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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II

"Giving Dangerously"

Episode 210

Outline by
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TEASER

Twilight's trying to study, but Spike keeps distracting her with delirious giggling. She demands to know what's going on, and he explains by donning white gloves and bringing in a stunning, deep-red gemstone that seems to be glowing from the inside. It's an extremely rare, extremely delicious, fire ruby that he's been aging for months so it'll be ready to eat on his birthday next week. Just then, Rarity drops by to borrow a book about historical fashion ("Taffeta capes are going to make a huge comeback this season!") and notices the fire ruby, which Spike has set out so it can "breathe." She can't believe how beautiful it is, lamenting that she'll only have one week to appreciate the gorgeous stone.

Though he's been looking forward to eating it for ages, Spike decides to give it to her instead. "Sure, I could eat it... and probably have the most incredible dining experience of my life... but you should have it. It was meant for you, Rarity." At first, she says she simply can't accept; it's just too generous. But Spike keeps insisting she have it, and she finally gives in. She's so moved by the gesture, by Spike's incredible generosity, that she gives him a peck on the cheek, hugging her gem tightly as she dances out of the Library. Twilight tells Spike she's impressed by his kindness; she's never seen Rarity so happy. "I've never been so happy either," he says, in a daze. "I'll never wash this cheek again."

ACT I

Spike's birthday has arrived! He and Twilight busy themselves around the Library, making the final preparations for his party. "Everything looks great, Twilight!" She eyes him with disgust. "Not quite everything." REVEAL Spike's cheek, the one Rarity kissed, which hasn't been washed since and is now covered in a week's worth of grime. "Tell ya what, Spike, why don't I give you an early gift before anypony else arrives." Spike happily tears into the package! "A *washcloth*?!" Twilight snatches the cloth and chases Spike around the Library, vowing to clean his filthy cheek. A wrestling match breaks out, with Twilight finally managing to clean Spike's face, despite his struggling.

"Uh... happy birthday?" say Spike's confused friends as they find him pinned underneath Twilight. But Spike quickly forgets all about his cheek when he sees the gifts his friends brought. "Are those for me?" This is his first birthday since moving to Ponyville, and he's used to getting only one present each year from Twilight. His birthday gets even better when Rarity takes off her fancy new taffeta cape to reveal a necklace she's made out of the fire ruby Spike gave her. "I wear it always to remind me of the incredible generosity of my sweet, giving, adorable little Spikey-Wikey." Rarity's attention has already made this the best birthday ever, and Spike hasn't even gotten to the gifts yet! He opens each gift, effusively and politely thanking the pony who gave it to him. Still, when he reaches the bottom of the pile, he can't help feeling a little disappointed that there are no more left to open. But even though the party may be over, Pinkie Pie keeps Spike's birthday fun alive by telling him that the Cakes have a birthday surprise for him.

Spike heads to Sugarcube Corner where he's presented with a special birthday cupcake! First, multiple presents, and now a free cupcake! What a day! On his way out, he runs into Cheerilee, headed home from the market. In his excitement, he offhandedly mentions that it's his birthday. "Happy birthday!" she says, rooting through her shopping and finding a gift for him.

Spike's head is spinning. All he had to do was mention his birthday and the Cakes and Cheerilee gave him a gift. He makes his way through town testing out his birthday powers. The first pony he approaches gives him a gift, but the second pony only says, "happy birthday!" and keeps walking. Confused, Spike innocently harasses the poor pony until she finally gives him a gift. Eventually, he ends up openly soliciting for gifts. "Hey, Junebug! It's my birthday, aren't you going to give me something?" "Uh, I don't have anything." "How about those flowers? I'll take those." Twilight comes upon this scene and is aghast. "Spike! You're being really greedy! Getting gifts from ponies is one thing, but you can't go around demanding them!" Spike snaps out of his gift-seeking tunnel vision. He apologizes, saying he got caught up in the birthday gift vibe and lost control for a moment. But the moment Twilight leaves, a devious smile grows across his face and he races off to harass another pony for a present...

The following morning, Twilight discovers something strange. There's a big pile of junk in the spot where Spike's bed usually sits. From underneath the hoard of stuff, she hears the faint sound of snoring. She starts to dig. "I can't believe you, Spike! Where did you get all this... garbage..." Her voice trails off when she sees...

The strange, snoring creature under the pile of junk is definitely Spike, but something has happened to him. He's lost some of his chubby cuteness, his limbs are long and gangly, and he has huge dark circles under his eyes. He mumbles, "Wha' happened?"

ACT II

"What's happening to me, Twilight?!" asks a frantic Spike, looking at his longer arms and legs with confusion and panic. Twilight tries to help him reconstruct the rest of his birthday for clues, but Spike keeps getting distracted by her possessions. "You don't really want that globe anymore, right?" Twilight becomes concerned, not only by his appearance, but also his strange, greedy behavior. She decides to take him to the doctor to get him checked out.

Unfortunately, the only one in the office today is the ponyatrician, the baby specialist, who talks to Spike in a little baby voice: "Little dwagon want a tweat?" She hands him a lollipop, which he greedily snatches. The doctor does her best, but ultimately she can't help. Dragons are just too different from ponies. Maybe Twilight should try the vet. On their way out, Spike cleans out the rest of the lollipop bowl. Then he pops back in and grabs the bowl itself.

The vet inspects Spike stem to stern. “Well, I’m flummoxed. I’ve never even seen a real, live dragon before.” He pats Spike on the head like a dog and tells him to sit. Then he offers a biscuit, which makes the increasingly oafish-looking Spike start to pant. Twilight, frustrated, turns to go, but Spike won’t leave, snatching up every treat in sight. So she throws a leash on him and drags him away before he totally cleans the vet out.

She takes him to see Zecora, who does a bizarre, witch-doctory inspection. “It doesn’t look good, this much is understood.” She explains that greed makes dragons start to mature. The more they want, the more they get. The more they get, the more they grow. The more they grow, the more they want. She warns that if Spike’s greed goes unchecked, he’ll grow out of control and become a giant, hording monster! Twilight asks what she can do, but Zecora tells her that growing big and greedy is a perfectly normal part of dragon maturation, and as far as she knows, there’s no cure for it. If Twilight wants to stop the growing process she just needs to keep Spike out of situations where his greed can manifest itself. PULL OUT TO REVEAL that Spike is gone, and so is all of Zecora’s stuff!

Twilight races back to Ponyville and discovers that the Spike situation has gone from bad to worse! Not only is getting physically bigger, he’s also getting more animalistic. Instead of sweet and innocent, he now grunts out words in a low growl as he goes around town demanding ponies’ things. Twilight manages to lure Spike back to the Library, locking him in a small reading room where he can’t possibly be greedy. After awhile, she goes to check on him, and discovers that he’s cleared everything off the shelves and piled it up in the middle of the room, sitting atop the pile like a king. So Twilight strips the room of everything and closes him back in. When she hears glass break and goes to check on him, he’s gone! To add insult to injury, he’s taken all the wallpaper off the walls!

Twilight enlists Applejack and her trusty lasso help to bring down the lanky, brutish Spike, who is now too big for one pony to handle. They rope him, but he bolts, dragging them all over town. Finally, they manage to get him under control, frantically trying to tie him to an apple tree. As ropes fly and confusion reigns, Applejack and Twilight manage only to tie themselves to the tree while Spike runs free! Luckily, Rainbow Dash hears their calls for help and swoops in for a good laugh. But when Twilight explains how dire the situation is, Rainbow Dash quickly unties them. “How are we gonna find him?” They hear a horrible scream in the distance. “Something tells me he’s over there.”

The three race to Fluttershy’s cottage, but she’s nowhere to be found. “I’m up here!” she says from way up in a tree. She flies down and explains how a big, rampaging dragon stormed through, stole her chicken coop, and filled it up with a bunch of junk he was carrying. Just then, another scream echoes in the distance. “That sounded like Pinkie Pie! Come on!”

Pinkie Pie cowers on a high shelf in the destroyed sweet shop, throwing cupcakes to

keep the barely-recognizable Spike at bay. Twilight and the others arrive, and she tells Pinkie to stop. Spike's greed is controlling him, and the more cupcakes she gives him, the worse it gets! Spike swipes the rest of the cupcakes out of Pinkie Pie's hooves, then smashes right through the wall! Twilight is forlorn. "What are we gonna do?!"

Rarity, meanwhile, is putting the finishing touches on a new trendy retro cape. She stands in front of the mirror admiring it, unaware of the giant dragon hand that reaches in and takes a button. "That's odd. Where did my button go?" While she's searching for it, the dragon hand reaches in again and takes a length of ribbon. Rarity turns to grab the ribbon, and that's gone too. She's absolutely baffled, oblivious to the giant dragon eye that appears in the window behind her. "I don't understand. It's as though my buttons and ribbon grew legs and walked off on their own—OOP!" This time, the dragon hand grabs her, yanking her right out of the boutique! Rarity lets out a terrified scream. She's completely helpless (despite looking fabulous in her new cape), caught in the clutches of a massive, building-sized dragon!

ACT III

Open on Ponyville's blaring emergency siren. Suddenly, a meaty dragon hand reaches in and snatches it right off its post!

The town is in the grips of mass hysteria! Spike, now a full-sized dragon, has Fluttershy's chicken coop full of stuff in one hand and the screaming Rarity in the other. He's lost all of his Spikeness, knocking over buildings and scooping up anything in sight with the chicken coop. He roars when he realizes his coop is full, so he sets his sights on a bigger container: a water tower! He cracks it off its base and dumps out the water, causing a flash flood in the streets of Ponyville. Then he sets out to fill it with stuff. Rarity, meanwhile, has no idea that her dragon captor is actually Spike; she thinks she's been captured by a rogue dragon, and screams her head off accordingly.

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy suddenly swoop in, buzzing figure-8s past the dragon's head like mosquitoes, shouting at him in a good cop/bad cop routine. "Don't worry, Rarity! We'll save you!" "PUT HER DOWN RIGHT NOW!" "If you wouldn't mind, that is!" "I MEAN IT, SPIKE!" "We'll be ever so grateful if you'd be so kind as to possibly consider—" "DROP HER, SCALEY!!" Spike swipes at the crisscrossing pegasi with the hand holding Rarity, catching them in her cape like a net. The cape tears free and they plummet to the ground!

Suddenly, the dragon Spike gets a woozy look on his face and belches up a scroll. A giant scroll. It slams to the ground, causing a tidal wave to soak the ponies. It rolls open and Twilight reads it: "My dearest Twilight Sparkle, what in Equestria is going on in Ponyville?! Are the rumors of a rogue dragon true? I've dispatched the Wonder Bolts to find out—" Spike's hand reaches in and swipes the scroll. "Hey! I wasn't finished with that!"

Just then, the Wonder Bolts scream heroically through the sky, zipping around Spike like fighter pilots. He roars in annoyance and starts climbing a nearby mountain to get away. As the Bolts coordinate their attacks, Spike stashes his water tower full of stuff in a mountain cave. He scoops the Bolts up with the empty water tower, then jams it into the side of the mountain, trapping them inside like insects.

Spike lets out a triumphant roar. Rarity, meanwhile, has had enough. “Oh, be quiet! I demand that you put me down right this instant! Dragons are not supposed to be in Ponyville. You need to take your things and go!” Spike leans in to roar in her face, but something stops him. It’s the fire ruby necklace Rarity’s wearing, exposed now that her cape is gone. He sniffs it, licking his lips with greed. “Oh no! You’re not getting this gemstone! This was given to me by my dear friend Spikey-Wikey! He’s not at all like you! He’s the kindest, sweetest, most generous dragon ever! And it means too much to me to let you have it!”

We ZOOM INTO Spike’s head as he flashes back to the moment he gave Rarity the gem, to the look of joy on her face and how good that made him feel, and finally the kiss on the cheek. We ZOOM OUT of his remembrance, and his giant dragon hand goes to his cheek. His heart has been touched by how good it felt to give Rarity the gem, so...

ZOOP! He instantly shrinks back to regular size! “Spike!” “I’m so sorry, Rarity! I don’t know what got into me! I guess I just got consumed by greed and I couldn’t stop, but the feeling I got when I gave you that gem was way better than anything I got from hoarding all that stuff!” “Uh, that’s great, Spike, but...” She points down. They’re floating in mid-air. “Oops.”

Spike and Rarity plummet down the side of the mountain toward Ponyville below! “Somepony do something!” shouts Pinkie Pie. Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy, finally untangled from Rarity’s cape, fly in and catch Rarity and Spike in it like a net! “See Twilight? My cape is fashionable and functional!” Now that the threat is over, she tells Spike she’s proud of her little Spikey-Wikey for breaking out of his greed, and gives him another kiss on the cheek. His eyes go starry...

TIGHT ON Spike’s tiny dragon hands as he writes a letter to the Princess. He says he got more satisfaction in giving Rarity the gem than from anything he took during his greed rampage. Being kind and generous with people leads to true friendship, and that’s more valuable than all the treasure in the world!

As we slowly PULL OUT, Spike adds that there is one thing he received that he’d never, ever give back. REVEAL that he has placed an ornate picture frame around his recently kissed cheek, preserving it under glass.