

Distribution:

Production

Devon Cody
Jim Miller
Denny Lu
Mike Myhre
Zoe Borroz
Nicole Dubuc
Josh Haber
Jada McDermott

Discovery Family

Linda Shima Tsuno
Beth Mohammed

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

Father Knows Beast
Ep 824

LOCKED SCRIPT

Premise: Josh Haber
Outline: Josh Haber
Teleplay 1st Draft: Josh Haber
Teleplay 2nd Draft: Josh Haber
Teleplay Final Draft: Josh Haber
Teleplay Final Draft V2: Josh Haber

Hasbro Studios

Stephen Davis
Kevin Farrell
Meghan McCarthy
Eliza Hart
Leslie Wishnevski
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales
Tyla Bucher
Loretta Masters
Narae Song
Bill Cheungcp
Molly Shaffer
Emily Thompson
Michael Kelly

Hasbro Brand

Premise: March 7, 2017
Outline: March 20, 2017
Teleplay 1st Draft: April 12, 2017
Teleplay 2nd Draft: May 1, 2017
Teleplay Final Draft: May 12, 2017
Teleplay Final Draft V2: May 15, 2017
Locked Script: May 30, 2017

Jamie Cipolla
Julie Sanfilippo
Matt Riordan
Andrea Ehret
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Kristen Riley
Katherine Padilla
Brian Chapman

TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - FIELD - DAY**

TWILIGHT SPARKLE and SPIKE stand beside the lake near the School of Friendship. Twilight stands behind Spike, putting a hoof on his shoulder.

1 TWILIGHT
Okay, Spike. Now let's try a flip.
Remember, two flaps then straight
up.

2 SPIKE
Got it!

With that, Spike takes off and gives his wings two quick flaps and leans back, then immediately goes sideways and falls into the lake with a SPLASH. Off Twilight's look of consternation we see...

A series of QUICK SHOTS of several spectacular wing flaps and subsequent crashes each with a different pained/upset expression from Twilight.

TIME CUT TO:

SPIKE - Wobbling through the air, determined. Twilight calls out from the ground.

3 TWILIGHT
You're doing great, Spike. Now
let's see the big finish!

Spike tries one more time - giving two flaps, then starts to flip, but loses control, spins out and lands with a crash--digging a furrow into the ground right in front of Twilight.
[Note: This should be similar to TS's crash in MLP401]

4 SPIKE
I don't know about big, but I am
definitely finished.

Twilight struggles to help him up.

5 TWILIGHT
Maybe I should get Rainbow Dash.
She's the one who taught me
advanced flying techniques.

6 SPIKE
No thanks. If I'm going to mess up
I'd rather do it in front of you.
(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

I just don't understand why none of
your advice is helping.

Suddenly, a voice calls out from off screen.

7 SMOLDER (O.S.)
Because she's teaching you to fly
like a pony instead of a dragon.

Twilight and Spike turn to see SMOLDER who's been watching
them.

8 SPIKE
What's the difference?

Smolder looks at Spike like he's crazy. She holds up her wing
next to Twilight's.

9 SMOLDER
Well, we don't have feathers for
starters...

Off Spike's look of realization...

TIME CUT TO:

SPIKE - soaring through the air at high speed, then he stops
on a dime and FLIPS, touching down for a soft, three point
(feet & tail, obvs.) landing.

Spike rushes over to Twilight and Smolder, ecstatic.

10 SPIKE
Smolder, wow! Thank you so much.
How did you know I just needed to
bend my wings?

11 SMOLDER
Honestly, this is Dragon 101.
(with a look to Twilight)
Usually dragon parents teach this
stuff.

Off Twilight's look of concern...

SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - SPIKE'S ROOM - LATER

CLOSE ON Twilight as she knocks on the door and sticks her
head in.

12 TWILIGHT
Spike? I've been thinking about our
flying lesson.
(MORE)

TWILIGHT (CONT'D)

I can't believe I overlooked something as simple as feathers. It's no wonder you were having trouble.

We hear Spike from off screen as Twilight steps further into the room.

13 SPIKE (O.S.)
(absently)
Uh-huh.

14 TWILIGHT
I wish I had more dragon-ish knowledge to give you. Do you think being raised by ponies has affected you in other ways?

Twilight looks over, but there's no response.

15 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Spike?

PAN OVER TO REVEAL Spike who looks up from the THROW PILLOW he's embroidering.

16 SPIKE
Did you say something, Twilight? Sorry. I'm just finishing up this "Thank You" throw pillow for Smolder and you know how I get when I'm in the embroidery zone.

Off Twilight's sheepish look...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

Spike leads Smolder through the streets of Ponyville, Smolder turning the small EMBROIDERED PILLOW over in her claws, confused.

17 SPIKE
It's a pillow. But not for your head. Although it could be. It's a throw pillow. They're more casual. You can use them anywhere.
(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)
(off Smolder's look)
You don't like it.

18 SMOLDER
It's not that. It's just, outside
of a fight, dragons don't really
use pillows. At all.

19 SPIKE
Whaaat?

Spike's eyes go wide as we DOLLY-COUNTER-ZOOM into his face--
his whole understanding of the world upended as he struggles
to grapple with this information, then...

20 SMOLDER
Hey, what's that?

Spike shakes himself out of it and looks up to see a SMOKING
BALL OF FIRE careening through the sky like a meteor.

21 SPIKE
I don't know, but it's...

Both Spike and Smolder go bug-eyed with terror as they
realize the ball of fire is...

22 SPIKE (CONT'D)
...HEADING RIGHT FOR US!!!

Smolder leaps out of the way, but Spike stares, paralyzed
with fear, as the fireball continues toward him. Smolder
shouts at him from cover.

23 SMOLDER
Spike!

At the last possible second, Spike comes to and with a great
flap lifts into the air, bends both wings and FLIPS OVER THE
SPEEDING OBJECT, which crashes to the ground and forms a
crater directly where Spike was just standing.

Smolder steps out from her hiding place and Spike lands next
to her. The two of them stare over at the smoking crater.

24 SPIKE
Okay. Now I REALLY owe you for the
lesson.

The two dragons tip-toe up to the edge of the crater and look
down to see...

Another, slightly over-weight dragon (Sludge) slowly dragging himself out of the rubble. He <WINCES> in pain, then looks up at Spike and Smolder. He gives a weak <LAUGH> then <COUGHS>.

25 SLUDGE
Hey there, young dragons. <COUGH>
Name's Sludge. How are your tails
shaking? <COUGH>

Sludge wobbles to his feet with a few more <WINCES> and <COUGHS>.

26 SPIKE
Are you all right?

27 SMOLDER
Yeah. What happened?

28 SLUDGE
To what? (then, with a look back to
the crater) Oh. (defensive) I don't
need to explain myself to a couple
of baby dragons.

With that, Sludge tries to walk off, but he takes one step, and <WINCES> in pain. He grabs at his leg, but shrinks back, his arm <THROBBING>. Determined, Sludge tries to extend his wings, but even that clearly causes him distress.

29 SPIKE
Maybe not, but you're hurt and need
help, so I'm taking you to
Twilight's Castle whether you like
it or not.

Sludge struggles to limp away but stops at the mention of the word "castle."

30 SLUDGE
Castle, eh?

Off Sludge intrigued look...

SC. 4 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Sludge checks out Spike's throne as the young dragon climbs onto it. Twilight and the rest of the MANE SIX look on.

31 TWILIGHT
I'm glad Spike brought you here,
Sludge. I understand you made quite
an impression in town.

32 PINKIE PIE
Literally. There's a hole and
everything!

Sludge quickly stops looking at Spike's throne.

33 SLUDGE
Well, I hope you're not expecting
me to fix it.

Sludge tries to draw himself up and stand tall, but <WINCES>
in pain.

34 APPLEJACK
It doesn't look like you're in much
shape to do anything.

35 SLUDGE
I'll manage. Dragons take care of
themselves. I don't need help from
a bunch of castle-living ponies.

With that, Sludge turns and tries to leave, but has to stifle
<YELPS> of obvious pain with every step.

36 RARITY
Darling, do be careful.

37 SLUDGE
I'm <PAINED EFFORT> fine.

To avoid walking, Sludge tries to spread his wings, but
quickly discovers with a <SHRIEK> that that hurts even more.
Fluttershy covers her eyes.

38 FLUTTERSHY
I can't watch.

Dash rolls her eyes and flies over to Sludge to help him up.

39 RAINBOW DASH
You're not the first stubborn,
dragon we've met, you know.

Spike flies over and lands beside Dash.

40 SPIKE
But sometimes even dragons need
help.

Sludge tries to roll his eyes, but even that hurts.

41 TWILIGHT
I promise, my friends and I will
only do enough to get you back on
your claws.

Off Sludge's look of resignation...

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

In a quick series of shots we watch as each of the Mane Six chip in with Sludge's recovery:

FLUTTERSHY - tucks ANGEL BUNNY into a tiny bed with a soft pillow and blanket. She then moves to another slightly larger bed and tucks in a CUTE PIG. PULL OUT as she moves to... Spike's bed where she tucks in Sludge. Sludge's expression shifts from concern to contented as he snuggles into the cocoon of pillows and blankets.

PINKIE - stands over Sludge still in Spike's bed. Like a close-up magician, Pinkie pulls a handkerchief off of one of her hooves revealing a CUPCAKE. Sludge starts to reach for the sweet, but doing so makes him immediately pull his arm back in pain. Pinkie looks at him, considering.

RARITY - hard at work sewing as Sludge looks on, skeptical. With a flourish, Rarity finishes and we CUT TO a FLAME DESIGN done in silk and sequins. PULL OUT to reveal the design is on a sling Sludge now wears on his arm. Rarity snips away a loose thread as Sludge looks down, impressed.

PINKIE - now holds out TWO CUPCAKES. Sludge's eye's go wide as he reaches for them again - this time getting a bit further before the arm pain stops him. Pinkie's eyes narrow.

APPLEJACK - stands with Sludge on the Apple Family treadmill juice press (from MLP215). Slowly they start to walk, Sludge limping slightly. But as Sludge sees the juice press at work he picks up the pace, looking to AJ, impressed. CUT TO AJ running full out as we PAN OVER to see Sludge laying under the juice spout - drinking. He gives AJ a thumbs up.

PINKIE - now holds a giant cupcake just out of reach as Sludge struggles and sweats, trying desperately to fight the pain as he reaches, then finally drops back in bed. Pinkie nods, encouraged by the progress.

RAINBOW DASH - flying with TWO WONDERBOLTS who, struggle with Sludge on their backs. By way of example, Dash flaps her wings and tentatively Sludge flaps a bit too, lightening the Wonderbolt's load. Pleased, Sludge stops flapping and relaxes back onto the Wonderbolts who grimace under his weight once more. Sludge smiles weakly at Dash who rolls her eyes.

PINKIE - wheels in a covered cart. Spike follows. Pinkie looks to Spike and with a flourish she pulls off the cover revealing a tray overloaded with gem-covered baked goods. Sludge's eyes go wide as he reaches for the treats with his arms, no problem. As Sludge eats, Spike looks on, pleased.

END MONTAGE

SC. 5 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Sludge stands before Twilight and the others, looking more or less recovered. Spike climbs into his throne beside Twilight.

42 TWILIGHT
I know you had your reservations,
but it's good to see you feeling
better.

43 SLUDGE
(like he's trying the word
for the first time)
Thanks? I guess?

44 RARITY
That's what friends are for,
darling!

Sludge starts to leave, then turns back to Spike.

45 SLUDGE
You're pretty lucky to have friends
like these, kid.

Spike hops down from his chair and walks over.

46 SPIKE
Actually I was orphaned as an egg
and Twilight raised me, so these
ponies are more than my friends.
They're my family.

He smiles meekly at Twilight who <SIGHS>.

47 TWILIGHT
We try our best, but sometimes I
worry maybe Spike is--

48 SPIKE
--missing something deep down and
dragonish.

Sludge brightens at this.

49 SLUDGE
Really? Wow. I can't tell you how
glad I am to hear that.

50 APPLEJACK
Why in Equestria would you be glad
to hear that?

Sludge looks to Spike, excited.

51 SLUDGE
I wasn't going to say anything,
since your life seems so perfect,
but I have a confession to make.

Sludge takes a long dramatic pause.

52 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
Coming to Ponyville wasn't an
accident. I was looking for you.
(takes a breath)
Spike, I'm your father.

Spike's mouth falls open and an <UNEARTHLY, EXTENDED GASP>
comes out, but when Spike closes his mouth the GASP keeps
going.

WHIP PAN to Pinkie - the one actually making the <GASP>
sound. They all turn to her and she stops.

53 PINKIE PIE
Sorry.

Back to Spike who stares up at Sludge in shock.

54 SPIKE
My... father?

Off everypony's surprised expressions we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 6 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME

Spike and the Mane Six continue to stare at Sludge in shock.
Twilight steps forward.

55 TWILIGHT
So, you crashed in Ponyville on
purpose?

56 SLUDGE
Well, the crash part wasn't on purpose, but heading here was. (to Spike, emotional) I've been searching the whole world for you.

Sludge sits in the throne Twilight just vacated and tries to compose himself.

57 SPIKE
Did you ask in the Crystal Empire? I'm kind of well known there.

58 PINKIE PIE
Actually, Spike's well known everywhere. Not a lot of dragons were hatched by the Princess of Friendship.

They all look at Sludge who's practically holding back tears.

59 SLUDGE
Y'all make it sound so simple. I wish you'd been there to help me search.

60 SPIKE
I can't believe it. I have so many questions.

Sludge stands up quickly, instantly brightening.

61 SLUDGE
Well, ask away! Answering questions is what dads are for!

Spike thinks for a second.

62 SPIKE
I guess my biggest question is simple. Why was I an orphan egg?

Sludge's smile drops and he turns away. Emotional again, he sits in a different throne.

63 SLUDGE
You sure you don't wanna ask me something else? (then) It's a lot of painful memories...

After a dramatic pause, Sludge starts his story as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE - FLASHBACK - VARIOUS LOCALS

In a series of STYLIZED SHOTS (maybe the hand-painted look of the "Mare in the Moon" story from the pilot), we listen as Sludge talks in V.O.

64 SLUDGE (V.O.)
Your mother was the best dragon I'd
ever met.

As Sludge continues to talk we see an image of a FORMIDABLE DRAGON standing before the DRAGON LORD.

65 SLUDGE (V.O.)
The Dragon Lord even picked her to
scout for the Great Migration and
even though she just laid your egg,
we knew she'd have to go.

Another image of Spike's mother taking off, waving to Sludge and SPIKE'S EGG as she leaves them behind.

66 SLUDGE (V.O.)
But finding the Migration route
could take a lifetime and you
deserved a chance to know your mom.

Images of Sludge setting off with Spike's egg in a bindle...

67 SLUDGE (V.O.)
So I went looking for her - carried
your egg to places no dragon, or
pony, has ever been. Past the
abandoned home of the Hippogriffs,
Mount Aris--

68 PINKIE PIE (V.O.)
Oooh! Did you visit Klugetown?

<RECORD SCRATCH> as we CUT BACK TO:

SC. 7 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME

Sludge looks over at Pinkie and the others.

69 SLUDGE
You've been to Klugetown?

They all nod.

70 TWILIGHT
Also, the Hypogriffs returned to Mount Aris after we helped them defeat the Storm King. There's even one at my school.

71 SLUDGE
Oh. Well, have you heard of the Land of the Scale Collectors...?

The all shake their heads no. Satisfied, Sludge turns to Spike.

72 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
Because, that's where your mom's trail finally lead...

CUT BACK TO THE:

STYLIZED MONTAGE

With a foreboding image of FLOATING ROCK ISLANDS set among a sky of dark storm clouds.

73 SLUDGE
...to a prison world of dragon hunters...

An image of Sludge, guarding Spike's egg against a group of SHADOWY SHAPES looming over him.

74 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
...where I was forced to choose between surrendering myself, or surrendering your egg.

Finally we CUT TO an image of Sludge, sad-faced and sans egg, locked behind the bars of a deep, dark prison as we...

END MONTAGE

SC. 8 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME

We cut back from the stylized rendering of Sludge's story to Spike who stares up with rapt attention as Sludge finishes.

75 SLUDGE
Of course there's no way I was gonna sacrifice my boy, so they took me instead and that's where I've been ever since.
(MORE)

SLUDGE (CONT'D)

Locked up somewhere not even the Princess of Friendship has heard of.

76 SPIKE

Whoa! (then) How did you know I was a boy?

77 FLUTTERSHY

What ever happened to Spike's mom?

78 RAINBOW DASH

How did the egg make it all the way back to Equestria by itself?

Sludge starts to get emotional again.

79 SLUDGE

I wish I had all the answers!

He collapses onto yet another throne. The ponies all exchange looks of concern as Spike steps up and puts on claw on Sludge's shoulder.

80 SPIKE

Well, that's all in the past. The only thing that matters now is that we're together, and I'm gonna make up for lost time.

Sludge looks back at Spike, encouraged. Off Spike's reassuring smile...

SC. 9 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

Spike and Sludge walk through town, Spike looking over a scroll that's so long it drags on the ground behind them.

81 SPIKE

I hope you don't mind, but I have a list of all the things I always wanted to do with my dad.

82 SLUDGE

Mind? Spike, my boy, with you by my side, I feel like we can do anything. What do you wanna do first?

83 SPIKE

Well, that's the thing, I've kind of been working on the list for a long time...

Sludge takes the list and his eyes go wide as he looks down it and over at the paper extending off screen.

84 SLUDGE
You sure you wanna do ALL of this?

Disappointed, Spike looks down and starts to roll it up.

85 SPIKE
(disappointed)
Oh, I mean, we don't have to...

Sludge immediately stops Spike and takes the list back.

86 SLUDGE
If you think doing everything on this incredibly long list is gonna fill the hole where your dragonishness should be, then that is exactly what we're gonna do!

Off Spike's excited expression...

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

In a quick SERIES OF SHOTS we watch as Spike and Sludge do various activities together:

PLAYING BUCKBALL - Outside the Castle, Spike and Sludge play a game with Pinkie and Fluttershy. Spike gets open and Sludge makes a pass. Spike hits the ball with his tail toward the goal but Pinkie intercepts, passing to Fluttershy who sends the ball rocketing the other way until-- Sludge blasts it with his FIRE BREATH. They all stare as the ashes fall to the ground. Sludge gives a sheepish "whoops" look, but the ponies watching <CHEER>. Sludge looks to Spike and shrugs, pleased.

EXCHANGING HEARTH'S WARMING GIFTS - light, picturesque snowflakes fall on Sludge and Spike who sit in front of a huge Hearth's Warming Tree. Spike gives Sludge a present. Sludge opens it - another throw pillow. Sludge smiles. Spike looks at him expectantly. Sludge shrugs, but a hoof taps him on the shoulder. PAN OVER to reveal Rarity who gives him a present for Spike. Sludge gives it to Spike - a scarf. Spike smiles and hugs Sludge as we PULL OUT to see IT'S NOT HEARTH'S WARMING AT ALL! Dash shakes snow over them from a single, tiny cloud while outside the sun shines warmly. Even so, Spike turns to a stack of presents and gives another to Sludge. The ponies roll their eyes, but Sludge looks at the stack of presents, intrigued.

BAKING - Spike wears an apron fringed with lace as he stands at the counter working a bowl of batter with a whisk.

He looks up and we PAN over to reveal Sludge, standing beside him, also in a lacy apron. Sludge looks down at their attire, uncertain. Spike gives a thumbs up and Sludge returns it with a humoring smile. A timer <DINGS> and Sludge's eyes go wide as Spike pulls a tray of gem-covered PIES out of the oven. Sludge looks to Spike expectantly. Spike nods and Sludge dives in scarfing up the pies with abandon. He looks up at Spike, his mouth full of gems and pie, and gives a thumbs up as we...

END MONTAGE

SC. 10 - INT. CASTLE - LATER

Sludge waddles through the castle, still full of pie. Spike follows behind, dragging his super long list.

87 SPIKE
I can't believe we got so many
things done!

Spike pulls out a quill and starts checking things off.

88 SPIKE (CONT'D)
But this is all my stuff. Is there
anything you always wanted to do
with me?

Sludge stops and brushes a few bits of gem off of himself.

89 SLUDGE
Not really. (then, off Spike's
disappointed look) I mean, I'm
happy to do whatever you want, but
if I had a castle like this, with
all this stuff, I'd probably just
lay around all day doing nothing
like a real dragon.

90 SPIKE
Like a real dragon?

91 SLUDGE
Sure. I'm not surprised you don't
know any better. Twilight basically
raised you as a pony. You're barely
a dragon at all.

With that, Sludge waddles off. Spike looks after, confused.

SC. 11 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Spike walks in on Twilight going through a stack of books next to her throne. She looks up at him.

92 TWILIGHT
Hey, Spike. How are things going with Sludge?

93 SPIKE
Honestly, I thought having him around would make me feel more dragonish, but I kinda feel less.

94 TWILIGHT
I'm sorry, Spike. I wish I could help.

95 SLUDGE (O.S.)
Aw shucks...

WHIP PAN to reveal Sludge standing in the doorway, snacking from another pie tin of gems.

96 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
I guess I shouldn't have said anything about you being more pony than dragon. I just wish we had more in common.

97 TWILIGHT
Maybe you two can come up with ways to turn up Spike's dragonishness.

98 SPIKE
Do you think that's something we can do?

Sludge tosses the gem tin aside.

99 SLUDGE
You know what, son. I think it is...

<MUSIC UP> as Sludge leads Spike out. Twilight watches them leave, unsure.

SONG - CASTLE - VARIOUS

Sludge and Spike run into the GRAND HALL...

100 SLUDGE
(spoken)
Spike, I'm gonna teach you a thing
or two about being a dragon...
(sung)
Look at this castle where you live!

101 SPIKE
(spoken)
It's pretty sweet, right?

102 SLUDGE
(nods)
But you can't be a dragon here!

103 SPIKE
(spoken)
I can't?

Off Sludge shaking his head we CUT TO:

THE LIBRARY - Sludge rolls back and forth on a wheeled ladder pulling out books and tossing them into a pile.

104 SLUDGE
Look at these books up on the wall.

105 SPIKE
(spoken)
Hey, I just finished organizing
those...

Sludge flies over and lands on the pile like it's a dragon hoard.

106 SLUDGE
*This treasure pile's not right, I
fear.*

OUTSIDE - Sludge points up at the castle towering over them.

107 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
*This place is grandiose,
To ponies you're too close...*

BALCONY - Sludge and Spike stand on the high balcony looking out at Ponyville and the distant landscape as the camera pans around them a la The Hills Are Alive With the Sound of Music.

108 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
You just can't be a dragon here!

QUICK SHOTS of various spots: Spike sitting in a plush, cushioned chair;

Spike in his tux from the wedding episode in front of a full length mirror; Spike laying in his bed as Sludge jumps up and down on it.

109 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
*Your life is soft, your scales are
coiffed, There's pillows beds and
sheets.*

SPIKE - at the head of a large banquet table overflowing with food. Sludge sings as he flies past gobbling up everything in sight.

110 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
It's a delight but just not right,

Sludge - opens a door to reveal Spike at a sink, towel around his waist, brushing his teeth.

111 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
Dragons don't brush their teeth!

112 SPIKE
(spoken)
But what do I do?

Sludge grabs Spike's towel, spinning Spike as CUT TO:

Sludge - walks through a hallway, Spike's towel around his neck. Spike ducks in and out of every door they pass grabbing stuff and giving it to Sludge: food, clothes, pillows, etc.

113 SLUDGE
The fix is simple don't you fret.

Spike offers him a terrycloth bathrobe, Sludge looks at it and frowns.

114 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
(spoken)
Do you have anything in a silk?

Spike disappears through another door.

115 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
You're very lucky that I'm here.

Spike returns with a red, silk robe and Sludge nods.

116 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
(spoken)
Better.

Sludge drops everything and puts on the robe. He does a twirl and we CUT TO:

SPIKE'S ROOM - as Sludge gathers his haul around Spike's bed.

117 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
*Just give your stuff to me,
And I will help you see,
Just how a dragon would live here!*

<MUSIC CONTINUES> as Sludge climbs onto the pile.

118 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
(spoken)
There's a dragon in you Spike. I
just know it. You only need to cut
back on the pony stuff. Give it to
your old man, and I'll show what a
real dragon would do with it.

119 SPIKE
(excited)
You got it! I'm gonna go find you
the biggest pile of pony things
you've ever seen... dad.

Spike smiles up at Sludge who smiles back. Delighted, Spike rushes off while Sludge pops a few gems into his mouth.

120 SLUDGE
(spoken)
Perfect. Because...
(sung)
*This dragon can't wait to live
here!*

<BIG MUSICAL OUT> on Sludge who falls back into Spike's bed,
<LAUGHING> to himself as we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 12 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - SPIKE'S ROOM - MORNING

As before, CLOSE ON Twilight as she knocks on the door and sticks her head in.

121 TWILIGHT
Spike? I just thought I'd check to
see if you and Sludge had any luck
turning up your dragonishness.

REVERSE on the darkened room where a lump lays in Spike's bed. Twilight enters and heads over to the window.

122 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
It's hard not to feel like I've
somehow let you down all these
years...

As she magically pulls open the curtains, Twilight turns to see the lump isn't Spike at all, it's Sludge. Sludge pops open one eye and <YAWNS>.

123 SLUDGE
Hey there, Princess.

124 TWILIGHT
Oh! I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to
barge in on you.

Sludge stands and starts to stretch and scratch in various uncomfortable ways.

125 SLUDGE
Don't even worry about it. Mi casa
es su casa!

Twilight stares at Sludge's morning routine, embarrassed.

126 TWILIGHT
Right. Well, I'll just get out of
your way--

With that, Twilight hurries back into the...

SC. 13 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Where she immediately runs into Spike - who drops the armful of breakfast items he's bringing to Sludge.

127 TWILIGHT
Oh! Spike. I am so sorry. My
morning is not going well.

Spike bends down and starts picking everything up. Twilight uses her magic to help.

128 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
What is all this? Why'd you leave
the Castle so early?

129 SPIKE
I didn't leave, I spent the night outdoors to get in touch with my dragon side.

130 TWILIGHT
Outdoors?

131 SPIKE
And Sludge asked me to bring him the best breakfast Ponyville has to offer so he can show me how a real dragon would eat it. See you later!

Excited, Spike heads in leaving Twilight to stare after, curious.

SC. 14 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER

Twilight leads the rest of the Mane Six into the throne room.

132 TWILIGHT
...and that's why I thought we could use the map to--

The others all stop short. As Twilight stops to see why we...

REVEAL - Sludge lying on the map while Spike, who sits in his throne, clips and files his dad's claws. Spike looks up.

133 SPIKE
Hey gang. Dad was just showing me how a real dragon would act in the throne room.

Sludge lolls his head toward them.

134 SLUDGE
Dragons like to sprawl when they get their claws done.

135 RAINBOW DASH
Spike's never had his "claws done" in his whole life.

136 SLUDGE
Well, then it's a good thing I'm here to show him how.

Sludge sits up and blows on his freshly filed claws.

137 SLUDGE (CONT'D)
Now, if y'all will excuse me, it's
time for my bath.

With that, Sludge stands and exits. Spike looks over at his friends, pleased.

138 SPIKE
He's such a real dragon. Isn't he
the best?

139 RARITY
I'm not exactly sure that's the
word I would use.

Sludge sticks his head back in.

140 SLUDGE
Um... Spike? The bath ain't gonna
fill itself, son.

141 SPIKE
Be right there, dad!

Sludge ducks back out and with a gleeful look to his friends, Spike hurries to follow.

Off the others' looks of concern...

SC. 15 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Twilight finds Spike searching through the big pile of books that are still on the floor.

142 TWILIGHT
Hi Spike. I'm glad you're not
spending the night outside again.

143 SPIKE
Oh, I am. I'm just looking for a
good bedtime story to read to my
dad first.

Twilight magics some of the books back onto the shelves.

144 TWILIGHT
It's nice that you have somepony to
show you dragon culture, but are
you sure that's what Sludge is
doing?

Spike stops looking through the books and turns to Twilight.

145 SPIKE
What do you mean?

146 TWILIGHT
Well, taking over your room, making
a mess of things...

147 SPIKE
<PHFFT> That is dragon culture.

148 TWILIGHT
You never acted like that.

149 SPIKE
(defensive)
That's because you raised me. Now I
finally have a chance to see how
I'm supposed to be.

150 TWILIGHT
I don't think you're supposed to be
any different than who you are.

151 SPIKE
Maybe you just don't like that I
have a real parent now.

Twilight stares at Spike, clearly hurt. She tries to hide it
by busying herself with the books.

152 TWILIGHT
That's not true. I'm glad Sludge is
here. I just wish he wasn't such a--

153 SPIKE
Dragon? Of all ponies, I can't
believe you would have a problem
with that.

With that, Spike grabs a book and storms out. Off Twilight,
hurt...

SC. 16 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - FIELD - MORNING

Spike stumbles out of the trees, picking leaves and sticks
out of his scales. He looks up to see Smolder sitting by the
lake. She stares at him, curious.

154 SMOLDER
What happened to you?

155 SPIKE
Just sleeping outside like we're meant to. It's not like dragons are supposed to live in castles.

156 SMOLDER
I guess not. But I live in the school. Nothing says we have to live outside.

Spike slumps down beside her.

157 SPIKE
I'm so confused. It's been great having Sludge show me how to be a real dragon, but Twilight just doesn't get it.

158 SMOLDER
What do you mean?

159 SPIKE
She can't handle how good at being a dragon Sludge is. Maybe someday I'll be able to lay around doing nothing as well as he does.

160 SMOLDER
What?

161 SPIKE
Not now, of course. I'm too busy bringing him pony stuff so he can show me what a dragon would do with it.

162 SMOLDER
So, Sludge just lays around while you wait on him claw and tail? (off Spike's nod) Um... Dragons are rude and rebellious, but they aren't lazy lumps who take advantage of their kids.

163 SPIKE
Now I'm really confused.

164 SMOLDER
Me too. Why don't you tell me everything Sludge said about being a dragon.

Off Spike considering...

SC. 17 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - SPIKE'S ROOM - DAY

Sludge, in his silk bathrobe, eating a gem-covered-cup cake, walks into Spike's room to see Spike packing the place up.

165 SLUDGE
Hey... what's going on, son?

166 SPIKE
Twilight doesn't like having real dragons in the castle so I told her we're moving out.

Sludge <CHOKES> a little on a gem.

167 SLUDGE
You what?

Just then Smolder comes flying in through the window.

168 SMOLDER
Spike! I found the perfect cave where you two can live. There aren't even any comfortable rocks inside.

169 SPIKE
That does sound perfect.

170 SLUDGE
(panicked) No it doesn't! (then, recovering) I mean, I'm not sure I've fully demonstrated all the ways a dragon would live here.

171 SPIKE
But we're not gonna live here anymore, so it doesn't matter.

172 SLUDGE
It matters to me! I--, I want to make sure you have all the knowledge you need.

173 SPIKE
But I do! Dad, you've already shared so much...

Spike sings a <QUICK REPRISE> of the earlier song as Smolder strips the bed, then takes away Sludge's cupcake and robe.

174 SPIKE (CONT'D)
*This bed is much too soft.
Just take that silk robe off.
We can't be dragons living here!*

Spike and Smolder continue packing up, until the only thing left is a pillow that Sludge refuses to let go of. They tug of war with it for a moment until Sludge finally loses it.

175 SLUDGE
ARGH! Stop! I'm not your father!

Spike and Smolder stop, dropping the pillow. Spike stares at Sludge.

176 SPIKE
What?

177 SLUDGE
I just said that to get in on this sweet castle life.

Spike stares at Sludge, hurt.

178 SPIKE
So you pretended to be my dad?

179 SLUDGE
Don't look at me like that kid. I did what any dragon would do.

180 SMOLDER
No, you didn't.

181 SLUDGE
Hey, I saw an opportunity and I took it. That's what dragons do.

182 SMOLDER
No. It isn't.

Smolder takes a step forward and stands next to Spike, who's expression turns from pain to anger.

183 SLUDGE
You know what? I don't need this. I'm out of here. Enjoy life in pony town.

With that, Sludge takes wing and flies out the window. After a beat he ducks back in, grabs his robe and the pillow, then flies out again.

Spike walks over to the window and stares after him, still angry.

184 SPIKE
I can't believe I thought somepony
like that could show me how to be
anything.

Smolder walks up to Spike and puts a claw on his shoulder.

185 SMOLDER
It must be hard growing up not
really knowing who you are.

Spike looks to Smolder and smiles.

186 SPIKE
That's the thing. I know exactly
who I am, and how I got that way.

SC. 18 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - SOON AFTER

Spike walks in to find Twilight who's re-organizing the books that were taken down. Spike walks up, a little hesitant.

187 SPIKE
Um... Twilight?

188 TWILIGHT
Oh. Hi, Spike. Where's... your
father?

189 SPIKE
If you mean Sludge, he's gone.
Turns out he wasn't what a real
dragon should be after all. He also
wasn't my real dad.

190 TWILIGHT
Oh, Spike I'm so sorry.

Twilight flies over and gives him a hug.

191 SPIKE
I'm the one who's sorry. You were
just worried about me and I lost my
temper. Sludge was just a great big
phony.

192 TWILIGHT
I have to say I'm not surprised.
There's no way a dragon like that
was related to you.

(MORE)

TWILIGHT (CONT'D)

But if you still want to search for
your real family, I'd understand if
you spent more time in the
Dragonlands.

Spike shakes his head.

193 SPIKE
I don't think so. I already know
who my real family is.

He smiles up at her and they embrace. Then...

194 TWILIGHT
It's me right?

Spike nods, then climbs up onto a chair with a fluffy, pillow
cushion.

195 SPIKE
Besides. There's no way I'm living
without pillows.

As they share a smile we...

FADE OUT

END