

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 9

Sweet and Smoky
Ep 909

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Premise: Kim Beyer-Johnson
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Teleplay Final Draft: Kim Beyer-Johnson

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

Hasbro Brand

Jamie Cipolla
Julie Sanfilippo
Matt Riordan
Andrea Ehret
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Brian Chapman

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - DAY**

A BIRD wings past blue skies, the sun shining. We hear an OS <KNOCK> on the door.

1 SMOLDER (O.S.)
Uh, Headmare Twilight?

SC. 2 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - TEACHERS' LOUNGE - CONT.

TWILIGHT SPARKLE grades a stack of papers. Spike relaxes, and FLUTTERSHY sips tea as Smolder pokes her head in the door-

2 SMOLDER
Sorry to bug you in the teachers' lounge. Is it okay if I miss class?

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(reading/preoccupied)
Mm hm. You can make it up tomorrow.

4 SMOLDER
Actually, I'll be gone for a week.

Finally, this gets Twilight's attention. Shocked:

5 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A week? In the middle of the semester?

6 FLUTTERSHY
Is everything alright, Smolder?

Smolder looks down, kicks the ground.

7 SMOLDER
Not exactly.
(sighs, admits)
My brother's been having a hard time since I left for school. I want to go home and check on him. He's a really sweet guy, and the other dragons can be kinda rough.

8 SPIKE
(surprised)
Did you say sweet, guy, and dragon in the same sentence?

Smolder smiles and elbows Spike, friendly.

9 SMOLDER

Yeah. He's sorta like you, Spike.

Spike BLUSHES with pleasure.

10 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I'm sorry to hear about your brother, Smolder. But the Dragonlands are really far for you to go by yourself, and I'm not sure about you missing so much class...

Spike brightens with an idea--

11 SPIKE

What if she got school credit for it? Kind of like a... Kindness field trip! I'll go with her!

Smolder grins to Spike.

12 SMOLDER

Thanks! The Dragonlord is way too busy for personal problems when it's baby dragon hatching season.

Fluttershy pops into FRAME, eyes big and hopeful.

13 FLUTTERSHY

Baby dragon hatching season? All those cute little snouts poking out of those adorable little shells? Teeny tiny twitchy tails...
(hopeful to Twilight)
Can I go too?

14 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Well...You are the perfect pony to lead a kindness field trip...

The three hopeful faces are too much for Twilight.

15 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

Fine. But I'm going to expect a full report when you get back!

16 SMOLDER

How many pages?

17 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I was talking to Fluttershy. Hatching season sounds fascinating!

And on the trio's glee, we--

END TEASER**ACT ONE****SC. 3 - EXT. THE DRAGONLANDS - DAY**

Spike excitedly checks a long scroll, as he, Fluttershy, and Smolder march along. Spike has a ROLLING SUITCASE.

18 SPIKE

Okay, I made a list of what cheers me up when I'm down, so if your brother's like me, he's gonna love it! What should we do first: the "smile" song, the sharing circle, or friendship bracelet weaving?

19 SMOLDER

I'm not sure those are the kind of things my brother's gonna be into.

20 FLUTTERSHY

What *would* make your brother happy?

21 SMOLDER

Just having Spike and me accept him for who he is will make a huge difference. Dragons who appreciate his more *sensitive* side...

22 SPIKE

I got it! Showtunes!

23 SMOLDER

Yeah, no. But good try.

Lava pools bubble in the ground nearby, with NOXIOUS FUMES coming off of them. Fluttershy <SNIFFS> the air, then turns green and puts a hoof over her nose.

24 FLUTTERSHY

That's an... Interesting smell...

Smolder inhales deeply and happily.

25 SMOLDER

Aaaah...The stink of sulfur, sharp rocks under my claws... It's good to be home.

26 SPIKE

I can't wait to meet your brother, Smolder. We're gonna be best buddies, I just know it.

27 SMOLDER

He usually hangs out near here.
I'll go try find him.

Smolder flies into the air and flaps off. As she does, Spike pulls a nearly-done knitted blanket out of his rolling suitcase and gets to work with knitting needles.

28 FLUTTERSHY

Spike, do you mind if I take a peek
at the cute little baby eggs?

Spike holds up his blanket - with cute hearts on it.

29 SPIKE

No problem! I'll stay here and
finish this comfort blanket. It'll
be like a hug every time Smolder's
brother wraps it around himself.

30 FLUTTERSHY

Aw, I'm sure he'll love it, Spike.

Spike grins proudly and gets back to knitting.

SC. 4 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - HATCHING GROUND - DAY

Fluttershy trots toward a sunken plane, then peers over the edge. Her eyes grow wide and misty.

31 FLUTTERSHY

Oh my goodness...

FLUTTERSHY'S POV - the Dragonland nesting ground, filled with various dug out pits that have clusters of dragon eggs... but no other dragons.

Fluttershy moves among the eggs and bends sweetly down to one-

32 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

Good morning, little one. I've come
a long way to meet you. Did you
know there's a whole wide world out
here waiting to say hello?

33 EMBER (O.S.)

It can't answer you. It's an egg.

Fluttershy turns to see DRAGONLORD EMBER, watching her, arms crossed and skeptical/amused.

34 FLUTTERSHY

Oh! Dragonlord Ember, how nice to see you.

35 EMBER

Nice to see you too, ah...Which one are you again? The party one? Apple Dash? Or was that the country one?

Fluttershy picks up an egg and snuggles it.

36 FLUTTERSHY

Fluttershy. The one who loves creatures. Are all these yours?

Dragonlord Ember TAKES in mortified surprise.

37 EMBER

WHAT? No! None of them are. Watching over eggs is just part of the glamorous life of a Dragonlord.

38 FLUTTERSHY

I think it sounds wonderful.

39 EMBER

Yeah? Then maybe you can help.

Fluttershy smiles eagerly.

40 FLUTTERSHY

I'd love to! Just tell me what to do.

41 EMBER

I don't know! It's my first time being in charge. Dad wasn't big on sharing Dragonlord details. It's kind of a burn or be burned job.

42 FLUTTERSHY

Well, I'm sure you're doing great!

Ember leans down to examine the eggs, tapping one with her claw and frowning.

43 EMBER

Not really. The eggs should have hatched by now... But none of them have even cracked.

44 FLUTTERSHY

Oh dear... Maybe they're lonely.

Fluttershy curls her wings around the nearest eggs and leans down to them.

45 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Don't you worry. Aunt Fluttershy's here. And the Dragonlord and I are going to do everything we can to welcome you into this world!

46 EMBER
Really? How?

47 FLUTTERSHY
(smile drains, then)
I have no idea...

SC. 5 - THE DRAGONLANDS - DAY

Spike finishes the blanket, slides it off his knitting needles, and admires it.

48 SPIKE
Now *that's* a thing of beauty.

Suddenly, a DRAGON (GARBLE) SWOOPS down next to him, startling him.

49 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Whoa!

Spike is spun around as one dragon after another SWOOP down on him, their wings buffeting him in circles. Spike dizzily topples and looks up to see GARBLE, CLUMP, WHIP, and FUME circle and land, staring down at him.

50 GARBLE
Well if it isn't our little pony-friend, Spike...

51 SPIKE
That's Equestria's Official Friendship Ambassador to the Dragonlands to you. And I'm not little. I had the molt, see?

Spike stands tall and proud, flaring out his wings. Garble mocks him and the other dragons <LAUGH>.

52 GARBLE
Ooh, runt got wings! I'm soooo impressed.
(he spots the blanket)
What's that supposed to be?

Spike quickly whips the blanket behind his back.

53 SPIKE
Nothing.

Garble snatches away Spike's blanket and holds it up.

54 GARBLE
Looks like a... *baby blanket* to me.

55 SPIKE
It's not a baby blanket! It's a...
comfort blanket.

The dragons erupt in <LAUGHTER>.

56 GARBLE
Aww... Did your pony pals make it
for you with friendship and
gumdrops?

57 SPIKE
No... *I* made it. And by the way,
knitting is a lot harder than it
looks.

58 GARBLE
Check out the baby blanket, guys!
It's a lot harder than it looks!

Garble tosses the blanket above Spike's head and the others
play keep-away with it as Spike leaps up and flaps in vain to
try to grab it.

59 FUME
Bet he broke a claw and everything!

60 CLUMP
Probably bruised his scales making
it!

61 SPIKE
Give it back! That's for my friend.

The dragons <LAUGH> even harder, their laughter turning into
FLAMES. Spike leaps back from the heat of their laughter.

62 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Ow! Hey! Cut it out! You know
laugh-fire is dangerous! It can--

Garble <LAUGHS> a BLAST OF FIRE at the blanket, charring it.

63 SPIKE (CONT'D)
-- do that.

64 SMOLDER (O.S.)
Garble!

Garble quickly hands the blanket back to Spike, looking surprised.

65 GARBLE
Smolder?

REVEAL SMOLDER who looks at Garble. They both stare for a beat, then --

66 GARBLE (CONT'D)
What are you doing here?

They fist bump each other. The other dragons <MUTTER HELLOS> and exchange high fives with Smolder as well.

67 FUME / CLUMP
Hey. / Whassup.

Spike sidles over to Smolder and sotto-asides:

68 SPIKE
We better get out of here before
your brother shows up. Garble isn't
very nice to sensitive dragons.

69 SMOLDER
But... Garble IS my brother.

70 SPIKE
Your *brother*?

Spike gapes at Garble, who narrows his eyes menacingly.

71 GARBLE
Got a problem with that, ponyboy?

Spike grips the comfort blanket to his chest.

72 SPIKE
Oh, brother...

END ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

SC. 6 - DRAGONLANDS - DAY

RESUME as Spike watches Smolder and Garble - she smacks him on the back, cheerful/friendly.

73 SMOLDER
I've missed you, bro! We got a lot of fun to catch up on. There's no lava diving at school.

74 CLUMP
Good luck getting Garble to do anything.

75 FUME
Yeah, he's been so weird since you left. Hiding, and moping around...

Garble turns on his friends, flame spewing from his nostrils.

76 GARBLE
I have not!

77 CLUMP/FUME
Have so!

78 SMOLDER
Easy, guys. I learned at Twilight's school, ganging up on each other isn't half as cool as you think.

79 CLUMP
Aw, Pony school made you soft.

Smolder flares her wings menacingly and studies her claws.

80 SMOLDER
Wanna try me and find out?

Clump and Fume back down. Spike, who has been hanging back, tries to defuse tension.

81 SPIKE
So... Let's get lava diving!
Whaddya say?

Garble and his friends shoot Spike a look.

82 FUME
Better stay here, shrimp. Lava might ruin your blankie-wankie.

83 GARBLE
Nah, let the wimp tag along. Then we'll have somedragon to dunk!

Smolder steps between the dragons and Spike, defensive.

84 SMOLDER

Only gonna warn you once. Spike's my friend. You mess with him, you mess with me. Besides, he came here to hang out with YOU, Garble.

Garble looks momentarily panicked to be singled out in front of his mocking friends... Who turn on him, <LAUGHING>.

85 FUME

Awwww, how sweet.

86 CLUMP

Let's go do dragon stuff. Garble can have fun with his new *friend*.

Clump, Fume and Whip bro-punch each other, <BELCH> fire, and <LAUGH> as they fly off, leaving Garble, Smolder and Spike. Garble desperately calls after them.

87 GARBLE

But I'm not having fun! And he's not my friend!

88 SMOLDER

Just ignore them, GarGar.

89 GARBLE

(gritted teeth, pointed)
Smolder! Not in public!

90 SPIKE

Oh, it's okay to have a nickname! Sometimes I'm called *Spikey Wikey*.

Garble is torn between incredulousness and mockery.

91 GARBLE

Seriously? You're admitting this?!
(to Smolder)
I am not hanging out with him.

Smolder crosses her arms.

92 SMOLDER

Give him a chance, Garble. You guys have a lot in common.

Garble isn't happy, but he nods.

93 GARBLE

Fine. Race you to the Lava Pit.

Garble takes off (in the opposite direction his friends went). Smolder antics to follow, but Spike grabs her tail.

94 SPIKE
Wait! I thought you said your brother was sweet.

95 SMOLDER
All the tough guy stuff is just an act. He's just a big marshmallow.

96 SPIKE
Yeah...Not seeing it.

97 SMOLDER
Well, maybe a burned marshmallow. Smoky on the outside, but squishy inside. He just needs friends who can appreciate that part. Like you.
(then, worried)
You're not changing your mind about helping me cheer him up, are you?

98 SPIKE
Me? 'Course not...

Smolder smiles and flies after Garble. Spike lifts the blanket to rub it against his cheek, only to have the incinerated blanket crumble... He <SIGHS>.

SC. 7 - DRAGONLANDS - LAVA PIT - SOON

Garble looks half-annoyed and half-bummed as he stands with Spike and Smolder on the edge of the lava pit. NOTE: THE OTHER DRAGONS ARE NOT THERE.

99 SMOLDER
Okay! Lava jumping, just like old times, huh GarGar?

Garble looks directly at Spike as he answers, deadpan.

100 GARBLE
Yeah. Just like old times. Except for one little, annoying thing.

101 SMOLDER
(making the best of it)
Scales away!

Smolder JUMPS! Spike and Garble watch --

DOWN BELOW, Smolder <SPLASHES> into the fiery drink.

102 SMOLDER (CONT'D)
Come on in! The lava's fine!

GARBLE sighs, off his game. Spike gathers his courage.

103 SPIKE
Ya know, whenever I'm feeling a
little down, it always helps if I
do something with a friend.
(offers his claw)
How about we jump together?

Garble looks at Spike's hand for a beat, then perfunctorily
PUSHES Spike off the edge.

Spike <YELLS> as he plummets to HIT face first in the lava.
Smolder winces.

104 SMOLDER
Ooh. Spike...? You okay?

Spike surfaces, eyes SPINNING, face RED.

105 SPIKE
I know there must be something
worse than lava up your nose--
(SNEEZES lava)
I just don't know it is.

Then... <SPLAT!> A diving Garble cannonballs nearby, creating
a huge WALL OF LAVA that RE-DUNKS SPIKE.

106 GARBLE
(to Smolder)
Oops. My bad.

Smolder dives to bring up Spike. Spike rasps/coughs, spitting
a fountain of lava.

107 SPIKE
SWALLOWING lava. Swallowing lava is
definitely worse.

Garble turns an innocent look from Smolder and fixes Spike
with an evil glare - as Spike sinks back into the lava...

SC. 8 - DRAGONLANDS - HATCHING GROUND - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON Fluttershy, who is cuddled with several dragon eggs.
She reads them a book.

108 FLUTTERSHY

And then they all lived happily
ever after! *The end!*

(looks at the silent egg)

Time to come out, little ones.

(starts to tickle an egg)

Tickle, tickle, tickle...

(then)

Maybe you'd like a song?

REVEAL Ember who watches with a raised eyebrow.

109 EMBER

I think you might be encouraging
them to stay in. Dragons aren't
much for touchy-feely stuff.

Fluttershy wilts and lets go of the eggs she's cuddling.

110 FLUTTERSHY

Oh. I'm sorry.

But as she steps away from the eggs, they start TREMBLING.

111 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

Goodness. Why are the eggs shaking?

(brightens)

Are they finally hatching?

112 EMBER

I wish. They've been doing that for
days. I'm sure it means *something*.
But it's probably not good.

OFF Fluttershy's worried look...

SC. 9 - VARIOUS PARTS OF THE DRAGONLANDS - SOON

QUICK BEATS:

-- Garble looks dubious as he sits at a rock with a table
cloth on it. Spike, complete with his frilly apron, hosts a
tea party. He hands a cupcake to Smolder, then one to Garble.

113 SPIKE

Try this. Red velvet. Guaranteed to
brighten anycreature's spirits!

Smolder smiles and reaches for another cupcake. As she does,
Garble makes sure she's not looking before he knocks Spike's
cupcake out of his paw and stomps on it.

114 GARBLE

Feeling better already.

-- Spike, Smolder, and Garble fly through the clouds above the Dragonlands.

115 SPIKE

I don't know about you, but a change of scenery always turns my frown upside down.

Smolder grins at Spike, then flies ahead. Spike offers Garble a hopeful smile, and Garble grins back... Before grabbing Spike by the tail and flinging him into a cloud.

Spike <SPLUTTERS> as he surfaces from the cloud, upside-down indeed, wearing a comical wig and moustache of cloud.

116 SPIKE (CONT'D)

(mutters to himself)

I will be the bigger dragon. I will be the bigger dragon.

-- Spike, Garble, and Smolder sit on rocks, facing each other. Garble glares, but Smolder listens as Spike says--

117 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Sometimes just hearing what someone appreciates about you can make you feel better about yourself.

118 SMOLDER

I'll go first. Spike, I think it's really nice that you're trying to cheer up GarGar.

Garble crosses his arms and rolls his eyes.

119 SPIKE

Thanks, Smolder. My turn. I like how you always let everycreature know how you're feeling, GarGar.

Garble rages at Spike, flames coming out as roars:

120 GARBLE

ONLY SMOLDER GETS TO CALL ME THAT!

At the same time, Spike ducks behind the rock. He peeks out, his head sooty/comically charred.

121 SPIKE

(wheeze)

Thank you for speaking your truth.

SC. 10 - DRAGONLANDS - LAVA DAM - DAY

Clump, Whip and Fume are working together to PRY a BOULDER from a DAM of boulders. As they do, a GUSH OF STEAMING LAVA pours from the dam, making a river of heat.

122 CLUMP
More fresh lava, comin' up!

Meanwhile, Spike determinedly leads Smolder and Garble past the dragon teens, doing his best to ignore them.

123 SPIKE
Okay, NEW activity. Who wants to make vision boards?

124 FUME
Hey, Garble! Smolder! Surf's up!

The dragons pry flat rocks up and toss them on the flow of lava, surfing it with their "boards".

125 GARBLE
Let me show you how it's done!

Garble rips a chunk of flat rock up and runs for the flow, spinning Spike in a circle as he races past. Spike sits down hard. Smolder grins as her brother surfs the lava. She turns to Spike and beckons--

126 SMOLDER
You coming?

127 SPIKE
I'll...Catch up with you.

Smolder shrugs and heads off.

Spike sighs, watching as Smolder catches a good lava wave that takes her surfing far from the others. While he watches, Fluttershy hurries up to him.

128 FLUTTERSHY
Spike! There you are! For a land that's all rocks, this place is surprisingly easy to get lost in.

129 SPIKE
Hey, Fluttershy. How are the baby dragons doing?

130 FLUTTERSHY
The eggs won't hatch! They just keep shaking.
(MORE)

FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

I'm starting to think the dragons are too scared to come out. I was hoping you could help... If you're not too busy cheering up Smolder's brother.

131 SPIKE

Not a chance. Smolder's brother is GARBLE. The only thing that cheers him up is to make me miserable.

As Fluttershy gapes at this surprising reveal, Garble and his pals, (no Smolder - she's stills surfing) amble back up.

132 GARBLE

Hey, Spike! Wanna play lava ball?

He hurls a wadded ball of lava. Spike dodges it, narrowly missing getting beaned. Spike turns to Fluttershy.

133 SPIKE

(to Fluttershy)

I rest my case.

Fluttershy looks appalled. She turns to the dragons--

134 FLUTTERSHY

Excuse me... But that's not a very nice game.

The dragons ignore Fluttershy's mild protests and keep throwing lava balls at Spike. He barely dodges them.

Fluttershy's eyes narrow, and she bellows forcefully:

135 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

ENOUGH!

The dragons stop, startled.

136 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

(her usual self)

I mean, leave my friend alone, please. Spike came all this way to cheer up Garble, which was a very kind thing to do.

Fume smiles mockingly to Garble.

137 FUME

Awww, do you need cheering up?

138 CLUMP

What's wrong, Garble? Did
somedragon hurt your wittle
feewings?

Garble is flustered and defensive.

139 GARBLE

No! I don't know what she's talking
about. Spike's the one who's gonna
cry!

Smolder calls from the lava--

140 SMOLDER (PARTIAL O.S.)

HEY! Are we lava surfing or what?

Garble looks relieved to have an out.

141 GARBLE

Yeah! Let's go hang with a REAL
dragon. Not a pony wanna-be!

Garble flaps off with his friends.

142 SPIKE

See? It's no use. <sigh> Why
don't I see what I can do about the
eggs, and you cheer up Garble. At
least he listens to you...

Fluttershy watches the dejected Spike head off for a beat,
before turning in Garble's direction. Determined:

143 FLUTTERSHY

Just you wait, Garble. You're
dealing with Fluttershy now. And
she's packing a whole lifetime of
kindness.

As she starts off...

SC. 11 - DRAGONLANDS - HATCHING GROUND - DAY

Ember holds a shivering egg. Somewhat desperate, she tries:

144 EMBER

Tickle, tickle, tickle -

Spike brightens to see his longtime friend.

145 SPIKE

Hi Ember! Uh, what are you doing?

Ember startles and nearly drops the egg.

146 EMBER
SPIKE!
(recovering)
Shouldn't you be doing whatever it
is you do at Twilight's school?

147 SPIKE
I wish. It's a long story.

The eggs are now trembling so hard, one tips over. Spike
steps INTO ONE OF THE PITS to get a closer look.

148 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Wow. These eggs really do look
scared.

Then Spike notices something. He puts his hands on the pit
ground, then lays his cheek against it.

149 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Wait - aren't the hatching grounds
supposed to be hot?

150 EMBER
Of course! There's a lake of
molten lava under them. That's why
the eggs are laid here - the heat
makes them hatch!

151 SPIKE
Then something's wrong. I don't
think the eggs are shaking 'cause
they're afraid - they're cold.

Ember moves to kneel in the pit next to Spike, feeling the
ground. Shocked.

152 EMBER
You're right! But what happened to
the lava?

153 SPIKE
(realizes)
I might have an idea...

SC. 12 - DRAGONLANDS - ROCK PILE - DAY

Fluttershy searches the Dragonlands.

154 FLUTTERSHY
Gaaaaarble? Smolder? Is any
dragon there?

She turns in surprise as she hears <BONGO DRUMS> coming from behind a large rockpile nearby.

155 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Oh my. Are those... *bongo drums*?

Fluttershy starts to weave her way through the rock pile as --

156 GARBLE (O.S.)
Fire, dragon, wig and wagon...
Feelin' like I be saggin'...

Fluttershy hears the <BONGOS> again. She steps around a rock pile, pulls up short, gaping.

It's Garble, wearing a beret, drums on his lap. Smolder proudly listens nearby. She <SNAPS> her fingers, grooving.

157 SMOLDER
Oh yeah, I dig!

158 GARBLE
Ragin' lava, *balaclava*...

159 FLUTTERSHY
Garble?!

Garble whirls to see Fluttershy. He quickly tears off his beret and tosses his drums aside, then smiles weakly.

Off Fluttershy's shock...

SC. 13 - DRAGONLANDS - LAVA DAM - DAY

CLOSE ON Clump as he removes another boulder, releasing a gush of lava that pours out into a small "hot tub" area. Clump joins Whip and Fume as they relax in the steam.

160 SPIKE (O.S.)
See?

REVEAL SPIKE AND EMBER who stand at the river's edge.

161 SPIKE (CONT'D)
I wondered where that lava was coming from. They must be draining it from the underground lake!

Ember <SNARLS> and flies over to the teen dragons.

162 EMBER
Put that rock back! Immediately!

The dragons cower, but all quickly obey.

163 CLUMP
Yes, Dragonlord Ember!

164 EMBER
How long have you been removing
those boulders?

They look at each other, guilty.

165 CLUMP
A while?

166 FUME
It made our lava pools so nice and
warm-like.

Ember fumes, barely controlling her temper.

167 EMBER
It's supposed to be heating the
eggs! Now they'll never hatch!

And on this horrible realization...

END ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

SC. 14 - DRAGONLANDS - LAVA DAM - RESUME

The young dragons share a worried look.

168 CLUMP
Sorry, Dragonlord Ember!

169 FUME
We'll put the lava back!

The dragons comically try to push the flowing lava back into
the rock, to no avail.

170 SPIKE
I don't think it works that way.
(to Ember)
The hatching grounds can't be the
only warm place in the Dragonlands.
There's got to be somewhere else we
can take the eggs.

171 EMBER
You know how fragile those things
are? No way we'll be able to move
them all safely.

Ember snarls to the young dragons.

172 EMBER (CONT'D)
YOU! Go and bring all the dragons
to the hatching grounds. We'll
have to make the heat ourselves.

The Dragons look chagrined, but they nod and fly off.

SC. 15 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - ROCKPILE - DAY

Garble steps menacingly toward a still-stunned Fluttershy.

173 GARBLE
What do you think you're doing
sneaking around here, Pony?

174 FLUTTERSHY
Sneaking? It looks to me like the
only one sneaking around is you,
Garble. Why didn't you tell me you
were a poet?

175 GARBLE
I'm not!

Fluttershy picks up the bongos and beats out her own poem -

176 FLUTTERSHY
Words, rhythm, sometimes rhyme..
Weird punctuA--tion... Sure sounds
like poetry to me.

Garble looks horrified/angry. Smolder puts a calming claw on his shoulder.

177 SMOLDER
It's okay, GarGar. Fluttershy won't
think you're soft for being a
poet... And neither would anydragon
who was your real friend.

178 GARBLE
(hesitates, then)
Okay, fine... but I'm not a flowery
namby pamby poet.
(snatches back the drums)
I'm a beat poet...dig?

He beats a <COOL RHYTHM> on the drums.

179 FLUTTERSHY
I totally feel you.

180 GARBLE

And you better not tell my friends about it.

Fluttershy looks surprised by this.

181 FLUTTERSHY

But...Why? If I was a poet, I'd want to share my creations with everypony.

182 SMOLDER

I'm the only one Garble will perform for. He hasn't written any poetry since I left. That's why he's been so sad.

183 GARBLE

I NEED to create! But if the other dragons ever found out I like this junk, they'd make fun of me. Forever.

A realization dawns for Fluttershy, and she turns to Garble--

184 FLUTTERSHY

Is that why you pick on Spike - to make your friends think you're tough?

Smolder frowns at Garble.

185 SMOLDER

Wait. You've been picking on Spike?

Garble shifts from foot to foot, guilty.

186 GARBLE

Only when you're not looking.
(then, defensive)
But if I didn't pick on Spike they'd just pick on me... And he is kind of a weakling.

187 FLUTTERSHY

Hmph! I'll have you know Spike is STRONGER than you are. Any day!

Garble is amused by this.

188 GARBLE

Yeah, right. That little cupcake making, blanket-cuddling pony-dragon? Gimme a break.

Fluttershy stands her ground and schools Garble.

189 FLUTTERSHY

First of all, there's nothing WRONG with being a pony. Second, Spike isn't afraid to be who he is, no matter WHAT you... or anycreature thinks. That's REAL strength... Not like somedragons I know.

Smolder nods, reluctantly impressed.

190 SMOLDER

For a pony without a horn, she's sure got a point.

Garble hangs his head -- their words sinking in. Just then Spike rushes up.

191 SPIKE

I've been looking all over for you guys. We need your help! Hurry!

Before he can explain, Spike rushes off. As they follow -

SC. 16 - DRAGONLANDS - HATCHING GROUND - DAY

A LARGE GROUP OF DRAGONS blast fiery breath toward the eggs.

Smolder, Spike, Garble, and Fluttershy (carrying the bongos) hurry up to Ember. She frowns and shakes her head.

192 EMBER

I've ordered everydragon to warm up the eggs, but they still won't hatch. I don't know what else we can try.

193 SPIKE

We can't give up! There's got to be something we can do.

Clump slides his teen buddies a look.

194 CLUMP

(sarcastic)

How 'bout we wrap the eggs in a bunch of baby blankets?

195 FUME

Yeah! The wimp can knit 'em up real quick-like.

The teens <CRACK UP> loudly. Spike jerks back from the heat of their laughter.

196 SPIKE
Hey! Watch it! That laugh-fire
could burn somepony!

Watching closely, Garble suddenly gets an idea.

197 GARBLE
Burn! Good idea, Spikey Wikey.

Garble fiercely whips out his beret and grabs the bongos. He drums a <VIGOROUS BEAT>. The dragons turn in surprise as--

198 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Eggs. Come. Burst into that light.
Break through shells that... bind!

At first, Spike is stunned, but quickly begins to <SNAP> out the rhythm, lost in this unexpectedly cool-cat Garble poem.

199 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Break free. Explore! Stuck...
between... rock... and harrrrrrrd place!

A pregnant pause. Then... the dragons burst into <HUGE FIREY GUFFAWS>. Spike and Smolder recoil from the heat.

200 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Freedom. Come. Don't be shy. Look
those others in the eye.

The Dragon <LAUGH> even louder. Their laughing pushes more flame from their bellies, and it spews from their mouths to surround the eggs. Encouraged, Garble continues, even louder.

201 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Stake your claim. Don't stop, just
do! Be the one and only you!

202 FLUTTERSHY
Spike, look --

Eggs are beginning to <CRACK> in the extra heat!

203 SPIKE
Their laugh-fire is so hot, it's
hatching the eggs!

204 GARBLE
Come to light. Proud to be. Open
up! Bam! Be... **FREE!**

Suddenly, one by one, dozens of baby dragons break free of their shells! The dragons stop laughing to stare in awe.

205 SMOLDER
You did it, GarGar! You performed
in front of other dragons!

206 FUME
And it was SUPER-LAME. What kind of
weakling writes poetry?

And then, Ember flies above them. LOUDLY--

207 EMBER
The HERO of the Dragonlands, that's
who.

The dragons instantly quiet. Smolder steps forward.

208 SMOLDER
Yeah! Garble saved our eggs because
he was strong enough to be who he
is, whether you liked it or not.
(to the dragons)
I grew up thinking it was okay to
make fun of differences.
(re Spike and Fluttershy)
But my friends have taught me to
celebrate them!

The Dragonlord raises her scepter. It glows as she proclaims--

209 EMBER
And from now on, in *my* kingdom,
that's exactly what we will do!
(then, to Garble)
Now, if you don't mind, can you
teach me how to write poetry like
that? It's pretty cool.

210 GARBLE
(stunned, but thrilled)
Uh, yeah... sure, no problem.

The young dragons make a 180, mobbing Garble, sudden fanboys.

211 FUME / CLUMP
Yeah, me too! / I wanna learn!

Spike blocks them, like a bouncer.

212 SPIKE
Take a number, guys.

REVEAL FLUTTERSHY, arms full of adorable baby dragons.

213 FLUTTERSHY
I'll take them all!

END.

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