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MY LITTLE PONY II

"Dragon Quest"

EP 221

Written by

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TEASER

INT. FLUTTERSHY'S COTTAGE

Rainbow Dash is pulling and pushing on Fluttershy, trying to get her closer to the door while Twilight tries to reason with her.

1 TWILIGHT
(COAXING)
C'mon Fluttershy, it'll be fun.

2 FLUTTERSHY
(TERRIFIED)
There's nothing fun about dragons! Scary, yes! Fun, no!

3 TWILIGHT
But Fluttershy! The Great Dragon Migration happens once in a generation. This is the only opportunity we'll ever have to see it. Do you really want to pass up a chance like that?

Rainbow Dash has almost got her to the front door.

4 FLUTTERSHY
Now that you put it that way...YES!

Fluttershy pulls hard back away from the door. Rainbow Dash follows her and starts pushing her toward the door again.

5 TWILIGHT
Aw, Fluttershy. We just don't want you to miss out.

6 FLUTTERSHY
(QUAKING IN HER BOOTS)
Miss out on what? DRAGONS! Big, scaly, fire-breathing Dragons?

7 TWILIGHT
Well... yeah.

8 FLUTTERSHY
Thanks, but no thanks.

Fluttershy tries hard to pull away from Rainbow Dash, but Rainbow Dash runs around and blocks her path.

9 RAINBOW DASH
Look Fluttershy, I watched that boring butterfly migration with you so now it's your turn to watch the dragon migration with me. You owe me!

On the last word, Rainbow Dash tries to push Fluttershy completely out the door, but Fluttershy freaks out. She spreads her four legs wide so she is wedged in the open door.

10 FLUTTERSHY
I SAID **NO**!

Fluttershy finds a strength she didn't know she had and turns on Rainbow Dash.

Twilight watches in astonishment as A LARGE FIGHT CLOUD ROLLS AROUND THE ROOM.

After a beat, Fluttershy bolts out of the cloud to off screen. The DUST SETTLES and we see Rainbow Dash laying on the ground, much the worse for wear.

11 RAINBOW DASH
(EMBARRASSED AND IN SHOCK)
Okay, I guess I'll let you off the hook this time.

ACT ONE

EXT. TRENCH - MORNING

There is a long trench dug out in front of the Library. One by one, Twilight, Rainbow Dash, Apple Jack and Pinkie Pie POP their heads over the edge of the trench and look around. They are each wearing camouflage outfits and hats.

12 TWILIGHT
I don't see any dragons.

13 APPLE JACK
Me neither.

14 PINKIE PIE
Me neither, neither.

15 RAINBOW DASH
Shoot! You don't think we missed 'em, do you?

16 TWILIGHT
No, I don't think so. We're just a little early and I'm glad we are. This way we can watch every moment of the Migration without bringing any unwanted attention to ourselves.

17 RARITY (O.S.)
(Loudly)
Yooo-hooo!

All the ponies turn around to look at Rarity, who is wearing a fashionable version of camouflage and looks ridiculous. The bright colors and abstract patterns do not blend in with her surroundings.

18 RARITY (CONT'D)
Well, what do you think? Am I the toast of the trench or what?

19 APPLE JACK
You'll be toast alright. When the dragons see you parading around in that get up.

20 TWILIGHT
You look very nice, Rarity. But could you maybe look nice down her in the trench with us?

Rarity walks down some steps into the trench like she is on a fashion show catwalk.

21 RARITY
Nice is an understatement...I look fabulous! Who says camouflage has to be drab!

Pinkie Pie suddenly points up to the sky.

22 PINKIE PIE
Ahoy Mateys! Dragons Hoh!

All the ponies look up to see a truly amazing sight. Dozens and Dozens of Dragons blanket the sky far above them, flying in perfect formation.(Like a squadron of B-52 Bombers.)

23 PONIES
(IN UNISON)
Ooooo...Ahhhhhh.

One of the dragons drops out of formation and takes a brief dip towards the ground to do a loop before rejoining the rest. Even with the drop in altitude, it is still high up in the sky. But the sudden change spooks the ponies a little bit and they all skooch down a little lower in the trench.

24 TWILIGHT
Wow. Amazing.

25 RAINBOW DASH
(scoffing)
Pfft! Pretty lame move. Is that all they got?

Suddenly one of the dragons breathes fire and a long tongue of flame shoots out. The ponies all skooch down a little lower. Rainbow goes lower than the rest.

26 APPLE JACK
What do you think of that 'move', Rainbow Dash? Still think they're lame?

27 RAINBOW DASH
Uh... not so much. The word 'fierce' comes to mind.

28 RARITY
And 'formidable'.

29 PINKIE PIE
And 'superduperscary'!

30 VOICE (O.S.)
Yeah, us dragons are definitely a force to be reckoned with!

We reveal Spike in a frilly apron walking along behind the ponies in the trench, pushing a little breakfast cart with assorted pastry and tea.

Rainbow Dash LAUGHS at the way Spike is dressed.

31 RAINBOW DASH
(still laughing)
Yeah, right, Spike. That's one of the scariest *aprons* I've ever seen!

Spike looks down a his frilly apron...

32 SPIKE
What's wrong with wearing an apron? You won't be laughing when *you* spill blueberries all over *your* scales-er... feathers. That's one tough stain.

33 RAINBOW DASH
One tough stain against one LAME dragon! <Laughing>

Rarity steps up next to Spike and throws her hoof around his shoulders.

34 RARITY
You leave him alone, Rainbow Dash! Spike's style is unique. He doesn't have to look like other dragons!

35 TWILIGHT
Or act like them.

36 RARITY
My little Spikey-Wikey is perfect the way he is.

37 SPIKE
I don't act like other dragons?

38 PINKIE PIE
(meaning well)
Oh, not even close.

39 APPLE JACK
But why would you want to, Spike?

40 RARITY
Yes. You've got something that those dreadfully fierce dragons can only dream of.

41 SPIKE
(hopeful)
What's that?

42 RARITY
(baby voice)
The cutest little chubby cheeks!!

Spike starts to turn red.

43 SPIKE
Cute? Dragons aren't supposed to be cute!

44 RARITY
Sweetie, you are turning the most delightful shade of red. It's most becoming.

Spike realizes that everypony is staring at him. He runs off in frustration/embarrassment/anger.

45 SPIKE
AAARRGGHHH!!

Hold on the ponies looking offscreen for a beat before Rarity turns to the others.

46 RARITY
Isn't he adorable when he waddles off in anger?

47 SPIKE (O.S.)
"Waddle"? AAAARRRGGGGHHH!!!

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Spike lies in bed, staring at the ceiling in the throws of an existential identity crisis.

48 SPIKE (CONT'D)
What am I? Where am I from? Who am I supposed to be?

49 TWILIGHT (O.S.)
Ughhh! I DON'T KNOW!!!

We pull out to reveal Twilight is there also.

50 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
For the last time Spike, you were given to me as an egg. I don't know who found you or where they found you.

51 SPIKE
(DISAPPOINTED)
Seriously, that's all you know?

52 TWILIGHT
I'm sorry Spike.

Spike SIGHS LOUDLY and walks to a mirror.

53 SPIKE
That doesn't tell me anything about "who I am." I need answers! I feel like I'm looking at a complete stranger.

He crumples to the floor in a mess.

54 TWILIGHT
Oh Spike. Why don't we do some late night research? See what we can find out.

55 SPIKE
Really? You'd do that?

56 TWILIGHT
Of course! I'm sure we can find something.

INT. LIBRARY - THE NEXT MORNING

Twilight and Spike are bleary-eyed, surrounded by open dust covered books and scrolls.

Twilight closes the book in front of her.

57 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Nothing! Nothing in this one either.

58 SPIKE
Nothing at all about dragons? This is getting ridiculous.

59 TWILIGHT
I know. It's hard to believe but ponies know next to nothing about dragons. Apparently, they're too rare and too scary to try to talk to or study.

60 SPIKE
(CRUSHED)
I wonder if dragons cry?

61 TWILIGHT
Aw Spike.

Twilight goes to comfort her friend, but he steps away suddenly determined.

62 SPIKE
It's okay Twilight. I'm going to discover who I am if it's the last thing I do.

Suddenly the door swings open and Rarity and Rainbow Dash enter.

63 RARITY
Yoo hoo. Good morning!

64 RAINBOW DASH
Hey guys, you want to join us for breakfast? I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

65 RARITY
That's disgusting!

66 RAINBOW DASH
Come off it. You know what I mean.

67 TWILIGHT
That sounds great! I'm famished.

68 SPIKE
Count me out. I've got to get an early start.

69 RARITY
An early start?

Spike puffs out his chest, dramatically.

70 SPIKE
Yes, I am going on a quest of self-discovery. I need to learn what it means to be a dragon. And the only way I'm going to do that is to join the Dragon Migration.

71 TWILIGHT/RAINBOW DASH/RARITY
WHAAAT??!?

Spike busies himself with packing a little hobo bag.

72 RAINBOW DASH
Spike, that's nonsense talk. I know that you're a dragon, but *those* dragons mean business. They're big and tough and scary...

73 SPIKE
...and I'm small and meek and I like to wear aprons. See? This is exactly why I need to spend time with them.

74 RAINBOW DASH
All I'm saying is that you could get hurt!

75 RARITY
Darling, this time I really do have to agree with Rainbow Dash! I don't want those big, ugly, nasty dragons to hurt one little scale on your cutesy-wootsy head.

Rarity approaches Spike but he heads for the door.

76 SPIKE
I'm sorry, but I've made up my mind.

77 RARITY
Rainbow Dash, quick do something! Stop him before it's too late.

Rainbow Dash grabs hold of Spike's little hobo bag stick and pulls on it.

78 SPIKE
Hey, give it back.

Suddenly Spike and Rainbow Dash are having a tug-of-war over the hobo bag. Twilight rushes over before things get too out of hand.

79 TWILIGHT
Wait a minute! Hold it! Please let me say something... in Spike's defense.

Stunned, Rainbow Dash opens her mouth and drops the stick.

80 RAINBOW DASH
(DISBELIEVING)
Don't tell me you think he should go?

81 TWILIGHT
That's exactly what I think.

82 SPIKE
Really?

83 TWILIGHT
Yes, Spike. I couldn't answer your questions. My books couldn't either. I understand why you want to look elsewhere. I truly believe you need to go on this quest. And we have no right to stop you...
(TO RARITY AND RAINBOW DASH)
...do we?

84 RARITY
I suppose not. After all, it's my quest to look fabulous and if anypony ever stood in my way why I'd...I'd...

85 RAINBOW DASH
Sew their mouth shut?

86 RARITY
Exactly!

Everypony shares a laugh/smile.

87 RAINBOW DASH
I still say you're nutty, but hey I've done lots of nutty things. *

88 SPIKE/TWILIGHT/RARITY
(DEADPAN)
We know.

Everypony shares another laugh/smile.

89 TWILIGHT
Well then I guess this is good-bye Spike. We can't wait to hear about it...when you return.

90 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, we hope your trip...

91 TWILIGHT
Quest!

92 RAINBOW DASH
Yes, quest! We hope your quest answers some of your pesky “who am I” questions.

93 SPIKE
Thanks everyony. I know it will.

He exits the through the door and the others call after him.

94 RARITY
(calling out)
Goodbye Spikey-wikey!

95 RAINBOW DASH
(calling out)
Go get’em big guy!

96 TWILIGHT
(calling out)
We have faith in you!

Beat.

97 RARITY
(quiet and deadpan)
We’re following him, right?

98 TWILIGHT
Of course.

END ACT I

ACT II

EXT. EDGE OF CRATER - LATER

Spike makes his way (with his head down) up the last steps of a rocky path and stops on the edge of a large circular crater at the top of a huge volcano. He tiredly looks up but then his eyes go wide as he <GASPS>.

SPIKE’S POV. We pan across the huge crater and various groups of giant ADULT DRAGONS, some resting but most tussling with each other, swooping through the air and in general doing intimidating looking stuff.

One of the adult dragons flaps his giant bat-like wings and flares his nostrils. He turns his head...he seems to be looking directly at Spike. He lets out a flame throwing roar!

Spike GULPS.

99 SPIKE
Yikes. That dragon forgot to greet the day with a smile.

He notices a group of significantly smaller dragons play fighting. (They are two to three times Spike's height.)

100 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Alright! Teenage dragons...now that's more my speed. And size.

Spike scampers down into the crater to try to join them.

Beat.

Suddenly a clumsy, weird-looking dragon appears on the edge of the crater (where Spike was a moment before.)

This is obviously not a real dragon. It's an elaborate, shiny-scaly, over the top dragon costume more appropriate for a parade than a covert mission.

CUT TO INSIDE THE COSTUME

Twilight is in the head, Rainbow Dash is in the middle with her wings poking out acting as the dragon's wings and Rarity brings up the rear. (***S&P - Please ensure legal clears the use of "fashion week."***)

101 RAINBOW DASH
I'm telling ya', we'll never pass for a real dragon...not in this floppy, froofy costume. The dragon migration isn't fashion week***, ya' know.

102 RARITY
Oh pish-posh, this costume is fabulous! One my finer creations! You'll be eating your words when we walk right into the crater and--

103 TWILIGHT
(loud whisper)
Shhh! Quiet, you two. We'll never 'pass' if they hear three voices coming out of one dragon. Now come on, let's go.

CUT BACK TO OUTSIDE. The "dragon" clumsily makes it's way into the crater to catch up with Spike.

EXT. THE CRATER

Spike timidly approaches the group of teenage dragons as they continue to tussle with each other.

104 SPIKE
Excuse me.

Suddenly they all stop their game and stare right at Spike.

105 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Um... hi. I'm Spike.

The teenage dragon LEADER named GARBLE and two of his CRONIES emerge from the crowd.

106 CRONIE #1
You sure you're name is Spike and not Shrimp?

All the other adolescent dragons LAUGH.

107 SPIKE
(NERVOUS)
No, it's Spike. I'm sure of...um, sure about that.

108 CRONIE #2
You look more like a Pee Wee to me.

More LAUGHS

109 GARBLE
Hey guys, come one! Seriously! Leave him alone or he might fly away! That is...if he had any wings!

Big LAUGHS.

110 CRONIE #2
You flying on your mommy's back during the migration?

111 SPIKE
Not exactly.

112 CRONIE #1
No, no. Can't you see Baby Spike just hatched? I bet he still sucks his claw at night!

113 SPIKE
No! I haven't sucked my claw in months!

Even bigger LAUGHS. Spike looks around nervously and unconsciously starts sucking on his thumb/claw.

114 GARBLE
Well if you weren't just hatched, how come we haven't seen you around before?

115 SPIKE
Oh, well, you see, I live in Ponyville and--

HUGE LAUGHS! Several of the dragons collapse on the ground in hysterics. The ponies take this opportunity to integrate themselves into the group.

116 GARBLE
(laughing through out)
Ponyville???!!! That explains it. I knew there was something vaguely pony-ish about you! If I didn't know better, I'd say you're part pony.

117 SPIKE
Who me? I'm not part pony. I'm all dragon. See?

He tries to make a scary face, but he just looks cute again.

118 GARBLE
Or maybe you're a pony in a dragon costume.

Some more laughs. Cronie #1 puts his arm around Twilight and the gang, oblivious to the irony.

119 CRONIE #1
<Laughing> A pony in a dragon costume!! <Laughing>

120 TWILIGHT
(USING PHONY VOICE)
Heh heh. Yeah. Hilarious.

121 SPIKE
I am a real dragon!

122 GARBLE
Oh yeah? Prove it.

123 SPIKE
How?

124 GARBLE
By acting like one.
(VAMPING FOR FRIENDS)
Who's up for a little belching contest?

125 DRAGONS
(CHEERS AND WHISTLES)
Yeah!

Three teenage dragons line up to belch. A crowd surrounds the belchers, including the ponies inside their costume.

The first teenager BELCHES. A stream of fire explodes from his mouth.

Everyone claps and cheers.

The second teenager BELCHES. A bigger stream of fire and smoke rings explodes from his mouth.

Even louder claps and cheers.

The third teenager BELCHES. An absolutely huge stream of fire explodes from his mouth with a twirling stream of smoke that wraps itself around the fire.

126 GARBLE
Think you can beat that Pee Wee?

127 SPIKE
(OVER CONFIDENT)
It's 'Spike', and if there's one thing I know how to do it's belch!

Spike confidently steps up and starts to BELCH. But during the belch he coughs up a scroll.

The dragons are confused. Garble grabs the scroll, unfurls it and begins to read.

128 GARBLE
(READING)
From the desk of Princess Celestia...Dear Spike, please tell--
(TO CROWD)
(MORE)

GARBLE (CONT'D)
Get this guys, Spike's pen pals with a namby pamby pony princess!

LAUGHING from the crowd. Garble scrunches up the scroll and tosses it aside.

CUT TO INSIDE THE CLUMSY PONY COSTUME.

129 TWILIGHT
(SHOCKED THEN PISSY)
<GASP> How can he just throw that away? That letter could be something important!

130 RAINBOW DASH
We can't worry about that now Twilight. We're here to help Spike.

131 RARITY
That's right. If he gets in trouble, it's up to us to intervene!

132 TWILIGHT
I know, I know.
(to herself)
But there's no reason to disrespect Princess Celestia that way.

CUT BACK TO OUTSIDE.

133 GARBLE
Maybe tail wrestling is more your speed.

Spike looks unsure.

134 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Don't tell me you've never tail wrestled before? I mean all dragons tail wrestle.

135 DRAGONS
Yeah!

136 SPIKE
Uhhhh...

137 GARBLE
Just sit back and watch.

Suddenly two huge tails enter the frame and literally wrestle each other (like arm wrestling, only with tails.) The dragons are GRUNTING and SWEATING. Finally one tail manages to SLAM the other one down and PIN it to the ground.

Garble raises the tail of the winner like a boxing champion.

138 GARBLE (CONT'D)
The winner!

139 SPIKE
(SCARED/TO HIMSELF)
Yes, of course. Good ol'tail wrestling.

CUT TO INSIDE THE DRAGON COSTUME.

140 RARITY
We can't let little Spikey-Wikey wrestle one of them. He'll get clobbered.

141 RAINBOW DASH
Rarity's right, for a change.

Rarity shoves Rainbow Dash inside the costume.

142 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Ow.

143 RARITY
Sorry Darling, but you asked for it.

CUT TO OUTSIDE as the ponies push forward from the crowd.

144 TWILIGHT
(USING PHONY VOICE)
I challenge Spike to a tail wrestle.

All the dragons look at the weird "dragon." Garble and Crony #1 have a quick side conversation.

145 GARBLE
Who's this weirdo?

146 CRONIE #1
I think he's Crackle's cousin.

147 GARBLE
Oh, that would explain it.

The ponies extend their costume's tail and it lands limply in Spike's tail's grip.

148 GARBLE (CONT'D)
3,2,1, GO!

Spike easily SLAMS the ponies tail down and PINS it.

149 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Spike's the winner!

He lifts Spike's tail up like a boxing champion, but Spike is so little that he ends up lifting his whole body so Spike is momentarily dangling upside down.

Garble soon drops him, Spike dusts himself off.

150 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Nice going little Spike. Maybe you are a dragon after all.

Spike beams happily.

151 SPIKE
Yeah, maybe I am.

CUT TO INSIDE THE DRAGON COSTUME

152 RARITY
Rainbow Dash, I can't believe your silly plan actually worked!

Rainbow shoves Rarity.

153 RARITY (CONT'D)
Ow.

154 RAINBOW DASH
(mimicking Rarity)
Sorry darling, but you asked for it.

CUT BACK TO SPIKE.

155 SPIKE
(OVER CONFIDENT)
Alright, who's next?

156 GARBLE
Getting a little cocky, huh? I like that. So how about you wrestle him?

Garble points to the biggest, toughest looking teenager in the group who grabs Spike's tail with his own and sends him flying across the frame. Offscreen CRASH!

EXT. CRATER - LATER

The dragons are arranged in two lines opposite of each other. In between them are a group of small boulders.

157 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Let's see how our little dragon-in-training does in a rockin' game of Dodge Boulder.

The two "teams" stare each other down, arms back, ready to run for the boulders. The tension is high. Spike GULPS.

158 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Ready?.... GO!!!

The dragons all race for the boulders except for Spike.A split second later the boulders and rocks are FLYING in every direction.***S&P - Caution that the boulders hitting the ponies does not play extreme and plays more cartoony.***

Spike is terrified of getting hit by a rock and DODGES them left and right, jumping over them, spinning sideways etc...

After dodging a few, Spike notices a a big boulder headed right for him. There's no time to dodge so he closes his eyes, stretches out his hands and miraculously he catches it!

The dragon who threw the ball shoots daggers at Spike for getting him "out." Spike smiles to himself, he's actually pretty good at this.

Across the field, Garble has zeroed in on Spike and is clearly determined to him with his boulder.

Garble winds his arm back to throw and releases the rock, it's headed straight for Spike (who doesn't see it coming) Suddenly the ponies in the costume jump in front of Spike and take the hit for him.

But the "hit" is so hard that the ponies are knocked backward and accidentally knock Spike over too. Garble walks over, towering above them all.

159 GARBLE (CONT'D)
You're both out!

Smug laughter from his cronies.

EXT. CRATER - A LITTLE LATER

Garble pushes Spike up a pile of gemstones while the cronies stare and snicker.

160 GARBLE (CONT'D)
So Spike you haven't exactly proven yourself as a dragon yet, have you?

161 SPIKE
(hopeful)
But I get an 'A' for effort?

162 GARBLE
Maybe. Let's see how you do in this next contest.

Garble shoves Spike from behind and he rolls down the hill.

163 SPIKE
Waaaaaaahhhhhh!

Garble raises his arms in a King Kong-like gesture of power.

164 GARBLE
King of the Horde!

As Spike rolls down the hill he sees DOZENS of teenage dragons CHARGING up it.

165 DRAGONS
ArrhhhhHH!!!!

Spike closes his eyes and somehow rolls past them to the bottom. From there, he looks up at the mayhem going on at the top of the dirt pile - Garble pushing his buddies down as they try to take the top of the horder from him.

Spike slowly starts to crawl up the mountain, navigating his way through the defeated dragons as they come back down.

As he nears the top, another tough dragon is actually giving Garble a hard time and they are really locked in battle.

166 SPIKE
This is my chance.

Spike closes his eyes and crawls up further, through Garble's legs to the very top of the horde. A second later, Garble is over taken by his opponent and they both topple off the "mountain."

Spike is amazed that he is actually alone at the top.

A different dragon is headed for Spike on the other side of the hill, but Spike has his back to him and doesn't see him coming. Luckily the ponies do. They rush up the hill and knock down the dragon, basically intercepting him.

Spike is blissfully unaware of the close call. He raises his arms in imitation of Garble. But Spike legs slip when he thrusts his arms up.

167 SPIKE (CONT'D)
King of the Hor-ow-wow-woahhhhahhh!

And goes falling down the hill of gems.

He slides all the way down the hill to Garble's feet.

168 GARBLE
Looks like this is another FAIL for you little Spike.

Cronies LAUGH.

169 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Can't wait to watch you FAIL at Lava Cannonball too.

EXT. CRATER - A LITTLE LATER

Garble and the others step up to the edge of the crater with Spike a step or two behind. The Ponies are also in the crowd. Steam rises off the bubbling hot ooozing lava pool inside it. Garble addresses the group.

170 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Whoever makes the biggest lava splash is the Ultimate Dragon. Geronimo!

Garble jumps into the lava pool and the SPLASH hits Spike in the face.

The Dragon costume takes a step back as some lava splashes on the ground in front of them and starts to sizzle. The big costume head shakes from side to side.

171 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
Spike's on his own this time.

Spike watches as one by one they all jump in cannonball-style into the lava pool.. He is the last one left (besides the ponies who are trying hard to stay inconspicuous behind a bush.)

172 GARBLE
What's wrong Spike? You afraid the lava will hurt your soft pony hide?

All the dragon LAUGH.

Spike inches forward to the edge of the lava pool and looks down...it's a long way down (like a high dive.)

Spike watches everyone laughing at him, closes his eyes and jumps.

In mid-air he flails frantically. Instead of cannon balling, he belly flops hard - SMACK - into the lava. He hardly makes a splash.

173 DRAGONS
(that's gotta hurt)
Ooooooohh!.

All the dragons swim over.

174 SPIKE
Was I that bad?

175 GARBLE
No dude, that was awesome. No pony could live through a bellyflop like that. Your'e one tough little dragon.

176 DRAGONS
<walla of agreement>

Garble "dunks" Spike's head under the lava.

EXT. CRATER - A LITTLE LATER

The dragons stand in two rows with their tails high in the air, creating an arch/tunnel (like a medieval knight procession.) A dragon makes music as Spike walks through the tunnel to the end where Garble waits for him.

177 GARBLE
Spike, by bellyflopping so hard you have proven yourself worthy. I hearby dub you 'Rookie Dragon' and will now perform the initiation ritual.

Garble grabs Spike and playfully noogies him and lets him go.

178 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Now, let’s party dragon-style!

SC 8 EXT. CRATER - LATER

The dragons all lie around, the evidence of a raging treasure gorging party is everywhere. But now they are all partied out.

Spike and Garble lie side by side. Garble offers him a small diamond.

179 SPIKE
No, thanks. I couldn’t eat another bite. Man, was that a great party.

180 GARBLE
Great? Maybe by Ponyville standards. Stick with us, Spike. We still got plenty to teach you about being a dragon.

181 SPIKE
I’m not going anywhere. The way I feel right now, I could hang out with you guys forever!

WE PULL OUT TO REVEAL that the ponies have been eavesdropping.

CUT TO INSIDE THE DRAGON COSTUME

182 TWILIGHT/RARITY/RAINBOW DASH
Forever?!!!?

END ACT II

ACT III

SC 9 EXT. CRATER

Most of the dragons are still lounging about but Garble has gotten up and is stretching. Spike is up beside his new best friend. The ponies are nearby.

CUT TO INSIDE THE DRAGON COSTUME

183 RARITY
Spikey-Wikey is going to stay with these awful dragons? Forever?

184 TWILIGHT
Oh no. This is terrible.

185 RAINBOW DASH
I should've stopped him back in the library when I had the chance.

186 TWILIGHT
No Rainbow Dash. This is all my fault. I encouraged him to go...

The other dragons begin to gather around Garble and Spike.

187 GARBLE
You know Spike, I think you just might be ready for a real Dragon Raid.

188 TEEN DRAGONS
Yeah! Awesome! Allright!

Spike looks happy, momentarily caught up in the others' enthusiasm.

189 GARBLE
There's a nest full of Phoenix eggs nearby and we're going to swipe 'em.

Spike's face suddenly falls.

Cronie #2 punches Spike in the arm.

190 CRONIE #2
Aren't you totally psyched to go on this raid?

191 SPIKE
(NERVOUS/LYING)
Oh yeah, I'm excited...I mean, um, psyched!

192 GARBLE
Alright then, let's fly!

The teen dragons start to flap their wings and one by one take off for the forest.

193 SPIKE
Sorry guys, I guess I'll meet you back here at the crater...after the whole raid thing is over...we'll totally hang then.

At the last second one of the teen dragons scoops Spike up (like one of the flying monkeys scooping up Toto in the Wizard of Oz), and flies off to join the others, carrying Spike with him.

CUT TO INSIDE THE DRAGON COSTUME

194 RAINBOW DASH
On no! They took Spike. We gotta go after them.

Rainbow Dash charges...

CUT TO OUTSIDE THE COSTUME

The middle section of the dragon costume is clearly dragging two other sections behind it charging toward the edge of a cliff preparing for take off, wings flapping hard.

195 RARITY/TWILIGHT (V.O.)
Ahhhh!

196 TWILIGHT (V.O.)
Rainbow Dash, STOP! We can’t fly!

197 RARITY
And you’re ruining my fabulous costume!

Rainbow Dash skids to a stop just in the nick of time.

CUT TO INSIDE THE DRAGON COSTUME

198 RARITY (CONT'D)
Rainbow Dash, what were you thinking?!

199 RAINBOW DASH
I’m sorry but we gotta help Spike!

200 TWILIGHT
Well, we’re just going to have to hoof it.

CUT BACK TO OUTSIDE THE DRAGON COSTUME

The “dragon” begins to makes it way as fast as it can down a rocky path on the edge of the crater.

SC 10 EXT. FOREST

The dragons are hunched down behind some bushes, spying on a large nest. Inside the nest sit two Phoenix parents.

201 GARBLE
Alright Spike, since you're our Rookie Dragon... you get to lure the parents away from the nest. *

202 SPIKE
(NERVOUS)
Lucky me.

Spike doesn't move.

203 GARBLE
Well go on then.

Garble pushes Spike out into the open, in clear view of the parents.

204 SPIKE
(CALLING UP)
Hey Mr. And Mrs. Phoenix! I was hoping I could have a word with you.

The Phoenix parents look at Spike, but ignore him.

205 SPIKE (CONT'D)
(CALLING UP)
I'd like to ask you some questions actually...about what it's like to be a Phoenix and how that whole rising from the ashes thing works...it's a neat trick. You guys must wow 'em at parties...

The Phoenix parents still ignore him. Garble shoots Spike a threatening look.

206 GARBLE
We haven't got all day Spike.

Desperate, Spike picks up a small rock and throws it at the nest.

207 SPIKE
Hey you bird brains, come and get me!

He blows a raspberry at them for good measure and the Phoenix parents fly out of their nest in pursuit of him.

Spike takes off running through the forest and out of frame.

208 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Ahhhhh!

The Phoenix parents whoosh through the frame, chasing after him.

ON GARBLE AND TEENS.

209 GARBLE
Now's our chance. Let's go.

Garble and the others fly up to the nest.

INSIDE THE NEST all the eggs (except for one) have already hatched.

210 GARBLE (CONT'D)
What the....?

For a moment, Garble and the others stare down at the hatchlings too surprised to talk. *

211 CRONIE #1 *
Shoot! The eggs have hatched! *

212 CRONIE #2 *
What do we do now? *

An evil grin spreads across Garble's face. *

213 GARBLE *
We take the hatchlings, of course. *

But the hatchlings sense danger and take off in fear, dislodging the nest from its branch.

The dragons are surprised again - these hatchlings can already fly.

214 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Get them!

Garble and the dragons take off in pursuit of the hatchlings.

CUT BACK TO THE PHOENIX PARENTS CHASING SPIKE THROUGH THE FOREST.

The parents are closing in on Spike. One of them has her beak open and is about to chomp down on Spike's flapping tail when suddenly they hear something...

215 HATCHLINGS (O.S.)
(DISTRESS CALL)

They immediately forget all about Spike and ZOOM off in the direction of the hatchlings, coming to their rescue.

Spike slows down and catches his breath.

216 SPIKE
Oh thank goodness.

BACK ON THE NEST

The one lone unhatched egg left inside is balancing precariously on the edge of the nest, but soon falls to the ground safely into the bushes. Spike arrives back on the scene as it lands.

217 SPIKE (CONT'D)
What have we got here?

Curious, he picks it up and cradles it in his hands.

BACK ON THE DRAGON/HATCHLING FLYING CHASE

The dragons, led by Garble, are closing in on the hatchlings.

218 GARBLE
We got you now little birdies.

He bares his teeth and prepares to bite down.

Suddenly the Phoenix parents swoop in. One of them swats Garble on the snout with it’s powerful tail.

219 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Ow!

The parents flank the hatchlings on either side, protecting them and put on a burst of speed.

220 GARBLE (CONT'D)
(OUTRAGED)
Get them!

Garble and the others also put on the speed and are starting to catch up to the parents/hatchlings.

But the Phoenix clan is more agile than the dragons. At the last second they swerve around a tree trunk.

Garble tries to switch directions, but he can't. Instead he SLAMS into the tree trunk. His cronies SLAM into him from behind - SLAM, SLAM, SLAM etc... All of the dragons slowly slide down the tree to the forest floor.

By the time they have recovered the Phoenix parents are way in the distance. They have escaped.

221 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Arrghh! They got away. I hate that!

SC 11 EXT. OTHER PART OF THE FOREST - A LITTLE LATER

Spike is still holding the unhatched egg in his hands when the teen dragons swoop into frame one by one.

Garble flies in last.

222 SPIKE
What happened?

223 GARBLE
They got away. Hey, wait a minute...you stole an egg?

224 SPIKE
(LYING)
Ummm, yeah. You could say that.

225 GARBLE
Well I guess the raid wasn't a total waste after all.

226 DRAGONS
Yeah! Alright!

227 GARBLE
Nice going Spike!

He slaps Spike hard on the back and Spike nearly drops the unhatched egg from the jolt.

The other dragons surround Spike.

228 CRONIE #2
Well what are you waiting for, Spike? Smash it!

229 SPIKE
Smash the egg?

230 CRONIE #2
Yeah!

231 CRONIE#1
Yeah, throw it on the ground as hard as you can!

232 DRAGONS
Yeah! Smash it! Smash it! Smash it!

Spike clearly does not want to smash the unhatched egg and he tries to back away from the dragons encircling him, but they keep inching toward him. Just then the ponies (in dragon disguise) arrive on foot and see waht is going on.

233 GARBLE
Look, if you won't smash the egg, then I will. Hand it over.

Garble extends his claw, prepared to receive the egg from Spike.

All eyes are on Spike. He has to decide. Is he going to hand the egg over or not?

Spike musters up his courage and stands up as straight as possible.

234 SPIKE
No! It's just a defenseless egg... like I was... and I'm not going to let you hurt it.

Garble is furious, nostrils flaring.

235 GARBLE
What did you say?

236 SPIKE
I said no!

237 GARBLE
Then prepare to pay the price.

He cracks his "knuckles" and sneers at Spike.

238 GARBLE (CONT'D)
No one says no to me...ever.

Spike is terrified. He closes his eyes and holds the egg close to his chest, protecting it as best he can.

Suddenly the ponies throw their dragon costume off and jump in between Garble and Spike, defending and protecting him.

239 RAINBOW DASH
Nopony's gonna lay a claw on him!

240 TWILIGHT
That's right.

Rainbow Dash, Rarity and Twilight lift their hooves like boxers, prepared to fight if necessary.

241 RARITY
Fighting's not really my thing, I'm more into fashion. But I'll rip you to pieces if you touch one scale on his cute little head!

For a beat Garble and the dragons are stunned. But when they realize that they are looking at three ponies they start to LAUGH.

242 GARBLE
Oooo scary ponies! Spike, are these namby pamby ponies your friends?

243 SPIKE
Yes, they are. And they're better friends than you could ever be!

Slow dramatic truck in on Spike.

244 SPIKE (CONT'D)
I thought I had something to learn from other dragons but the only thing I've learned is that I'd rather be back in Ponyville. And if that makes me more 'pony' than dragon, than so be it!

Spike walks up to Garble with his chest puffed out.

245 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Now if you don't back off, you'll see what us 'ponies' do when confronted by a huge group of jerky dragons.

Garble is not intimidated. He cracks his "knuckles" menacingly.

246 GARBLE
Oh yeah? What's that?

247 SPIKE
(TERRIFIED)
Run away!

Spike turns and runs and the ponies gallop away with him. After just a few steps and before the dragons have a chance to react, Twilight casts a teleportation spell.

Magic fx fill the screen and when they clear, the ponies are gone.

EXT. ELSEWHERE IN THE FOREST

Magic fx appear and dissipate, revealing Spike and the ponies. They all share a SIGH of relief.

248 SPIKE (CONT'D)
That was a close one. Thanks you guys.

249 TWILIGHT
Of course. What are friends for?

250 SPIKE
You're more than friends. You're my family.

The ponies all surround Spike and hug him.

INT. PONYVILLE LIBRARY

Spike sits at a table writing a letter with the unhatched Phoenix egg next to him.

251 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Dear Princess Celestia, seeing the Great Dragon Migration made me wonder what it meant to be a dragon. But now I realize that 'who I am' is not the same as 'what I am.' I may have been born a dragon, but Equestria and my pony friends have made me who I am. They've taught me how to be kind, loyal and true. I'm proud to call Ponyville my home and to have Twilight, Rarity, Fluttershy, Rainbow, AJ and Pinkie as my family. Yours Truly, Spike.

Just as he signs the letter the phoenix egg on the table hatches.

Spike looks on, delighted.

The baby chick nuzzles Spike's cheek. Looks like he has chosen Spike as his family.

252 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Welcome to the family, Pee Wee. Stick with me. I've got plenty to teach you about being a pony.

Spike nuzzles the chick back as we...

IRIS OUT.