me! NOTHING, I've tried everything, hundreds and thousands of years and *nothing*...so no, you wont kill me, but i will have my revenge, no matter what." With that Dark felt his mind cloud and vision blur, all seance of time and place were gone and he was left unconscious, in the reservoir of him memories...

Chapter 10 A New Face

It had been almost 12 hours when Dark had suddenly passed out, strange thing was that when he did, darkness enveloped Razor, Waves, Twilight and all her friends and landing them back at The UkNown's home, a small cave on the peak of a mountain, It was a bit of a mess, things strewn about the floor and the snake that had been a bit unfriendly when seeing Dark unconscious and in the care of strangers, but nothing eventful happened...that is until Dark began to stir in his bed, "Dark?" Waves asked, knowing that this had happened earlier when Dark was mumbling in his 'coma' only this time they got a response from his as Dark suddenly sat up in the bed and quickly scanned the room "impressive.." he quietly said to himself, referring to how Dark was able to get everyone out of harms way while in that kind of pain, Nightmare then remembered how he wasn't alone at the moment "Dark, you alright?" Razor had asked, of course being in contact with this group for so long Nightmare had learned the names of his closest friends, and he remembered Waves especially, *all those years ago...* "Uh, Yes, I'm fine, what happened?"

"Well, we were in a trap, but you kinda passed out.." Spike said while Twilight added "What happened?"

"Something Celestia must've done, it has to be...and I think I have a plan." Waves aproached Nightmare, he was afraid he would be caught this soon, he still needed their help to finish the preparations, Waves stared down Nightmare for a moment and said "You sure your okay?" he asked "Of course, why wouldn't I be?"

"...no reason...just nervous I guess."

“Okay, so, my plan, I need your help Twilight, i need you and your friend's to get the elements, if were going have any chance at getting close to the city we need to make sure Celestia wont try anything, plus I have a feeling those are connected somehow. I just want to make sure everything goes well. Be ready to move when I come back, I need to make sure of a few things.” Nightmare began to exit the room, he needed to gather his strength, and find his old wells of darkness to draw power from until Razor said “Ready for what, what are you planning?”

“Well, this is the second time she’s tried to kill me, no matter who got in the way, I’m not giving her another chance...*ever*”

“You mean-?”

“Attack, retaliation, striking back, yes I mean were going to show Celestia how wrong she was.”

worried, Twilight said “Dark, what your saying...its not right.”

“Whats not right is the multiple attempts on my life, I’m tired of running, today I fight back, are you with me or not?”

there was a long silence, Nightmare might have a niche in his plan after all, *not completely unforeseen but it will make things more difficult*, “No, Dark” Nightmares expression grew cold “I wont fight, and please, I’m asking as more than a friend, please don't fight the princess, there are other ways-”

“No there isn't, I’ve tried remember? Razor, Waves? tell me your still with me.”

Razor answered first “Brothers till the end, besides, I’d rather not wait to see when I’m running for my life again.” Waves took a moment but he said “I’ll always help you...brothers to the end...” Waves was trying to see in Dark’s head, *whats with you?* he asked himself, *please don't tell me your gone...*time would only tell, until then he had to hope for the best Twilight and her friends looked almost ashamed then Twilight said “Fine...do what you need to do...just remember you’ll have to go through us first.” Dark shrugged and walked away, and with that she and her friends warped away, “Ok, there and...there.” Dark said to himself, he was referring to maps he had gotten when Waves and Razor wasn't looking “What’s where?” Razor asked him, “Don't worry about that, i need to call in a few debts and take care of a few things, I’ll be back.” and with that Dark was gone again, taking the map with him, to where neither Waves or Razor had a clue but both of them expected trouble to follow him home...

Nightmare appeared outside a clearing in a forest, “Damn gates.” he said to himself, referring to Celestia's power conduits that sapped magical energy of those not protected, *of course this is protected*, Nightmare walked a bit and found the source of the conduit, a small base had been built around a very old cipher, a fountain of darkness that Nightmare could use

to regain full strength, and she wanted it protected, a company of shadow guards could be seen, *a useless effort*, as Nightmare approached the metal gate a guard shouted "This is a restricted area, turn back now or there *will* be consequences." Nightmare laughed "You people don't mess around anymore, good, but ignorant, Leave now with your lives." he heard several weapons being armed as more guards approached the gate "or don't, your choice." he continued to walk to the gate, guards froze in shock as Nightmare pushed open the iron gate with darkness, he heard a guard say "send word, he's back." and then another said "Seal the perimeter, initiate Guardian protocols, Nightmare felt the cipher seal under some powerful magic but he was undeterred, he stopped opening the gate slowly and quickly smashed it open, immediately guards swarmed him.

Nightmare walked over the bodies of the guards as blood ran down their shattered skulls and over their blank expressions, the stench already setting in, he eventually found the cipher located in a bronze plated building, sealed by magic that matched someone extremely powerful, he focused for a moment and forced the large, bronze, door open with darkness, he felt the power pulse through himself. the comforting emptiness of the void, filling him with unimaginable power, he drank the cipher dry, his body almost smoking and vibrating from the sudden strength, he let out a long sigh and cracked his neck "better."

Chapter 11 When darkness falls...

"wake up....wake up you pathetic idiot."

Dark slowly regained consciousness, his body still feeling the pain but it was subsiding, "Wha-" was all he could get out before someone interpreted him

"Can you see yourself, this is why he won, your weak because your afraid." Dark stood up, furious that he lost the fight, infuriated that he lost his body, pissed that *somepony* was mocking him

"Oh, I'm the weak one, ok, sure, any other *thing* in my head wanna criticize me, come on, all I need is others telling me I'm not good enough...no? then if you don't mind, I QUIT this bullshit,

I'm finding a way out then finding a quiet island in the middle of nowhere and staying there." Dark was frustrated beyond rage "FUCK, FUCKERS, IF YOU CAN HERE ME NIGHTMARE, YOU'LL PAY!" Dark began pacing in fury while mumbling to himself.

"You need to calm down, yelling won't get you anywhere."

"It's sure making me feel better! you know, I've never gotten this mad, now i cant even think. DAMN IT, WHY ME?!"

"that's always the question isn't it?"

"What?"

"Who are you to be in the middle of this mess, lost your body to the ancient Nightmare, trapped in the recesses of your own mind, why you?"

Dark looked around for who ever it was talking, he thought about it for a moment and recognized the voice as familiar but still he couldn't put a face to it "Who are you?" he asked, there was no response, but he heard someone walking towards him now, his vision still unaccustomed to the darkness, all he could see was a small figure walking, its features, odd...black and white mane... "no...thats...thats not possible..."

"So you do recognize me, good that saves time." Dark was standing before himself when he was only a child, "and it is possible, I'm a memory, one you desperately need if you have plans outside staying here. Now follow me." stunned and for reasons unknown to himself Dark followed, shuttering in fear, "I understand your fear, even if you don't, I'm here to help you with that."

Dark was beyond unreasonable hate and fear, hate that he still was not in control of anything is his own head but fearful for whatever young Dark had to show him, "Wait, um, me?" "Call me Y"

"why-?"

"Ha, every time"

Dark sighed in frustration "if your a memory, how are you talking to me?"

"You created me as a contingency plan, although to be more accurate, your subconscious created me, a long time ago..."

"How long?" Young Dark laughed softly, "A while..." Dark began to see their surroundings change slowly, as if fading into existence, doors began to appear in a hallway fashion and they

stopped at what seemed to be a random door, "Go on, this is the beginning, mostly..." Dark examined the door and after a moment he gathered what courage he had left and opened it...

Nightmare re-appeared at the home, Waves of course waiting for him, Razor seeming disinterested, "Dark, I'm glad your back, we need to talk."

"Whats there to talk about, in my eyes, this is war...and I plan on winning."

that was the last piece that Waves needed, he had to face the truth, his brother was gone...now he would have to do something he would regret later, *i need to get Nightmare into the city to trap him...after that...* Waves didn't want to think about it, only act and be done with it so he did what he was meant to do "Look, I know your dead set on retaliation, but now isn't the time, everybodys' on edge now, we need to wait for the storm to settle, let them think their in the clear, then attack, I suggest we attack at this years Gala, they wont even see it coming."

"hmm, you might actually have something there, alright, we attack at the Gala, until then, i guess we wait." Nightmare went to the cot and lied down to sleep, Waves took this opportunity to fly as fast as he could to speak with Luna...

"What has happened." Luna asked Waves, both of them had been good friends for centuries now, he never told anyone of course and it made him feel good to be able to do some good for once by helping Twilight and her friends, "Can you help him?"

"Captain you knew the risks-"

"Can you *help* him?" Waves persisted, Luna was right of course, she told him what would become of Dark eventually but he still knew something could be done, Luna let out a long, suffered sigh "If you can tell me whats happened, it might be possible."

"When he came here to talk to Celestia, something happened, he went into a coma of sorts and when he woke up...it wasn't him."

"I see... thank you Captain." she curtly nodded and began to walk away.

“Wait, what do you mean, ‘I see’, that’s it, I SEE and we do nothing!”

“Captain-”

“No! we made a mistake before that made things worse, I’ve atoned for that, now tell me how to save my brother.”

“...Waves...I knew this would happen...I know how hard this is for you, you three couldn't have ended up differently, all alone, all wondering, but I chose you because I knew you cared for him from the start, please understand that as far as anyone of us knows, he’s dead, if not there is hope that he can overcome Nightmare, until then I’ll contact the element users and ready things, when are you bringing him to Cantrolot?”

“At the Gala..”

“What?! why?! the risks that-”

“It was the only way to convince him to wait for everypony to be ready.”

Luna sighed, “Alright, just...be ready to do what you need to, we can’t afford to hesitate.”

“I understand.” and with that Waves was returning back home, his only real home, which made things only worse in his mind, his duty was to kill Nightmare once and for all when he would least expect it, but he knew that something of Dark was still in there somewhere...he wasn't sure that when the time comes, he would be able to finish it...once and for all.

Chapter 12 In a lifetime...

Twilight contacted the Princess as soon as they got home, it was two weeks later when she got a response “‘I’m sorry to hear of these troubles but I warned you to stay away, I can forgive but you must trust me in judgment, please be safe, I will not be writing to you until the..Gala?’”

“Keep reading!” Dash said while Applejack took the letter from Twilight to see for herself, she continued reading “‘ There is not much I can say in the matter of Dark Chords but do not try to reach them for your own safety’ signed Princess Celestia.” all of them were silent for a moment while Twilight only had determination on her face “That’s it, I don't care if Celestia doesn't want us in this, we need to help Dark out of this situation.” she started for the door but was stopped by Dash flying in her path “Slow down, we need to do this when we *can* I’m willing to bet that the Princess won't talk to us no matter how much we demand, we need to wait until the Gala like she said, we can see her there and hopefully do something about this mess.” Twilight hated waiting but the logic was irrefutable, waiting was the best solution, she just prayed Dark

wouldn't do anything rash until then...

Dark opened the door and was blinded for a moment, after seeing nothing but burning white light his vision began to adjust, surprisingly, he was somewhere where it was night, not many landmarks to discern location but he saw something that made him shiver, a hill top near by with a crooked tree, there wasn't much sound until he walked towards the hilltop, as he ascended the sounds of muffled crying became clearer, Dark's breathing became heavier, as he said "Hello? is somepony hurt?"

"You really know how to forget." Young Dark was at his side now, condensing as expected. Dark he reached the peak of the hill now, a small patch of tall grass and tiny flowers set the background for Dark's most unsettling discovery yet, it was him, when he was only a small filly, alone, hurt, but not really neither, not alone because looming by the tree is Nightmare looking over Dark but as the filly Dark Chords looked up, Nightmare disappeared, "...but...I don't even remember this..how?"

"You blocked these memories, with help from Nightmare, yes, I'll give you that much but in reality, this is the ending, we need to see it from the start." again the blinding light filled his vision and Dark felt his body move for a moment but stopped when his vision returned, this time he was in a small hospital, "This far back? really?"

"Yes, and trust me I've seen this a thousand times, do ya think I'd do it again just for fun?"

"Fair enough." Dark was about to ask what Y meant but he heard someone coming down an adjacent hallway, "Your sure he's ok? nothings amiss in *any* scans?" it was a colt, his voice sounded familiar but he couldn't quite figure it out."

"Trust me, we ran all the tests we could, nothings wrong." that must have been the doctor, Dark heard a quick sigh of relief "That's good, thank you so much, wait! what was on Helix's reports?" The doctor laughed softly "Don't worry, his reports were all positive, I made sure he got on the case right away after your particular request. Your son is the picture of health."

"That's the best news we've gotten in a long time doc. thank you." they were quiet for a moment but the doctor started again "So, for our record's, what'd ya gonna name him?" It was quiet for a moment, Dark heard a quick chuckle from the man "Dark Chords...yea, that's perfect...she'll love it." Dark saw the two walk off, he was puzzled for a second but when he looked through the glass wall, he saw a tiny pony, wrapped in blankets and black and white hair poking through, he felt himself start to grin and laugh softly, "Wow...not everyday you get

to see something like this.....wait, who were they?" Y for once seemed ashamed, "I know who they are, but you need to find that for yourself, but I will give you one name... 'Poetic Rhythm' ironically he was an ass to about everyone except his closest friends, but somepony changed that."

"Who?"

"Now that, you'll have to find out."

Dark thought he was going to be blinded again but as he felt the light fill his vision he heard a mare's voice, "Dark Chords." was all she said, elated but, sad for some reason, then the light completely blinded him.

The next jumps were mostly time that passed while Dark was young, he still only saw his father, he noticed he took after him a bit, his Rhythm was kind but funny, artistic but not egotistical, Dark still never saw his mother, both the young Dark and Rhythm talked about her and 'important duties' but never a name, another flash and he was in young Dark's bedroom upstairs, Dark learned to not ask questions at this point but he wondered what made this moment important, he got an answer a second later when a crash was heard downstairs, young Dark sat up quickly, worry on his face, he bolted downstairs, Dark and Y followed, Rhythm was at the door that had been forced open, "Move in, find him."

"Waves?!"

"Yup, Waves is and was the commander of the Night guard, and apart of the secret operation 'ShadowStrike'" Y had said it in such a mundane manner it just confused Dark further, "They were sent to get Nightmare, what they didn't know was that you were still in control, not that it makes much a difference." They sat and watched Rhythm try to warn young Dark but he was silenced by a heavy hit from a magic user, perfect in grace and malice, Celestia walked in the room, eyeing Dark to spot any hostilities, "Take him." was all she had to say and the young pony was grabbed by two guards and warped, taking Dark and Y with them. Dark was speechless, his father, left for dead and himself kidnapped by *Celestia*?! "This is low...even for her..."

"It was uncertain times, not enough was known and mistakes were made...I've forgiven them...." the revelation was discomfoting, epically at a time like now, they were following young Dark who was being carried on a gurney to a large chamber "What do ya mean *you've* forgiven them?" A doctor began to examine young Dark as the small kid only looked more frightened by the second and continually asking 'where's dad? what's happening?' only made things worse, Y never answered Dark's question, they saw some ponies walk into a room outside the chamber, some were in lab coats others in guards armor, among them was

Celestia "...Are you sure its him?" she asked, sounding oddly worried "Yes princess, we checked history and confirmed the mother, Nightmare is hiding, we've thought of a way to draw him out...Start the procedure." at once machines whirled on and lights brightened to give a clear look at what was happening, one of the doctors tried comforting young Dark "It's okay, I'm only going to give you something, you'll be fine." Dark saw through the transparent lie and expected the worst...and got it, the doctor injected the pony with an unknown poison directly in his chest, no doubt aiming for the heart, immediately young Dark began to grow stiff, his legs locking up and his breathing became erratic "What? why? *HELP!*" the poor child screamed, Dark had to use all his will not to break down right there, "I was....killed...my father killed..." Dark felt his own breathing become shallow as a lump formed in his throat. He could do nothing but watch helplessly as what life that was in the young colt fade, after a few seconds it ended with a hard thump as the body fell onto the gurney, cold and lifeless, "Please, please don't tell me we were wrong" was all Celestia said, "S-she actually cared....?"

"More than you can imagine my friend."

Dark felt a tear run down his face but then it hit him "Wait, if I'm there-?" he was cut short by one of the ponies in a coat, "We got readings" another cut in "Charts are spiking, we got a pulse!"

"Get ready!" Waves said as darkness began to flood the chamber and flow into the lifeless body, some of the ponies looked scared and thankful that at least there was a wall of glass separating them from the torrent of blackness, young Dark's body started to lift in the air creating a more than discomfoting feeling of supernatural but his eyes opened and what was once innocent was now empty black slits, Nightmare gasped for air and when his breathing normalized he laughed menacingly "So close, Celestia, so close." guards started to push the doctors back and ready to fight, "Oh don't worry, fighting is the last thing on my mind, that stuff feels like hell, so I'll be leaving....." Nightmare looked confused for a moment "What is this?" Celestia put herself in front of the crowd now and said "You are not leaving here alive." she pushed a button on the console and clear, thick fluid started to fill the chamber, of course Dark and Y couldn't feel anything but it didn't take long for the gurney to turn brown and start to dissipate into the fluid to realize what it was, Nightmare sighed "Fine, have it your way." darkness jetted from him as the acid reached the glass window and shattered it, letting the acid through in a flood, all the machines were burned instantly and some were injured and while they were in a panic, Nightmare warped away. The scene washed away into darkness and Dark was back in the marble floored and mysterious part of his mind, Dark sat there a while, thinking, processing, his entire life was just so Nightmare could survive, it felt like days that he sat there just thinking, but he finally found his purpose, "Y?!" instantly the pony appeared "yes?"

“How do I stop him?” Y smiled in respect for Dark for once “Good, your doing exactly what you need to do already.”

“What?”

“Resist, you can get out, this is *your* mind, the only reason your still here is because his will’s stronger than yours! FIGHT” and with that Y disappeared, his purpose fulfilled, and that was all the motivation Dark needed “Hay Nightmare! How about you give me my body back and we call it even? if not, then I think I don't give a shit, you’ve been living here for to damn long, and without rent?! I think the term is *EVICTED!*” with that the world around him shook.

Chapter 13 From bad to worse

Nightmare felt his legs give out and his control almost wrenched away from him, “Impossible.” he said quietly, “Dark, you alright man?” Razor asked, Nightmare almost had his cover blown, and its too close now, the attack was tonight and he was not going to lose the opportunity now. “I’m fine” he said, not meaning to be as bitter as he was in response, “Yea, I’m fine, it seems late enough, lets go.” Waves nodded and Razor hesitated “Uh, yea, look, are you sure you wanna go through with this...I mean, theres’ gonna be a lot of innocent-”

“Dont tell me you’ve gone soft Razor? A badass like you, come on.” Razor sighed, he couldn't figure out why he was hesitating but he could only thing of the six ponies who actually tried to help them and how it might hurt them “Alright, fine, lets go.” with that Nightmare warped them to ground zero.

Twilight had a bad feeling all night, Celestia was missing for the most part of the Gala, only appearing to welcome them as usual and leaving to fast to talk to them, it seemed that maybe Celestia really was hiding something, after an hour of searching, they found Celestia talking with the captain of the guard “Make sure the generator's are running by that time.” the captain saluted and walked away, as Celestia was about to do the same Twilight said “Wait, I need to talk to you.” Celestia halted, turning to face Twilight and her friends, she had a blank expression but her voice was cold “I’m glad you all could make it, I know you want to only discuss Dark’s situation but I don't want to ruin the evening, we can set up a time to meet...unfortunately I request your help.” a box floated to the center of the group and opened, “The elements? why would we need these?” Dash asked, in answer they heard the band in the main hall die down as others gasped, “There’s no time to explain, you need to use them to end this, once and for all.” The last thing all of them wanted to do was hurt anyone but

they each took their element, just in case...

They ran into the main hall, Dark was standing in the center now, a wicked grin on his face as he was crushing the life out of an unfortunate colt who was in the wrong place, "Ah, Celestia, speak of the devil and she shall appear i guess."

"Let me go!" the colt shouted in defiance, "Fine." Without even a glance, Dark snapped his neck, a mare shouted in protest but it was too late, the colts eyes grew empty as blood trickled out of his mouth, Twilight was instantly crushed, "This...this isn't possible...he wouldn't do this..."

"What ever you thought of him, whatever he was, is gone...he has to be stopped." Celestia said, Twilight piratically ignoring her, she did the only thing she could, "Dark? please..." she walked towards him, the scorn on his face only strengthening her resolve "This isn't you, you play music, you have friends who care for you, you saved my life, we care about you.....I care about you..."

"Really now? because i see six signs that your lieing. Now if you care more about your existence-" Nightmare stumbled, the room began spinning, "Twilight I'm sorry!" Dark began to struggle for control

"Celestia now!" Waves shouted, Celestia moved a panel on a wall, metal nodes rose out of the floor, startling everypony there, suddenly a blue barrier came into existence around Dark, "It's me! stop!" he shouted in vain

"Use the Elements now!"

torn between loyalties, her friends were hesitant to act, they heard Dark shout in agony "I WILL DESTROY YOU ALL AND PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO DARKNESS!" Twilight panicked and made a final decision, she began to concentrate her power, she felt he body leave the ground and the unlimited power rush through her, there was a bright flash, then...something changed...

Dark felt his body burning alive, his mind and soul was being torn by Nightmare, for a moment it even felt like his physical body was being ripped in two as the very ground underneath him was shattered, he felt his body start to fall apart under the pressure, bones breaking, blood vessels bursting, his brain hemorrhaging, but his will to live was unstoppable, he started to draw in the Elements power, forcing Nightmare out of his mind, he was winning! he felt the Elements power completely drown out all pain and the light form the Elements turned grey, Dark focused all that power on one thought, *get out of my head, get out of my head!* he felt Nightmare loose ground as his body split into two personalises, then, finally, Nightmare was forced out of his body...Dark was free, the Elements pressure was lifted as it

was sent back at full force, causing an explosion of light and all Dark felt was himself grin at Twilight and company as his body hit the floor...

((WOOT, part 1 finished, not bad at all, part two will be done in Valve time so have fun))