

Darkness We Became

~THE STORY OF NIGHT MARE MOON~

Written by Makoto Sheffield
&, Inspired by My Little Pony® Friendship is Magic™

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Firstly, I'd like to thank you dear reader for taking the time to gander at this "fanfic" of the My Little Pony® Friendship is Magic™ universe as it is set in.

This will be my very first publicly released work that I've submitted online for open viewing, however, I have been actively engaged in writing as a hobbyist (a self-proclaimed novelist, as it were) for over 14 years. That said, I am certainly no professional, and I expect that to show as you begin to read. Therefore, I highly encourage any and all criticism and opinions (good or bad) to be personally e-mailed to mykotoshi@derpymail.org or sent through the "Octavia's Hall" section within the MLP Forums (<http://mlpforums.com/>), I am user MyKotoShi.

Ultimately, I hope you enjoy this story, and I look forward to your opinions after.

"Good reading!"

New Moon

—CHAPTER ONE—

“Luna! Luna~!”

Harmonic tunes of morning dew song birds played like orchestras of serenity as the day’s rising of the sun pampered the land with its warmth and soothing glow. Life in Equestria was beginning to wake to the day with a gift from the Princess herself.

Yet, just within the walls of the Canterlot castle, worry and panic swept over her as she paced her castle home for her sister, whom was nowhere to be found.

“Luna, where are you? Luna!”

Celestia’s cries and shouts go unanswered as her voice stretches throughout the castle walls. It was not uncommon, however. Luna was often found missing every morning only to have her return at her own leisure. For Luna was a mysterious filly, wandering the night and exploring all the reaches of Equestria. Never she to say where she goes, but it usually resulted in her appearance requiring immediate tending to with the wash cloth.

However, today there was no time for Luna’s absence. Since it was the very first Winter Moon ceremony, in honor to Equestria’s next heir and first Princess of the Moon. It was a passing of ages from one princess to another, to harbor the duties and responsibilities for bringing night to Equestria, and the welcoming of the beauty of the moon to its citizens.

“Princess Celestia dear, have you found your sister?”

A pony maid for the royal family, adorned in a traditional black and white with Canterlot’s finest cotton fabrics, earnestly asked the Princess upon sighting her leaving the main foyer.

“Sorry miss Glory I... I mean, we have not found her.” Celestia hesitantly answered with an obvious remorse of failure to watch over her sister.

“I beg your pardon Princess, but have you searched upon the royal garden yet?”

A wonderful idea! And one that Celestia had not thought of. Luna was fond of the nocturnal creatures, and she rarely gets the chance to play with the diurnal species. Celestia quickly thanked miss Glory and rushed as fast as she could to the Canterlot Royal Garden.

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A karner blue-winged butterfly fluttered it’s graceful wings to a steady landing on a nearby lily flower. Luna brought her face in closer to watch the elegant critter take its nectar.

Celestia galloped loudly through the corridor as she approached the garden, scaring away the butterflies into a frenzy. Luna watched in awe at the beautiful spectacle. The shimmering colors glazing the sky with soft pastels and textures, opened her eyes to a world she rarely is chanced to see.

“Luna!” The exhausted alicorn fought for her breath while Luna turned to silently gaze upon her weary sister. “I’ve been looking everywhere for you sweetie!”

“But I’ve been here all morning, Tia.” Luna said sifting her fore-hooves in the grass.

Celestia wasn’t amused with Luna’s gesture of innocence. They had both known about the arranged date prior to today for such a long time, but the young princess simply fought for her breath and gave a sigh, shaking the thoughts from her head.

“Let’s leave it at that Luna. We’re already late as it is.”

* * *

“Do you think the Princess will be mad at me, Tia?” Luna worried aloud on their way to the Celestial Chamber.

Celestia couldn’t help but grin upon Luna’s sudden worry against her earlier actions and chose to tease her for it. “Only for a little bit.”

“What if she banishes me to the moon?”

“I’ll be sure to send you some mail.” Celestia snickered with a big smirk running from cheek to cheek, but Luna was smart to know her sister was only teasing and decided to laugh along.

The two finally reach the Princess’s chamber where they are welcomed in by two standing guards, closing the door behind them upon their entry.

"Good morning girls!" Princess Dazzleglow greeted from her bed.

"We apologize for our tardiness Princess." Celestia quickly began her apology and caught herself to return the Princess's sincere greeting. "And good morning to you too."

"It is fine dear, you're timing couldn't be better."

Luna, having never visited Princess Dazzleglow's room, sought to see the chance to take a look around. There were layers of beautiful satin cloth draped around the walls, which were colored of a fine ash-like amber red. The ceiling had been masterly painted depicting the evolving phases of the rising of the sun and the moon, and clouds dancing gracefully along side the stars of the night. Luna's eyes widened upon her gaze at the princess's beautiful decor.

"Tia, come look at this!" Luna's excitement erupted within the chamber upon setting her eyes on a picture frame sitting atop an old oak wood dresser.

"Luna, you're being very rude. Sit down!" Celestia insisted.

"Oh, that old thing." Dazzleglow said as she rose from her bed and moved up beside Luna. "A very special friend drew this for me long, long ago."

"Who are the ponies in the picture, Princess?"

"Well let's see," Taking the frame into her mouth, Dazzleglow removed the picture from the dresser and gave it to Luna so that she could see it more clearly. "The one on the left is Happyglow, a very energetic pony much like yourself."

Luna turned to Dazzleglow and gave her a confident smile, taken as if she was just complimented.

"The pegasus next to her is Brightglow. She is the pony that drew this picture."

"Hmm... I think I can draw better." Luna spat without thought, but Dazzleglow only giggled at her response and asked if Luna would like to draw her a picture too, where she answered, "Would I! Can I draw a picture of all three of us?"

"That would be a wonderful idea Luna."

Celestia spotted another pony beside the Princess in the picture. "What about this one standing next to you Princess?"

"Ah yes, my star pupil Starglow. That pony would always try to find some way to be by my side." She giggled thinking back on the old memories. "I'm the reason I am because of my friends, Starglow helped me to see that. But, as time would have it, they have returned to the stars I'm afraid."

The happy conversation that it had started out to be suddenly turned to a depressing silence. It became clear that Dazzleglow held her memories of these friends very close to heart. Celestia didn't want to create more of a stir of emotion for the princess and sought to change the subject.

"Maybe we should get begin preparing for the ceremony?"

Luna, tired from her adventures during the night, had been nodding her head of weary and gently tossed over to Dazzleglow's side, passing out.

Throughout the day, the citizens of Ponyville had been very busy setting the stage for Luna's first moon rising. Tonight was going to mark the first time Equestria has experienced the coming of a new ruler, or in this case two. For Princess Dazzleglow's health was diminishing daily and would soon have to return to the flow of magic that makes up the Earth. She and her subjects knew of this, and it was more the reason to pass on the role for her ponies.

While the celebrations were being prepared however, a young filly named Twinkle Wish was alone and feeling down on Rainbow Bridge near the outskirts of town. She was gazing down onto the surface of the running stream below, making a few distorted faces to her own reflection as she spotted it. Her face rippled with each hastily induced wave, but the comedic spectacle didn't break a single smile.

"Hey Twinkle..." A pink-scaled baby dragon called out as he approached the lone filly. "What are you doing all the way out here? The ceremony will be starting soon."

The depressed pony let out a concerning sigh as she turned her view away from the water. "I know that Spike, its just..."

"You're still worried about Princess Dazzleglow?"

"I can't help it, the Princess is my aspiration Spike. She's the whole reason why I decided to join the Canterlot Unicorn Academy. I worked hard everyday so that I could someday reach her level of greatness and be by her side," Twinkle paced the bridge to the other side where Canterlot silently loomed over her beautiful kingdom on its mountain-side, her eyes turned near to tears as the words began to leave her lips, "But my dreams, my Princess, they're all going to vanish after the ceremony. I may not even get the chance to say goodbye."

"That's not true Twinkle!" Spike's face lit-up as he remembered the notice the Princess had left for him and Twinkle earlier. "Princess Dazzleglow will be in Ponyville to witness the new princess raising the moon."

"I don't *want* to have to say goodbye either Spike." The filly moaned as she dropped her chin to the railing under her.

The sun had begun to fade behind the horizon, and the roar of discussion from ponies filling the streets of Ponyville echoed across the distance. Though still conflicted, Twinkle Wish knew she wouldn't want to miss her chance with Princess Dazzleglow even if it meant accepting the fate that lied ahead.

Suddenly she spots the royal carriage sailing its way toward Ponyville with swift speed, forcing Twinkle to reluctantly make up her mind. Taking Spike on her back, she wastes no more time and hastily gallops for the town square.

Night was near, and the ponies of Ponyville were both excited and anxious of the coming events to follow. The square was filled with talk of Princess Dazzleglow's passing and the sister princess' capability to rule over them. As Dazzleglow's carriage approached ever closer, the crowd grew more silent until not but the steady whistles of the wind were heard.

Twinkle Wish was able to arrive before the start of the ceremony. She forcefully squeezed her way to the head of the pack, causing a grey pony to drop her last muffin, to watch as her idolized princess gracefully take to the stage. Dazzleglow's royal eyes fixated on the crowd mere measurements

before her, until hers were met with the glowing eyes of Twinkle Wish. A gentle smile over took the Princess' face and drowned what worry had plagued her.

"Dear citizens of Ponyville and fellow subjects of Equestria, we are pleased to honor thy presence to this momentous occasion!" Princess Dazzleglow began, using the traditional royal Canterlot voice as passed on for many generations. "Tonight ye eyes will feast upon the coming of Equestria's next ruling princesses..."

The two young alicorns took to the stage and stood beside Princess Dazzleglow as she began to introduce them to the anticipating crowd. Some of the ponies had noticed that Princess Luna was without a cutie mark, creating a wave of concerned whispers to ignite among the them.

"Princess Celestia and Princess Luna!"

Twinkle was taken with overwhelming shock at the announcement. The Princess had chosen ponies so young to take on her role as "ruler of Equestria." *How could she choose them and not me!* She thought. Twinkle knew her own magical talent was the best in the academy, and it seemed she would have been the perfect candidate for the role. She felt so betrayed by this, filling her heart with jealousy for Celestia and Luna. Spike realized how Twinkle must have felt about the news, but couldn't find words to support her.

"Princess Celestia, thou Princess of the day, shall bring fourth the sun to Equestria," Dazzleglow continued, "And young Princess Luna, Princess of the Night, shall bring fourth the moon and stars to all of Equestria! Beginning soon, ye shall witness first hoof Princess Luna's first raising of the moon and the magical and elegant form she must take to conjure it."

Despite the concerns floating around, the crowd unhesitatingly cheered for Princess Luna and her success to raise the moon. Though both she and Celestia had practiced the routine so many times at the castle, Luna couldn't help herself but feel nervous doing it before a group of strangers.

Suddenly, Twinkle jumped on the stage aiming her jealous rage toward the sisters. Spike struggled to stop her by pulling Twinkle's tail, but couldn't handle her strength against his baby muscles and got dragged along.

"You must be Twinkle Wish." Princess Dazzleglow asked. "Star pupil of Canterlot Unicorn Academy, I presume?"

As fast as she had reacted, Twinkle immediately regretted getting on the stage. Now she's faced against her idol and thinking she hates her.

"Well my dear, can't thou speak?"

"I... I..." Twinkle couldn't find the words she wanted to say, and felt completely frozen with Princess Dazzleglow staring at her. Spike nudged her to get her back to reality, snapping her out of her trance. She took a step back, launched Spike on her back once more and ran from the town square without another word. Gossip quickly brewed within the crowd.

"Who was that pony?" One mare asked.

"The Princess did say Twilight Whistle." Another responded.

"No she said Twinkle something."

"That pony made me drop my muffin!" The grey pony pouted as she held up the evidence in her hooves.

"Silence everypony!" Raising her hoof, Princess Dazzleglow eased the mob to settle down. "The

reason for her actions are hers alone to settle in. Let's let her be."

It was certainly the first time Luna has seen such a thing. Ponies are usually asleep while she wanders around and doesn't normally experience such behavior. Her eyes admitted that she was slightly curious. However, it was time now to raise the moon and everypony were anxiously awaiting to witness the amazing spectacle.

"It's time Luna." Dazzleglow informed as both she and Celestia stepped back to allow Luna her space.

Luna stepped up to the platform. A crescent moon and three stars vectored the canvas behind her. She closed her eyes and concentrated hard on her goal. Celestia silently cheered for her sister as she watched from behind. The sun had already completely fallen from the horizon, leaving nothing but the vast emptiness of space. There was much room for a beautiful full moon and millions of stars to fill the sky, and Luna was wishing hard to be able to fill it.

Her horn began to glow a vibrantly array of dark blue magics. One-by-one, stars as bright as diamonds coursed the almost black space. The ponies watching gazed up in awe, yet Luna was only getting started. To bring the moon to the sky requires the embodiment of the summoner to parallel the act of rising, carrying herself from the Earth and reaching to the sky with mighty wings and horn.

Equestria began to witness the illuminating moon rise beyond the horizon. As Luna continued to gently flap her wings so did the moon continue to rise into the void. Suddenly, the crescent moon and stars that made up the background for the platform started to shine as Luna spread her wings wide and rose both hooves to the sky. Opening her eyes, they shone as bright as the moon itself. Then finally, as her finishing act, Luna sparked a white glow from her horn to create a twilight of her projection from beyond the heavens.

Luna returned to the platform exhausted and above all scared that she had messed up, but the reaction of the crowd displayed nothing of that. Everypony was clapping to the Princess' success, an event that literally took the very breath from their lungs. All the concerns and worry that was felt before had been swept away from thought.

Celestia came to Luna's aid, holding back her excitement, and nuzzled her cheek with pride to be her sister. The two quickly noticed the birth of Luna's brand new cutie mark.

As Princess Dazzleglow wrapped up the ceremony, Celestia carried Luna back to the carriage, where they and Dazzleglow returned to the Canterlot Castle.

Later that night, at Twinkle Wish's house in Canterlot, Spike had his hands full trying to comfort Twinkle from her embarrassing display earlier but his efforts weren't proving very effective. She fought to keep her head hidden under her pillow. Spike couldn't tell if she was crying but he understood if she wanted to. Princess Dazzleglow meant everything to that filly and she may have just ruined her one only

chance to say goodbye before vanishing forever. That was enough to make anypony cry, Spike thought.

Without warning there came a few taps outside the front door. Standing in the dark was none other than Princess Luna, waiting for Twinkle to answer.

"Twinkle, you won't believe it!" Spike shouted in a whisper, "Princess Luna is outside waiting for you!"

Unfortunately she was reluctant to move or even respond to Spike, leaving him no option but to make his own decision. Thinking it would be good for Twinkle to confront her emotions through Luna, he chose to allow the princess inside.

"Oh, a baby dragon?" Luna's eyes sparkled with sudden excitement. "Wow, I wasn't expecting to see a baby dragon here of all places!"

"Oh, yeah... Hi, my name is Spike." He introduced with embarrassment.

"Is the pony named Twinkle Wish living here?" Luna graciously asked.

"Well, this is her house, but..."

Twinkle popped her head over the railing of the second floor balcony to see what was going on, when Luna caught sight of her.

"Twinkle, come on down here and speak to the Princess." Spike pleaded.

Yet Twinkle simply ducked her head and shouted, "No!"

"If it means anything to you miss Twinkle, no pony is mad at you for what you did tonight." Luna said trying to reassure the white filly. "Actually, I was hoping we could be friends."

"Friends...?" Both Spike and Twinkle muttered in surprise.

"Sure, the Dazzleglow told me you were the best with magic at the Unicorn Academy, and that you were a lot like me."

Peeking her head above the railing once again, she asked, "Princess Dazzleglow said that?"

"Say, do you like the nighttime?" Luna asked.

"Of... course." She hesitated as Twinkle unexpectedly began making conversation with the filly princess. "I study often at night, so I'm awake while everypony else is sleeping."

"That's great!" Luna exclaimed with joy, "There's a place I've been wanting to show to some pony for a while now but sister Tia goes to bed too early to see it and... well, I have no friends."

That last line hit Twinkle's heart like a buttered knife. Even though she refused to admit it, Twinkle didn't have a single friend either, rather, a pony friend other than her dragon friend Spike.

This is because Twinkle places too much focus on her magical studies and avoids communicating with others at both school and at home. While most ponies sleep during the day, Twinkle stays up, often through entire nights, carrying her weary self around with her wherever she goes causing others to avoid her and call her strange.

"See Twinkle?" Spike interrupted. "You two have something in common after all."

"Hrmph..." Twinkle moaned, knowing Spike was right but refused to show it.

"Come on Twinkle, just a little bit wouldn't hurt you."

"I promise you will you like it!" Luna swore with an inviting smile.

Without another word, Twinkle resolved to walk down to the foyer where she gave in to their pestering demands, "Fine..."

Back at the Canterlot castle, Dazzleglow was spending her final moments gazing at the moon and the stars that Luna had brought to Equestria. More than a thousand years had come and gone for the pink coated alicorn. Thinking back on all the memories she had kept locked away felt like a gift from all the ponies she'd ever met. It almost brought her to tears. Suddenly there came a *tap tap* on the door to her room, where Celestia then proceeded to enter, hoping to spend the remaining time with the Princess.

A light breeze coursed through their manes as the two sat from the balcony staring up at the same night sky. Just then, Celestia caught the sight of three large stars shimmering brighter than the rest.

"Do you remember that picture from earlier today Celestia?" Dazzleglow suddenly asked.

"The one with you and your friends, Princess?"

"I once read in an old book, that there exists a Kingdom of Happiness awaiting all ponies in their time of life after passing from this world. However, the kingdom would differ for Earth ponies to pegasi, and unicorns. The Earth pony would receive a mighty kingdom filled with gold, games, and every kind of sweet dish you could think of; a kingdom of indulgence. The pegasus would be blessed with the freedom of the sky with no limits for their agile wings to fly; a kingdom of adventure. The unicorn, however, would sacrifice her kingdom of happiness in exchange for a single wish."

A voice, deep and pure, resounded beyond the unending canvas of clouds and sky, as Dazzleglow's story transcended from the pages of her memory and conveyed images like a picture book in Celestia's head.

"You choose to sacrifice our kingdom of eternal happiness in exchange for your memories of your past life, unicorn?"

"My eternal happiness ended when I arrived to this world. The memory of my friends and family is the happiness I'll ever need." The selfish mare responded with unquestionable resolve.

"So be it. You shall keep your memories of your past life."

The young mare smiled in victory, and she received all the memories she so preciousely loved, however, there came a price for her sacrifice.

"You have received your memories, but now you no longer have a kingdom to reside." The voice echoed. "So I will turn you into a star where you will eternally watch your kingdom flourish without you."

And so the unicorn was turned into a bright and majestic star and banished to space, where she now watches over the three kingdoms for all eternity."

"The star that was once a unicorn was grateful for her fate, however."

"Because she got to keep her memories, Princess?" Celestia blurted out.

"Not only that, but the ponies living happy separate lives in their kingdoms can all look up and see the same bright star together."

"But what did this story have to do with the picture?" The young Celestia thought aloud.

Dazzleglow gazed up once more, and Celestia followed suit, staring back at the three bright stars that shone brighter than any other star in the sky. As if her voice were carried by the gentle breeze that night, Dazzleglow delivered her final words to Celestia before disappearing forever:

"You will discover it someday."

To Be Continued...