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MY LITTLE PONY 6

"Gauntlet of Fire"

Episode 605

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**TEASER**

**SC. 1 - INT. CAVE - DAY**

We PUSH IN ON a dark cave where SPIKE helps RARITY (who's wearing a stylish miner's helmet) hunt for gems. Sleeping BATS hang from the ceiling. Rarity's horn glows as she magics a gem out of the wall. The gem <SCRAPES> as it dislodges. A tense BEAT as Spike and Rarity look at the bats. They don't wake up. Spike and Rarity look relieved. Rarity floats the gem to Spike's waiting basket. [NOTE: throughout the following, they speak in HUSHED TONES.]

1                   RARITY  
PHEW! The last time I was here, I  
woke them and ended up with a mane  
full of bats! Thanks being my  
basket holder, Spike.

2                   SPIKE  
Basket holder? I thought I was your  
bodyguard.

3                   RARITY  
Hmm? Oh yes. That too, of course.

Rarity's horn glows again as she sets to work on another gem. She looks at the sleeping bats illuminated in the glow.

4                   RARITY (CONT'D)  
For once I wish unicorn magic  
wasn't so... luminescent.

Suddenly there's another O.S. GLOW.

5                   RARITY (CONT'D)  
Spike, you'll wake the bats! Turn  
that off!

6                   SPIKE (O.S.)  
I can't!

Rarity turns to Spike and her anger quickly shifts to shock-- Spike is glowing! Off Rarity's shocked look...

**END TEASER**

**MAIN TITLES**

**ACT 1**

**SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM- DAY**

TWILIGHT, PRINCESS LUNA, and PRINCESS CELESTIA are gathered at the table, a plate of crumpets in front of them.

7 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
I'm so glad you two could come!

8 PRINCESS LUNA  
Of course. We so rarely get a chance to relax and just visit.

9 PRINCESS CELESTIA  
There's usually some crisis we have to deal with. Somepony always needs our help. But today--

Just then, a dirt-covered Rarity bursts in with the still GLOWING Spike.

10 RARITY  
HELP! Twilight! There's something's wrong with Spike!

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Spike! What's wrong?

12 SPIKE  
I don't know! <GROANS> All of the sudden my scales just started glowing and <PAINED> burning.

13 PRINCESS CELESTIA  
Maybe we can be of some help.

Princess Celestia and Luna step over.

14 RARITY  
Oh! Goodness. I didn't realize you had company.

Rarity flips her mane, attempting to make herself more presentable. A dirt clump falls out.

15 PRINCESS LUNA  
It's true that little is known about dragon culture, but this is a phenomenon we've seen before. It is the Call Of The Dragon Lord.

16 PRINCESS CELESTIA  
Dragons glow whenever the Dragon Lord has need of them in the Dragonlands.

17 SPIKE  
Great! <GROAN> How do I make it stop?

18 PRINCESS LUNA  
The only way to end the summons is to answer it. You must journey to the Dragonlands and see what is expected of you.

19 RARITY  
But the Dragonlands are full of... dragons! And they're ghastly creatures! Not you of course, Spikey Wikey. But remember that rotten Garble?

20 SPIKE  
<GULP> How could I forget? He would have burnt us to a crisp if you weren't there.  
(to Rarity and Twilight)  
If I have to go to the Dragonlands, would you two come with me?

21 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Oh my goodness! I'd love to! We are sadly lacking any information on dragon culture and customs. I could research them, maybe even write an article! This could be my chance to make a great contribution to the knowledge of Equestria!

Off Rarity and Spike's looks:

22 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)  
And be there for Spike, of course.

23 RARITY  
We'd be happy to come with you, Spike.

24 PRINCESS CELESTIA  
Be very careful. The Dragonlands are particularly dangerous for ponies. It would be wise to be discreet.

25 RARITY  
Oh, I'm sure I still have the dragon costume we used the last time we snuck into the Dragonlands!

26 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
I think we might want something a  
little more practical this time.

CUT TO:

**SC. 3 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - DAY**

ON Spike sitting on a rock. Under him are two sets of eye holes. From inside the rock we hear:

27 RARITY (O.S.)  
Well, it may be practical, but this  
disguise isn't flattering in the  
slightest!

PULL OUT to reveal: The Dragonlands, a rocky barren terrain carved out to look like an arena.

28 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)  
(hushed tones)  
It's not supposed to be flattering,  
it's supposed to blend in!

29 RARITY  
And if our trip here wasn't long  
and exhausting enough, this rock-  
wear is cramped and poorly-  
ventalated!

30 SPIKE  
(covertly)  
SHHHH!

Spike nervously greets other glowing DRAGONS of all shapes and colors. More gather, including GARBLE and his friends (from "Dragon Quest"). They spot Spike.

31 GARBLE  
Hey, look. It's our old friend,  
Sparkle Warkle.

32 SPIKE  
It's Spike.

33 GARBLE  
Are you sure your pony friends  
didn't give you a pony name?

34 SPIKE  
It's nice to see you too, Garble!

35                   GARBLE  
I didn't say it was nice to see  
you. It's not. I don't like you.  
Was I not clear about that?

Garble pushes Spike off the rock and sits on it.

36                   SPIKE  
Hey! That's my rock.

37                   GARBLE  
Oh really? Then why aren't you  
sitting on it?

Garble's friends <CHUCKLE>. A concerned Spike looks down at his "rock".

#### **SC. 4 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS**

Twilight and Rarity get a little crunched. They try not to make any noise.

#### **SC. 5 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS**

Just then, the DRAGON LORD, TORCH, (a hulking, egotistical no-nonsense dragon with a deep booming voice) appears on a dais at the front of the arena. He holds a scepter with a large red stone. It glows like the dragons. He breathes an enormous burst of fire over the crowd. It silences the horde and the dragons all bow in deference to their Lord.

Next to Dragon Lord Torch stands a teenage girl dragon with sapphire scales, EMBER. She's cute, but stoic.

38                   TORCH  
Dragons of Equestria! Hear me! I  
have been Dragon Lord for longer  
than many of you can remember. And  
my reign has been extraordinary.

Torch looks to the crowd expectantly. Silence.

39                   TORCH (CONT'D)  
AGREE WITH ME!!!

40                   DRAGONS  
The best! / Agreed! / Torch! Torch!  
Torch!

ON Spike as the dragons <CHEER>:

41 SPIKE  
Who is that?

42 GARBLE  
It's Dragon Lord Torch, dummy.

43 SPIKE  
No, next to him.

44 GARBLE  
That's his daughter, Princess  
Ember. I wouldn't even look at her  
if I were you. Unless you want  
Torch to eat you. He doesn't let  
any dragon near her.

45 SPIKE  
Oh. <GULP>.

**SC. 6 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS**

Twilight furiously magics a quill across parchment.

46 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
This is fascinating! Dragons are  
notoriously reckless, but they do  
whatever the Dragon Lord says.

As Twilight takes notes in the cramped space the quill  
tickles Rarity's nose. She tries not to sneeze.

**SC. 7 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS**

Torch holds up his scepter and continues:

47 TORCH  
Unfortunately, according to dragon  
law, it is time for me to step  
down. Sad, I know.

Silence.

48 TORCH (CONT'D)  
BE SAD!!!!

The dragons <GRUMBLE> and make <SAD NOISES>.

49 TORCH (CONT'D)  
This is why I have summoned you. To  
compete for the throne in the  
Gauntlet of Fire!

Torch points to an ominous looking volcano in the middle of a treacherous sea. The sea lies east of their current location and is below a steep cliff.

50 TORCH (CONT'D)  
Whoever has the strength and  
fortitude to retrieve this  
Bloodstone Scepter from the heart  
of the Flamecano will be crowned  
Lord of the Dragons!

Then he hurls his scepter like a discus and it soars over the sea and into the heart of the Flamecano. When it disappears into the Flamecano, all the dragons stop glowing.

51 TORCH (CONT'D)  
That was an impressive throw. BE  
IMPRESSED!

The dragons all clap and make <IMPRESSED> noises.

**SC. 8 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS**

52 RARITY  
That Torch is rather scary, but he  
has exquisite taste in scepters!

53 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
When the scepter disappeared the  
dragons stopped glowing! We are  
learning so much!

Twilight's quill keeps tickling Rarity's nose she finally lets out a <DAINTY SNEEZE>.

**SC. 9 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS**

Garble hears Rarity's sneeze. Spike pretends it was him.

54 SPIKE  
'Scuse me.

55 GARBLE  
Ugh. You even sneeze like pony.

Torch continues:

56 TORCH  
The Gauntlet is dangerous, for I  
designed it myself.  
(MORE)

TORCH (CONT'D)

Only dragons with my ferocity,  
strength and determination will be  
able to finish. We will gather at  
the cliff when the sun is at it's  
peak!

The other dragons <BATTLE CRY>. ON: Spike. He whispers to the  
Twilight/Rarity rock.

57 SPIKE  
Well, I don't want to be Dragon  
Lord or dragon toast, and I stopped  
glowing so let's sneak out of here!

Spike "casually" leans against the rock and tries to push it  
discreetly. But he doesn't get very far before Torch lands in  
front of him.

58 TORCH  
Where do you think you're going,  
little dragon?

Spike cowers.

59 SPIKE  
Oh, uh, hi your lordship. I was  
just going home.

60 TORCH  
You don't get to leave unless I say  
you can.

61 SPIKE  
But I'd get destroyed in that  
Gauntlet.

62 TORCH  
(excited)  
Probably!

Just then, Ember intervenes.

63 EMBER  
Dad, look at him! He's just a runt.  
Besides, he doesn't even want to  
compete. Let him go.

64 TORCH  
He is rather tiny. I could squish  
him with my pinky claw.

Spike <LAUGHS> nervously.

65 TORCH (CONT'D)  
That wasn't a joke, it was a fact.  
When I want you to laugh I will say  
"BE AMUSED"!

66 SPIKE  
Of course, your lordship. I guess I  
don't understand dragon customs.  
Another reason why I shouldn't  
compete.

Spike smiles hopefully at Torch, who thinks on it.

67 TORCH  
Very well, little dragon. I release  
you.

68 SPIKE  
Thank you!  
(to Ember)  
And thank you.

Spike backs away from Torch and Ember. ON Torch and Ember.  
Ember turns to leave.

69 TORCH  
Where do you think you're going?

70 EMBER  
To prepare for the gauntlet.

71 TORCH  
No you're not. You're not much  
bigger than that runt I just sent  
home.

72 EMBER  
But I'm smarter than most of these  
boulderheads and you know it.

73 TORCH  
Being smart won't help you win this  
gauntlet. It was designed for a big  
strong dragon to win because it  
takes a big strong dragon to lead.  
Besides, I SAID NO!

He flies off, leaving a fuming Ember behind.

74 EMBER  
I hate when he does that!

BACK ON Spike and his "rock" wait for the dragons to clear  
out, Garble and his friends pass by them.

75 DRAGON #1  
When I become Dragon Lord, I will  
make burps an official greeting.

76 DRAGON #2  
Ha, you? Please. When I win, I will  
pillage Equestria for all their  
pillows! Why should those ponies be  
comfortable while we sleep on  
rocks?!

77 GARBLE  
That's nothing. When I'm in charge,  
the first thing I'll do is get  
revenge on those puny ponies!  
They'll regret they ever crossed  
Garble! We'll take whatever we want  
from Equestria and burn the rest.  
And if anypony gets in our way...

Garble lets out a gust of fire breath. The other dragons  
<MURMUR> agreement. Spike looks horrified. Rarity and  
Twilight surreptitiously stick their heads out from under the  
rock.

78 RARITY  
(whispers)  
I can't believe I'm saying this,  
but I hope the burping dragon wins.

79 SPIKE  
None of them can win! Equestria is  
in big trouble if any of them are  
in charge!

80 TWILIGHT  
But what can we do?

81 SPIKE  
There's only one thing to do and  
only *I* can do it...  
(Spike steels himself)  
I have to win the Gauntlet of Fire!

Off Rarity's and Twilight's shocked expressions...

**END ACT 1**

**ACT 2**

**SC. 10 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - RESUME**

As the rest of the dragons clear out, Twilight and Rarity suddenly yank Spike inside their "rock."

**SC. 11 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS**

Twilight and Rarity sit Spike down. It's a tight squeeze.

82            RARITY  
What do you mean you have to win the Gauntlet? Are you going to compete?

83            SPIKE  
It's the only way to protect Equestria from the dragons! You heard them. They have horrible plans for ponies if they win! So somehow, *I* have to do it.

84            TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
There has to be another way! It's too dangerous. Besides, if you win, you'd have to stay here!

85            SPIKE  
(sadly)  
I know. But there's no other way to keep my friends safe.

Twilight and Rarity get a little misty.

86            TWILIGHT  
Well, if you're staying to compete, then we're staying to cheer you on.

87            RARITY  
Not in this we're not!

CUT TO:

**SC. 12 - EXT. THE SEA - LATER THAT DAY**

Twilight and Rarity, disguised as a pile of seaweed and driftwood.

88            RARITY  
Much better!

They wave furtively up to:

**SC. 13 - EXT. THE CLIFF OVER THE SEA - CONTINUOUS**

Spike stands with the other competing dragons (several wearing armor). Torch notices him.

89 TORCH  
I thought I released you, Tiny One.

90 SPIKE  
I decided to compete. I am a dragon, after all.

91 GARBLE  
Are you sure? You can't even fly!

The other dragons <LAUGH> at Spike, but he looks determined.

92 TORCH  
All dragons are welcome to compete, for they do so at their own peril. Flying to Flamecano Island is the first of many challenges you will face in your quest to find the Bloodstone Scepter!

Torch <ROARS>, breathing a huge blast of fire. Garble and the other dragons <ROAR> and shove each other as they take to the sky. As Garble takes off, he deliberately clips Spike with his tail and Spike falls off the cliff into the sea below.

93 GARBLE  
Haha. Good luck. Just kidding, I hope you lose.

**SC. 14 - INT. SERPENT SEA - CONTINUOUS**

Spike lands in the water and surfaces.

94 SPIKE  
Thanks, Garble, I was planning on swimming anyway!

Spike swims toward the Flamecano. The Twilight/Rarity seaweed driftwood follows him.

95 RARITY  
You can do it Spike!

Suddenly, SEA SERPENTS (the size of submarines) emerge from the waves and spit huge geysers of water! Spike, Rarity and Twilight <SCREAM> as they're pushed forward by the serpent's wake. The Sea Serpents don't even notice Spike. Their geysers are shooting way up, knocking dragons out of the sky!

96 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Keep going Spike, they're not  
looking for a swimming dragon!

Around Spike, a few dragons fall into the water but they shake themselves off and fly again. Spike swims as fast as he can but he's clearly tiring. Just as Spike nears the shore, a HELMETED GREEN DRAGON falls from sky right in front of him. Unconscious, the dragon sinks below the surface.

97 SPIKE  
He's gonna drown!

Spike looks at how close he is to shore, but then dives down. A beat. No dragon emerges.

98 RARITY/TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
SPIKE!

Just then, Spike crests the water holding the other dragon, who's green PAINT is washing off revealing BLUE SCALES. Rarity and Twilight help pull them to shore.

**SC. 15 - EXT. FLAMECANO ISLAND - BEACH - CONTINUOUS**

Spike pulls the dragon up onto the beach. Rarity and Twilight plop down nearby. All of them are winded and exhausted. Spike looks down at the other dragon.

99 SPIKE  
Hey, are you okay?

Spike removes the dragon's helmet to REVEAL it's Ember. Spike <GASPS>. Ember <COUGHS> up some water. She realizes she doesn't have her helmet on:

100 SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Princess Ember!

101 EMBER  
What do you think you're doing?

102 RARITY (FROM INSIDE COSTUME)  
Only saving your life!

103 EMBER  
Did that seaweed just talk?

Ember pushes past Spike and lifts up the seaweed, revealing Twilight and Rarity.

104 EMBER (CONT'D)  
Ponies? What are they doing here?

105 SPIKE  
They're my friends!

106 EMBER  
Friends? Dragons don't do friends.

107 SPIKE  
Well, this dragon does!

108 EMBER  
Whatever. I don't care as long as  
none of you get in my way. I have a  
gauntlet to win.

109 SPIKE  
But I thought your dad said...

110 EMBER  
I don't care what my dad said.  
I'll show him and everydragon who  
thinks I'm just some little  
"Princess" there are better things  
than being big and strong!

Just then they hear a <SCREAM> from above as Garble falls from the sky and lands by them with a thud, pinned under a boulder. He looks over at Spike.

111 GARBLE  
(with effort)  
Help! Um...I'm being crushed. Don't  
leave me here, Spike!

Spike rushes over. Before Garble sees them, Ember puts her helmet on and the ponies duck into their costume. Spike pushes the boulder off of Garble.

112 GARBLE (CONT'D)  
Ha! I knew you'd do it. Your pony  
friends made you soft.

113 SPIKE  
Uh-huh. You're welcome.

114 GARBLE  
For what? I didn't say thank you.  
(sniffs the air)  
Wow, you even smell like ponies. Or  
is it coming from over there...?

Garble sniffs in the direction of the driftwood. Suddenly Ember gets in front of him.

115           EMBER  
          (deep voice)  
That's just me. I uh, robbed some  
ponies on my way over here.

116           GARBLE  
I like your style. Have I met you  
before? You kinda look like--

As Garble rounds on Ember, she shoots Spike a pleading look.

117           SPIKE  
--My uh... old neighbor...  
          (looking around)  
Sandy... Rockbeach!

Suddenly there's a big CRASH behind them. They look up to see dozens of SLINGTAILS (massive stone creatures that resemble gargoyles with mammalian upper bodies and long reptilian tails) all along the sides of the Flamecano. They use their tails to hurl massive boulders at the incoming dragons.

118           GARBLE  
Stupid slingtails knocked me down.  
But I've wasted enough time making  
small talk. Get it? Because you're  
too small to win this.

With that, Garble takes off. Once the coast is clear, Ember removes her helmet.

119           EMBER  
Why did you cover for me? You could  
have had one less competitor.

120           SPIKE  
I could ask you the same thing. You  
could have told Garble about my  
friends.

CRASH! Spike and Ember look up at the Flamecano and watch as Garble and the others dodge the boulders.

121           EMBER  
Yikes. That looks rough.  
          (catching herself)  
But that's what makes it a  
challenge.

122           SPIKE  
Are you kidding? Those boulders are  
huge!  
          (then, getting an idea)  
Hey, what if we work together?  
          (MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

You fly me up there, and I'll help you look out for boulders, like a second set of eyes!

123 RARITY (O.S.)  
PSSST! Spike!

A tree shakes its branches. Spike gives Ember the "one minute" gesture. He walks over to the tree. Twilight and Rarity pop their heads out of the trunk.

124 RARITY (CONT'D)  
Are you sure it's a good idea to team up with Ember? You don't know her too well.

125 SPIKE  
I know she could have told Garble about you, but she didn't. I think we can trust her.

Twilight consults her notes.

126 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Her behavior does seem contradictory to everything I've noted about dragons so far. She could be an exception.

127 EMBER (O.S.)  
Hey! You. Little fella.

Spike returns to Ember.

128 EMBER (CONT'D)  
I've thought about it. Your plan makes sense. Let's do it.

129 SPIKE  
Really? Great! It's a deal.

Spike and Ember shake on it.

130 EMBER  
Just so you know, this doesn't mean we're gonna pick flowers or exchange necklaces or whatever pony friends do.

131 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Good luck. We'll meet you at the top.

**SC. 16 - EXT. FLAMECANO - SKY - MOMENTS LATER**

Ember is flying with Spike on her back, he is facing the rear. Around them, other dragons are being knocked out of the sky. But none of them are being seriously hurt. As a boulder comes in from behind:

132           SPIKE  
Pull up, there's on one your tail!

Ember pulls up. Another boulder comes in from the right.

133           SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Go left!

Ember turns to the left and the boulder whizzes by. A slingtail hurls a boulder from the left as Garble lands at the top and hurls a boulder at them head-on. Spike gasps. Ember's not going to be able to dodge both.

134           SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Dive then fly back up and to the right!

As Ember dives below the first rock, Spike hops off her back, hops on Garble's rock and then hops back on Ember as she comes up and to the right. Yeah! They land at the top of the Flamecano.

135           EMBER  
(re Garble)  
Ugh! That dragon is the worst! We cannot let him win.

136           SPIKE  
Sounds good to me! So, what do we do now?

137           EMBER  
I think we go through there.

Ember points to a couple of dragons going into a tunnel. We hear a CRASH, <YELP>, and a cloud of smoke comes out. Both Ember and Spike look nervous. The Twilight and Rarity tree approaches.

138           RARITY  
My, that looks scary!  
(unconvincingly)  
I mean, you can do it!

139           EMBER  
Listen, Spike, I wouldn't have made it this far without you.  
(MORE)

EMBER (CONT'D)

So I guess, if you want to, we could keep working together.

(quickly)

I mean, just until we get through that tunnel.

140 SPIKE

Okay.

141 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

We'll be right behind you.

Spike and Ember brace themselves and head into...

**SC. 17 - INT. FLAMECANO - TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER**

MONTAGE:

- Spike and Ember approach stalagmites and stalactites that raise and lower, slamming together like a giant set of razor sharp teeth. They work together, pulling each other out of the way of the chomping stone teeth. As they go, there are a few dragons who are too afraid to go through or get stuck between the stone teeth (just stuck not skewered so they're fine), including Garble. He glares at them as they get to...

- A section of the tunnel blocked by a series of spinning blue fire in the shape of a fan. Ember and Spike watch as a few other dragons time it wrong and get knocked back by the fan. Ember and Spike have to time it just right. Ember tumbles through, narrowly dodging the blades, but Spike hesitates. From the other side, Ember grabs Spike and pulls him through safely. Garble watches them help each other and again, glares at them.

- Spike and Ember get to a seemingly harmless section of the tunnel lined with stones. Garble pushes them aside and barrels through, but halfway through a stone column shoots out from the wall, knocking him to the floor. He <GROANS>, still conscious. Spike and Ember brace themselves and run, jumping and ducking to avoid the random columns that shoot out. They're almost to the end when a column drops from the ceiling above Ember! Spike tackles her out of the way. Spike goes <PHEW> and keeps going. Ember smiles when he's not looking. Garble angrily watches them go as he gets up, takes two steps, and gets knocked down again.

**SC. 18 - INT. FLAMECANO - CAVERN - CONTINUOUS**

Ember and Spike emerge from the tunnel, into a large cavern which is full of lava-filled craters. They're greeted by two excited stalagmites (aka Twilight and Rarity).

142 RARITY  
You made it! Oh, we were so worried.

143 SPIKE  
About us? Pssh. That tunnel was cake.

Spike collapses on the floor. Twilight <LAUGHS>.

144 EMBER  
Wait, how did you two get through?

145 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
(slyly)  
Oh, we ponies have our ways.

146 RARITY  
Twilight teleported us. She's been doing it the whole time. How did you think we made it this far?

Suddenly the crater nearest to them starts rumbling.

147 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Uh oh. Lava geyser! Run!

Spike, Ember, and Twilight run but Rarity trips and rolls in circles on the floor in her stalagmite costume. Spike stops.

148 SPIKE  
Rarity!

He runs back as the crater explodes! He grabs Rarity and rolls her to safety, just as the spewing lava lands right where Rarity was. A <PANTING> Spike and Rarity join Twilight and Ember on the other end of the lava geyser cavern.

149 RARITY  
Thanks, Spike!

150 SPIKE  
It was nothing.

151 EMBER  
Nothing? You risked everything to save her. And they're putting themselves in danger just to support you.

152 SPIKE  
That's just what friends do. Don't you have anyone who looks out for you?

153           EMBER  
Not really. Unless I count you...

Spike looks touched for a moment, then...

154           EMBER (CONT'D)  
...which I don't, because we were  
only helping each other get through  
the tunnel and now we're through  
the tunnel so, that's it.

155           SPIKE  
Wait. What do you mean?

156           EMBER  
Well, there's only one winner, one  
scepter, and one Dragon Lord. So, I  
guess it's every dragon for  
themselves.

157           SPIKE  
Oh. So, we aren't really friends?

158           EMBER  
Maybe if we were in ponyland but  
like I said, dragons don't do  
friendship.

Ember takes off, leaving Spike speechless.

**END ACT 2**

**ACT 3**

**SC. 19 - INT. FLAMECANO - CONTINUOUS**

Spike, along with stalagmite Rarity and Twilight, make their way down a narrow path.

159           SPIKE  
I can't believe Ember ditched me.

160           RARITY  
You're better off. She was only  
looking out for herself. She's just  
like all the other dragons.

161           SPIKE  
She's not though. I know it. She  
saved me, even when she didn't have  
to. I don't care what she says.  
That makes us friends.

Twilight consults her notes.

162 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Based on everything I've recorded  
today, friendship isn't exactly  
"the dragon way".

163 SPIKE  
Well, it's my way.

Spike thinks he sees SOMETHING MOVE, but when he looks again,  
it's gone. They round a corner, wandering through a seemingly  
identical corridor of the maze-like caverns inside the  
Flamecano.

164 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Is it just me or have we seen this  
crevice three times already?

165 SPIKE  
It's kind of hard to tell. They all  
look the same.

Spike heads to an archway that leads out of the maze.

166 SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Except for this one! Look! We made  
it!

Spike points to the Bloodstone Scepter lodged in a giant rock  
made of hardened lava.

167 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Well, we almost made it.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL the scepter is all the way across a stone  
bridge and that extends over a deep gorge.

168 SPIKE  
We're so close! I can't believe I'm  
the only dragon to make it this  
far.

169 GARBLE (O.S.)  
You're not.

Suddenly Garble emerges from a nearby tunnel. Twilight and  
Rarity hide in their costume.

170 GARBLE (CONT'D)  
And I am not losing to a puny pony-  
loving dragon like you!

Garble picks Spike up and holds him over the gorge.

171 RARITY  
<GASP> We have to do something!

172 TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Or not... Look!

Suddenly Ember swoops in from another nearby tunnel holding a bolder. She drops it on Garble's tail, pinning him to the ground. She grabs Spike. As they're flying:

173 SPIKE  
Ember! I thought it was every dragon for themselves. Why did you save me?

174 EMBER  
That's what friends do. I heard what you said.

175 SPIKE  
About crevices looking the same?

176 EMBER  
No! About being friends. And... I am. I mean, we are. I never should have left you back there. Ugh, please don't make me talk about my feelings.

They land on the Bloodstone scepter side of the bridge. Spike beams and hugs Ember. Ember looks confused.

177 EMBER (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

178 SPIKE  
It's called a "hug."

179 EMBER  
Oh. I don't know if I like it. But okay.

From the other side of the bridge, Garble is trying to free his tail when the stalagmites go:

180 TWILIGHT SPARKLE/RARITY  
Aww.

181 GARBLE  
What the--?

Garble "unmasks" the ponies. They back away toward the chamber wall. Garble is between the ponies and Spike and Ember. He frees his tail and lumbers toward them menacingly.

182           EMBER  
Spike! Get the scepter!

Before Garble can get to the ponies, Ember tackles him. They wrestle mid-air. Garble pulls Ember off him and flies toward The Scepter. Spike looks on in horror, frozen to the spot. Does he run back to help Ember or does he get the Scepter?

Ember grabs Garble by the tail and yanks with all her strength. Garble swings underneath her and behind her then grabs her and flies her down to the bridge. He almost has her pinned. Spike runs in and jumps on Garble's back.

183           GARBLE  
I'm sick and tired of you two  
helping each other! Dragons don't  
do helping!

Garble grabs Spike and tosses him. He lands back on the scepter side of the bridge. While he's distracted, Ember rolls out from under him and then jumps on his back.

184           EMBER  
These dragons do!

Twilight notices some dragon shadows starting to come down the corridor.

185           TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Spike, if you don't take the  
Scepter, another dragon will!

Spike runs to the scepter and pulls it out of the lava. It glows and the glow "spreads" to Spike. Proudly, he breathes a large fire blast. WIDE SHOT - the light from the scepter washes over the cavern.

**SC. 20 - EXT. FLAMECANO - CONTINUOUS**

The scepter light spills out of the flamecano and over the other dragons. They look up in awe.

**SC. 21 - INT. FLAMECANO - CAVERN - CONTINUOUS**

ON Spike, holding the scepter.

186           SPIKE  
Leave her alone!

Garble stops fighting Ember.

187           GARBLE  
What? You? You have the scepter?  
But that means that you're....

188           EMBER  
The Dragon Lord.  
(Ember bows her head)  
Dragon Lord Spike.

A few other dragons who have made it to the chamber bow to Spike. Begrudgingly, Garble does too.

189           GARBLE  
Dragon Lord Spike.

Spike is taken aback. Then he regains his cool.

190           SPIKE  
That's right. Um... now go start  
you long journey home. And give  
every dragon you see on the way a  
hug. Don't tell them why.

191           GARBLE  
Aww, but that'll be super  
embarrassing!

192           SPIKE  
I command you to do it!

Garble flies off with a huff. Spike helps Ember up.

193           EMBER  
"Dragon Lord Spike". Has a nice  
ring to it.

Spike gives the scepter to Ember.

194           SPIKE  
Dragon Lord Ember sounds a lot  
better.

195           EMBER  
What? No. You're the Dragon Lord  
now.

196           SPIKE  
The Dragon Lord is whoever brings  
the scepter back to your father.  
Besides, you'll make a great  
leader. I was just doing this to  
protect the ponies, but I know  
you'll protect them just as well as  
I would have.

197           EMBER  
Are you sure about this?

198           SPIKE  
Absolutely. Besides, my home is in  
Equestria with my friends.

199           EMBER  
Well, you'll have at least one  
friend here, too.

Off of Ember giving Spike an awkward hug we DISSOLVE TO...

**SC. 22 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - LATER**

Ember flies to Torch's throne and presents the scepter.

200           TORCH  
Ember? You?

201           EMBER  
I know you didn't think I could do  
it, but I did.

202           TORCH  
I expressly told you NOT TO DO IT!  
Because--

203           EMBER  
(cutting him off)  
--I'm not big and strong! I know!  
But you know what? I won anyway.  
So, maybe it takes more than just  
being big and strong to be a good  
Dragon Lord.

A tense beat as they all stare at Torch, wondering if he's  
thinking over Ember's words or getting ready to yell at her.

204           TORCH  
I was wrong, Ember. You might not  
be big, but you are strong. And  
smart. And perhaps that counts for  
more than I thought.

205           EMBER  
Thanks, Dad.

206           TORCH  
And you will make an excellent  
leader.

207           EMBER  
          (turns to crowd)  
AGREE WITH HIM! Just kidding.  
That's not gonna be my thing.

Torch <LAUGHS> as the dragons all <CHEER>.

Torch turns to the crowd of dragons.

208           TORCH  
Dragons, hear me! I present to you  
our new Dragon Lord... Ember!

Torch moves his crown from his head to Ember's. The dragons erupt in cheers and fire breath. It's a grand moment, until Garble flies down and gives Torch a hug.

209           TORCH (CONT'D)  
What is the meaning of this?

210           GARBLE  
I can't tell you!

Off of Ember's laugh we... FADE OUT. THE END.

**SC. 23 - INT. ROCK - CONTINUOUS**

Spike, Twilight, and Rarity watch Torch and Ember.

211           TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
You did well, Spike. With Ember as  
Dragon Lord the ponies will be safe  
and you've gained us a powerful  
ally.

212           SPIKE  
And a new friend.

213           TWILIGHT SPARKLE  
Plus, Ember said I could write to  
her any time I had questions about  
dragon culture! With this much  
information, I'll be able to write  
a whole book on dragons!!

Twilight holds up her notes (they already resemble a very thick book).

214           RARITY  
And I gained tons of ideas for a  
new line of camouflaging clothing!  
I think I'll call it camo-mod.

Rarity floats a quill to sketch a design of a bush outfit.  
This time, Twilight's nose gets tickled. They <LAUGH>.

**END**