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MY LITTLE PONY III

Episode 309

"Just For Sidekicks"

Outline by

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TEASER:

ANGLE ON SPIKE as he does a few warm-up exercises. From a nearby perch, Owlicious watches him. He reaches an arm over his head and leans to the opposite side, "The trick is to train. Keep your body limber." He picks up a jug of water and downs it, "Keep your stomach expanded." He picks up a few oranges and begins to juggle them, "Hand eye coordination is key." He lets the oranges fall and then takes a deep breath, "But most important is your mental state." He closes his eyes and moves into a yoga Tree Pose. WIDEN as he eventually opens his eyes to face a large bowl full of jewels in front of him. Owlicious <HOOTS> as Spike moves in like a professional hotdog eater. He eyeballs the jewels, "You're goin' down!" and then hunkers over the bowl so that he can use both hands to shovel jewels into his mouth as quickly as he can.

DISSOLVE TO: Spike is slowing down. The bowl is almost empty. Each bite seems slightly painful, but he won't stop, "Just one more little jewel..." He picks up the last jewel, slowly raises it to his mouth and chews. He swallows, his stomach <GURGLES>, and he falls down flat on his back, "I'll never eat another jewel again..."

ACT I

Spike is still lying prone on the floor. Suddenly, the doorbell <RINGS> and without moving, he calls out, "Come in!" Fluttershy enters and is delighted to see him. He's just the dragon she was looking for! She tells Spike that she's been invited to a party at the Crystal Kingdom tomorrow and she was wondering if, well... he wouldn't mind watching Angel while she's gone. Spike raises his head, "But, I like parties." He suddenly notices Angel on Fluttershy's back. Angel scowls in his direction, shakes his head and then uses a 'finger' to draw a line across his neck. Spike lays his head back down, "and I'm not particularly fond of that rabbit!"

Fluttershy <SIGHS> and says that tomorrow is the second Tuesday of the month, Angel's tail fluffing day, and he so loooves to have his tail fluffed. So, if Spike can't help her out with a little fluffing... she'll just have to <SIGH> stay home. Spike doesn't move. Fluttershy waits a beat and then reaches into a pack on her back and pulls out a beautiful, sparkling and huge jewel (with her teeth) and places it on the ground. She tells Spike that was going to give him a jewel for all of his trouble, but it's okay if he doesn't want it. Spike instantly lifts his head and eyeballs the jewel. He licks his lips, looks at Angel and then back at the jewel and then makes a decision, "Well, maybe ONE more jewel. Have fun at that party!" He quickly snatches up the jewel and puts it in a pack of his own. He points to Angel, "And I'll be seeing you tomorrow, *bunny!*" Angel scowls as something occurs to Spike. He wants to know why Fluttershy got an invitation to a party in the Crystal Kingdom when Twilight Sparkle didn't!?! Suddenly, he <COUGHS> and hacks up a scroll with the word INVITATION written on the side. Oh, mystery solved!

Spike carries the invitation to Twilight Sparkle who is working in the library. She reads it and tells him to pack his bags; they're going to a party! Spike tells her that

he'll be staying home because he made a promise to Fluttershy that he'd take care of Angel... and while he's at it, he could watch Owllicious too. Twilight Sparkle is pleased by his sweet offer and then he clears his throat, "but... umm... well... Fluttershy gave me a little something for my troubles..." Twilight sighs and hands over another jewel which Spike pockets, "Don't mind if I do!"

Spike <COUGHS> up an invitation for Rarity and Rainbow Dash. He extends the invitation to Rainbow Dash with one hand while holding his other hand out with the palm extended up so that she can place a jewel into it. She hands over a jewel, "... all I'm saying is, a helmet wouldn't hurt. You only want to be hit in the head by a flying turtle once!" Spike polishes the jewel and ignores her, "NNNkay, flying turtle. Got it." And then Rarity begins her long list of instructions on how to care for her cat, Opal. In response, Spike pulls out a notebook and starts to take diligent notes. When it's all over, she begins to walk away. Rainbow Dash <CLEARS HER THROAT>. Rarity reluctantly pulls a gem/decoration from her harness and hands it to Spike. He admires it; a beautiful one, of course.

Spike stands over Gummy and cups his hand around his ear, "What did you say, Gummy?" He pretends to listen for a beat and then continues, "Well, you're going to have to ask Pinkie Pie about that one." Pinkie Pie stops bouncing and asks what Gummy just said. Spike tells her that Gummy should ask her himself and then Pinkie Pie begins to assume she knows just what he's saying, "He wants another cupcake!?" Spike shakes his head. Pinkie keeps going, "His pond isn't big enough!" "He wants a spa vacation for two." "Pork barrel spending is up?" Finally, Spike tells her that Gummy wants a little "Spike" time with the other sidekicks... for a price, of course.

Winona bounds across the field as Spike watches her appraisingly. He comments to himself that that one looks like a lot of work, but another jewel is another jewel, and he just can't get enough of them. He walks to Applejack's front door and rings the bell. When she answers, he begins to hawk his services like a door to door salesman.

The next day, Spike counts out his jewels, one, two, three, four, five, six, SIX!! He shakes his head in disbelief. What was he thinking? He begins to count the sidekicks... all the way to five! He scowls as he realizes that one's missing. Suddenly, Tank flies across the room with his propeller hat. Spike ducks just in time to avoid being hit and then leaps up and brings Tank back down to the ground. He paces in front of them like a drill sergeant and lets them know that from now on, they're playing by his rules! No coddling, no baby talk, no flying, no special snacks and absolutely, positively no tail-fluffing! Right!?! He turns to get some confirmation only to find that one, two, three, four, five... Angel is gone!

ACT II

Spike has all of the sidekicks in a wagon (except Tank who is being dragged along like a helium balloon attached to a string) as they look for Angel. Spike calls out while the rest of the sidekicks squirm and try to go their own ways. Spike runs in

circles, picking them up and depositing them back on the wagon. The moment he does, another one gets loose. Finally, he gets them all assembled again just in time to hear Sweetie Belle say, “Awww, isn’t he the cutest little cottontail!?”

Spike dashes over to find Angel being fawned over by Cutie Mark Crusaders. The fur on his tail has been rolled up in a number of little curlers. Apple Bloom tells Spike, “You know, Angel gets his tail fluffed on the second Tuesday of every month and his tail was definitely not fluffy!” Angel glowers at Spike in a ‘told you so’ kind of way. Seeing how good the Cutie Mark Crusaders are with Angel gives Spike an idea.

He clearly has a few too many critters to take care of, so the best thing to do might be... a little outsourcing. Spike tells the Cutie Mark Crusaders that as much as he’s enjoying watching the animals, he’d hate to deny them the opportunity to earn their Cutie Marks in pet sitting. The Cutie Mark Crusaders happily agree to take over. Spike is thrilled. That is until Apple Bloom recalls that Applejack gave Spike a jewel for watching Winona. It seems only fair that the Cutie Mark Crusaders should get the jewel now that they are taking over for him. Spike <SIGHS> heavily and pulls out his satchel full of jewels and very, very reluctantly offers them a jewel. Sweetie Belle then realizes that if Applejack gave Spike a jewel, then the other ponies probably did too. Spike sees where this is going and tells the Cutie Mark Crusaders that he’s giving them a jewel and the chance to get their Cutie Marks. It’s a take-it-or-leave it deal. The Cutie Mark Crusaders agree to Spike’s deal.

A short time later, Spike wanders through the streets of Ponyville polishing and looking fondly at his five remaining jewels. He tells himself that five will be just enough... and then he is forced to duck as Tank flies past him. Spike does a double take. Why isn’t he being watched by the Cutie Mark Crusaders!?! Seconds later, Winona bounds across the street barking and trying to herd some ponies who are complaining bitterly – who’s sheepdog is this?!? Spike fumes as he realizes that he has to round up the sidekicks!

Spike has a wagon full of five sidekicks when he hears laughter. He looks into the sweet shop and sees the Cutie Mark Crusaders sipping milkshakes with Gummy. Spike asks them what happened to their critter-sitting? Scootaloo starts to count. She points to Gummy, “One!” She looks around... “Ooops!” The Cutie Mark Crusaders agree that they are clearly not getting their Cutie Marks for being great pet sitters. Spike scowls and grabs Gummy.

CUT TO: An angry pony glowers at Spike who is sheepishly standing in front of a demolished sidewalk store. Fruit and pony wares have been overturned and are all over the street. The sidekicks are in the midst of the chaos and it’s clear that they caused it. Spike shrugs his shoulders. The pony glowers some more, and Spike sadly pulls out a gem and hands it over.

Spike collects the sidekicks and is ready to take them back to the library when he notices Granny Smith watching him. She shakes her head and tsk tsks him. He sidles up to her and pulls out another gem, “This is just between you and me.”

Granny Smith nods, “Yep, just between you and, wait, who’d you say again?” Spikes continues, “You and me. No other pony has to hear about this, right?” Granny Smith agrees, “Other ponies have to hear about this!” Spike blanches and firmly puts the gem in Granny Smith’s hoof, “This is very important. Not a word about this to anypony!” Granny Smith looks at him curiously, “What?! A word about what?” Spike <SIGHS>. This day isn’t going well!

Once again, Spike looks at the sidekicks and begins to count... all the way to five! Another one is missing! Again! He looks around just as the train whistle <BLOWS>. He glances at the train and then stares back in horror. There, perfectly framed in the train window, sits Angel. Angel grins mischievously as a conductor calls out, “All aboard!”

CUT TO: Spike hanging his head as conductor yells at him, “I can’t have all these animals on my train. Not without tickets and especially NOT without pony chaperones!” Spike tries to explain that they won’t be riding on the train; they just need to get onboard and retrieve a lost rabbit. “Likely story,” the conductor replies.

Suddenly, Spike hears laughter and looks up to see the Cutie Mark Crusaders walking by. He dashes over and pushes them towards the ticket window. He turns back to the conductor, “Is three enough?” He then takes a deep, ‘it’s gotta be done’ breath and asks to buy ten tickets for the Crystal Kingdom. The Cutie Mark Crusaders are thrilled, “Crystal Kingdom!! We’ve been dying to see it!” Spike shakes his head, “We’re not really going. I just need to get on the train.” He ignores the Cutie Mark Crusaders LOUD complaints about not actually taking a train ride as he scrambles to get on the train!

The others follow him to the car where Angel is waiting. Spike moves to drag Angel off when the train starts to move. The conductor calls out, “Next stop, Crystal Kingdom!” Spike looks around frantically as he realizes they’re all headed to the Crystal Kingdom whether they want to or not! The Cutie Mark Crusaders cheer excitedly.

ACT III

Spikes sits glumly on the train as the sidekicks continue to wreak havoc around him and the Cutie Mark Crusaders gossip obliviously. The sidekicks are into everything, under the seats and flying around the car. However, the only thing Spike cares about is that he only has two jewels left... TWO! And then, he tries to console himself. Two jewels are better than none and when he finally gets everyone back to Equestria, he can enjoy them! Suddenly, he hears a <CRASH> and a <SCREAM> and he knows what it means, the sidekicks have done something again! He hangs his head and blindly holds up the fifth jewel – whatever it is, he’ll pay for it!

The train ride is long and Spike and Angel are in a glaring contest. Spike covetously holds onto the last jewel and tells Angel that Fluttershy gave him this big and beautiful jewel to take care of him and he’s not giving it up for anything! So, be

good! Angel glowers back and points to the curlers in his tail – someone's tail still needs attended to! They glower some more. It's clearly a standoff.

Finally, the train pulls into the station and Spike lets out a deep sigh of relief. Now, all they have to do is stay on the train and let it take them back to Ponyville. No one will ever have to know that he had a few...er... problems, and then he can eat his jewel in peace! However, the Cutie Mark Crusaders are defiant. No way, no how are they going back to Ponyville without seeing the Crystal Palace. Spike is at a loss as to what to do until he sees Twilight Sparkle and the rest of the ponies standing at the station ready to board. He points to them, "Do you really want to explain to them how you ended up on the train, alone... with no bigpony?" The Crusaders look at each other. They don't! They have to hide!

Spike is pleased. It's almost over and then... Angel spots his beloved Fluttershy on the platform. He points to his tail and then points to her. Spike sees what's about to happen, "Nooooooo!" But, it's too late! Angel leaps out the door in search of his tail-fluffing pony.

Spike and the Crusaders and the sidekicks jump off of the opposite side of the train from where the ponies are waiting and chase Angel through the Crystal Kingdom train station. The Cutie Mark Crusaders can barely concentrate, "Did you see the crystal benches? Can you imagine what it's like in the palace!?" Angel sees Fluttershy, but there's always something that keeps him from getting to her – a porter with huge amounts of luggage, a conductor looking for a return ticket, a couple hugging before a long trip... Spike pleads and begs with Angel to get on the train. He'll fluff his tail. He'll tell him stories. He'll do *anything*, just don't let the ponies catch them!

Angel ignores Spike. He's the boss now! He sticks out his tongue at Spike and then spots Fluttershy further down the ramp. He's just a few hops away... Spike panics. That bunny must be stopped! He looks around, quickly accesses the situation and sees that he can't get to Angel in time to stop him, but he can knock over a cart full of luggage to block his path... if only he had something to throw. He hesitates for a moment and pulls out his last, most delicious, jewel and throws it at the luggage cart. It's a perfect throw and the suitcases immediately topple. Angel is stopped in his tracks and the ponies are none the wiser.

Spike manages to get all of the sidekicks back on the train and drag the very reluctant Crusaders onto the train... and then he hears the ponies' voices. They're coming into his car! He immediately pulls everyone down under the seats and implores them with his eyes to please, please not give him away. The Crusaders are totally on board. They don't want to be caught anymore than Spike! But the sidekicks... finally realize that Spike's had a pretty tough day. They all nod. Agreed! Spike breathes a sigh of relief just as his stomach lets out a massive <GROWL>. Rarity asks, "Did you hear something?" Spike's eyes go wide. He's in trouble. Angel smirks, but instead of letting Spike get caught, he pulls out the final jewel that Spike threw and hands it to him. Spike eats it, his stomach calms down and they all settle

down for the peaceful ride back to Equestria.

The ponies pile off of the train on one side. Seconds later, Spike, the Crusaders and the sidekicks pile off on the other and when the train pulls away, they all wave like they just came to the station to greet them. While the Crusaders demand details about the trip from the ponies, Fluttershy marvels over Angel's freshly fluffed tail. Pinkie Pie thanks the inert Gummy for being so excited to see her, and Tank circles Rainbow Dash's head while she ducks. Twilight Sparkle thanks Spike for doing such a good job of taking care of the sidekicks. He must be so excited to go home now and gorge himself on all the jewels he earned. His stomach <GROWLS> again, "Yeah, something like that."