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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Equestria Games"
Episode 424
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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. EQUESTRIA - DAY

OPEN ON a TRAIN pulled across the Equestria landscape. Following as it wends its way past a mountain, we REVEAL THE CRYSTAL KINGDOM SKYLINE on the horizon.

INT. TRAIN CAR - SAME TIME

RAINBOW DASH peers out the window, then steels herself.

1	RAINBOW DASH	1
	There it is. This just got real.	

Dash, in the front row of seats, rises and turns to face the MANY ROWS OF OTHER PONIES seated in the car, all of whom are engaged in their pockets of conversation and excited hubbub.

2	RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)	2
	All right, gang - listen up. We're almost there so I've got a few things to say.	

ANGLE ON the row of seats where APPLEBLOOM, SCOOTALOO and SWEETIE BELLE (the CMCs) sit.

3	APPLEBLOOM	3
	Did we remember the hoop? Oh no what if we forgot the hoop?	

4	SWEETIE BELLE	4
	Relax. Spike packed all our stuff. He's got it under control.	

5	APPLEBLOOM	5
	But what if Spike forgot the hoop? We can't do our stunt without the hoop!	

6	SCOOTALOO	6
	Would you hush?	

ANGLE BACK ON Rainbow Dash.

7	RAINBOW DASH	7
	First off, who here besides me thinks this is the best Equestria Games delegation in Ponyville history?	

8	ALL THE PONIES	8
	<cheers>	
9	RAINBOW DASH	9
	Lemme hear your winning whinny!	
10	ALL THE PONIES	10
	<whinnies>	
11	RAINBOW DASH	11
	You call that a winning whinny?	
12	ALL THE PONIES	12
	<louder whinnies>	
13	RAINBOW DASH	13
	I can't heaaaarrrr you...	
14	ALL THE PONIES	14
	<still louder whinnies>	
15	RAINBOW DASH	15
	That's more like it! And no matter what your sport... be it the Steeplechase/Ice Skating Biathalon...	

ANGLE ON the team pride of ponies dressed in a combo of steeplechase-rider-wear and snow gear.

16	RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)	16
	... or the Trot/Canter/Gallop Relay...	

ANGLE ON the team pride of ponies dressed in track suits.

17	RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)	17
	... or our entry into pairs Figure- Spelunking...	

ANGLE ON team pride of ponies dressed in a bizarre mash-up of hard-hat spelunking gear with figure skating glitz, then...

... ANGLE BACK ON Rainbow Dash.

18	RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)	18
	(under breath)	
	... whatever that is.	
	(then, continuing)	
	The point is we all gotta give it our all, because we've all got a genuine shot at Ponyville gold!	

19 ALL THE PONIES 19
<cheers>

20 RAINBOW DASH 20
Wiiiiiith the possible exception of
Brutus, Fluttershy and me.

ANGLE ON the shrugs of FLUTTERSHY and BRUTUS.

21 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D) 21
I mean, we're good and all, but
we're up against the Wonderbolts in
the aerial relay, so gold's kind of
a stretch, let's not kid ourselves.

ANGLE ON Scootaloo jumping up from her seat.

22 SCOOTALOO 22
Don't feel bad, Rainbow Dash. We
have absolutely no shot at winning
gold, either!

23 RAINBOW DASH 23
That's because you're carrying the
flag for Ponyville in the opening
ceremony. It's a non-competitive
event. There are no winners.

24 SCOOTALOO 24
Winners or not, we still have the
chance to be awesome!

25 RAINBOW DASH 25
That's the spirit. You hear that
everypony? Winners or not, we all
still have the chance to be
awesome!

26 ALL THE PONIES 26
<cheers>

27 RAINBOW DASH 27
But uh... let's still try to win
lots and lots of stuff too, okay.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - LATER

The platform teems with criss-crossing activity as ponies disembark the recently-arrived train.

ANGLE ON SPIKE with the CMCs, who proudly stands before a cart PILED HIGH WITH BAGS FULL OF GEAR.

28	SPIKE	28
	There you go. Your hoop. Your streamers, your scooter. Leave it to Spike, world champion gear carrier, for all your gear carrying needs.	
29	APPLEBLOOM	29
	So the Ponyville flag's in there? You're sure. And the flagpole? That too?	
30	SPIKE	30
	In with the portable ramp.	
31	SCOOTALOO	31
	Give it a rest, Applebloom.	
32	SWEETIE BELLE	32
	He's got it under control. As I said.	
33	SPIKE	33
	Aw she's just nervous, that's all. Perfectly understandable. You'll have a stadium packed with thousands upon thousands upon thousands of ponies from all over Equestria watching your every move. Who wouldn't be nervous?	
34	APPLEBLOOM	34
	This isn't helping.	
35	SPIKE	35
	Tell you what I do when I'm under pressure. Like packing your stuff for example. That's a lot of responsibility! What if I forgot the hoop?	
36	APPLEBLOOM	36
	You forgot the hoop?!?	

37 SWEETIE BELLE 37
Applebloom! Calm down. He's just
speaking hythopetically...
hypothectically... hypopendectom -

38 SCOOTALOO 38
It's just a for-instance.

39 SPIKE 39
Whenever I'm afraid I'll forget
something and I start to panic, I
have a simple trick: I -

Just then a SUBSERVIENT CRYSTAL PONY steps forward from the crowd toward Spike.

40 SUBSERVIENT CRYSTAL PONY 40
Pardon my rude interruption, but
may I take your bags.

41 SPIKE 41
No I got it, thanks.
(then, to CMCs)
So anyway, my simple trick -

42 SUBSERVIENT CRYSTAL PONY 42
A thousand pardons, but I -

43 SPIKE 43
Excuse me, pal... I'm talkin' here!

The Subservient Crystal Pony backs away.

44 SPIKE (CONT'D) 44
(back to CMCs)
Where was I?

45 SWEETIE BELLE 45
Simple trick.

46 SPIKE 46
Right. I count to ten. By the
time I'm done I'm calm enough to
get the job done right. Every
time. Easy peasy cider squeezy.

47 APPLEBLOOM 47
Cool.

48 SPIKE 48
Because nothing's more important
than a job well done... like
getting these bags to their
destination safe and sound.

He goes to pat the bags behind him, but they're not there.

49 SPIKE (CONT'D) 49
What the - ? Where are the bags?

50 SCOOTALOO 50
That guy took them.

ANGLE ON the cart pulled away by Subservient Crystal Pony.

51 SPIKE 51
Hey, come back here!

52 APPLEBLOOM 52
Onetwothreefourfivesixseveneightnin
eten, onetwothreefourfivesixsevenei
ghtnineten! It's not working!

Subservient Crystal Pony, seeing Spike give chase, panics and runs, still pushing the bags along.

53 SPIKE 53
Gimme back those bags!

Spike DARTS around obstacles on the crowded platform - he's determined, instinctual. But his short legs only go so fast.

54 SUBSERVIENT CRYSTAL PONY 54
(still running, anguished)
Please do not be angry with me, O
Great Honorable One!

55 SPIKE 55
(still running, thrown)
Huh? Who? Is that some kind of
secret code?

Subservient Crystal Pony THROWS HIMSELF TO GROUND, COWERING.

56 FOOTMAN 56
Shame upon me for upsetting the
Great and Honorable Spike the Brave
and Glorious.

57 SPIKE 57
Huh? Whothewhatnow?

PRINCESS TWILIGHT and PRINCESS Cadance approach.

58 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 58
(with a knowing smile)
Spike. There you are.

59 CADANCE 59
(to Crystal Pony)
Thanks for bringing Spike to us.
(then, to Spike)
Our footpony can take care of the
bags from here.

60 SPIKE 60
Would somepony please tell me what
the heck is going on?

INT. CADANCE'S CRYSTAL PALACE - LATER

Spike LOUNGES on a luxurious couch while Crystal Pony Royal Attendants wait on him hand and foot - one feeding him JEWELS - while Princess Twilight, Princess Cadance and SHINING ARMOR look on.

61 SPIKE 61
So the ponies here think I'm some
kind of hero? You gotta be kidding.
(then)
More of the green ones, please. I
like the green ones.

62 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 62
Last time you were here you got the
Crystal Heart to Princess Cadance
in time to save this entire kingdom
from destruction... soooooo that
kind of makes you a hero.

63 CADANCE 63
And since that day, the legend of
you has spread across the Crystal
Empire. You are known throughout
my kingdom as Great and Honorable
Spike the Brave and Glorious.

64 SPIKE 64
But I just did what you told me to
and acted on impulse. Don't see
what's heroic about that.

65 CADANCE 65
Seems like there's a kingdom full
of Crystal Ponies here that feels
differently.

66 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 66
You're a big shot here, Spike.
Isn't that awesome? See that
stained glass window? That's you.

Spike checks out the STAINED GLASS WINDOW of his heroics.

67	SPIKE	67
	Whoa.	
68	CADANCE	68
	This is why we all hope you'd do us the honor of lighting the torch at the Opening Ceremony.	
69	SPIKE	69
	Light the torch to begin the entire Equestria Games?	
70	CADANCE	70
	Would you do that for us?	
71	SPIKE	71
	Me? But what about Applebloom, Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle. Who will help them with their stuff?	
72	TWILIGHT SPARKLE	72
	(chuckling) We'll make sure that's covered.	

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - LATER

Anticipation fills the air as the ponies in the Opening Ceremony procession stand together awaiting their cue. The Ponyville contingent of the group includes the CMCs, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy and Brutus.

The stadium's seats are filled to capacity. Shining Armor steps forward to address the group.

73	SHINING ARMOR	73
	Places for the procession, everypony. Two minutes!	

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

PINKIE PIE, APPLEJACK and RARITY sit together. Rarity uses magic to hold up her opera glasses.

74	APPLEJACK	74
	That's so exciting about Spike, but does anypony see him yet?	
75	RARITY	75
	I see Dash and Fluttershy!	

76 PINKIE PIE 76
 (waving toward below)
 Over here! Look over here! Here
 we are, sitting over here! Hi!

77 APPLEJACK 77
 I don't think they can hear you,
 Pinkie.

78 PINKIE PIE 78
 A little louder, maybe?

INT. STADIUM - SAME TIME

Dash, Fluttershy and CMCs await their cue as the tiny fleck of Pinkie inaudibly jumps up and down in the b.g.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS

Celestia and Luna sit together, presiding over the Games. Celestia occupies the center seat. A step below them sit Twilight and Cadance and other Very Important Ponies seated below-ish...

79 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 79
 I was surprised that Spike didn't
 seem more excited to light the
 torch. He's so much better at
 controlling his fire than he used
 to be. He should be fine, right?

80 CADANCE 80
 I sent Ms. Harshwhinny, the Head of
 the Games, to instruct him
 personally on what to do. There's
 not much to it. He'll be great.

INT. STADIUM - CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

MS. HARSHWINNY leads Spike along. Despite her taciturn nature, she fawns over Spike the Celebrity.

81 MS. HARSHWHINNY 81
 And that's all there is to it.
 You'll be great.

82 SPIKE 82
 Just stand where you tell me until
 you give me the signal. Then I
 walk over and light it.

83 MS. HARSHWHINNY 83
 Couldn't be simpler.

Then...

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - CONTINUOUS

... as they step out onto the open...

84	SPIKE	84
	I guess you're right. Easy peasy cider squeeEEEEHoooyawawaaaaa...	

The spectacle of the thousands and thousands of cheering ponies in the stadium hits him with a blast of cold terror.

CLOSE ON Ms. Harshwhinny still walking.

85	MS. HARSHWHINNY	85
	I have to tell you, when my nieces and nephews hear I was walking and talking with Great and Honorable Spike the Brave and Glorious, they're just gonna think that I'm the supercoolest -	

She turns to see Spike still stands frozen in the same spot.

86	MS. HARSHWHINNY (CONT'D)	86
	Spike? You coming?	

87	SPIKE	87
	(still fear stricken) I'd like to but um, but my legs don't seem to want to move where I tell them to.	

Ms. Harshwhinny strides back toward him.

88	MS. HARSHWHINNY	88
	(under breath) Honestly, sometimes heroes are way weirder than you'd expect...	

Just as Ms. Harshwhinny's about to lead him by the hand, Spike spots the CMCs amidst the crowd, getting ready.

89	SPIKE	89
	Excuse me a sec.	

He races over to them.

90	SPIKE (CONT'D)	90
	You guys okay? You got everything you need?	

91	APPLEBLOOM	91
	Yep, it's all here.	
92	SPIKE	92
	You're not nervous or anything? Because if you are I can just drop this whole torch thing and be here for ya.	
93	SCOOTALOO	93
	No, I think we're good.	
94	SWEETIE BELLE	94
	Never better.	
95	APPLEBLOOM	95
	That count-to-ten trick works like a charm.	
96	SPIKE	96
	I know, but really, just say the word and I'll -	
97	MS. HARSHWHINNY	97
	O Great and Honorable Spike the Brave and Glorious. It's time.	
98	THE CMCS	98
	(waving cheerfully) Good luck, Spike! / You'll be great! / What an honor!	
99	SPIKE	99
	But -	

Ms. Harshwhinny firmly pulls him along.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - LATER

Rarity, Applejack and Pinkie Pie watch the PROCESSION wend its way around the track.

100	RARITY	100
	Get ready.	
101	APPLEJACK	101
	Don'tblowitdon'tblowit.	
102	SHINING ARMOR (O.S.)	102
	Now please welcome the delegation from Ponyville!	

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Scotaloo BURSTS through a paper circle in a hoop as streamers shoot out, the Ponyville flag unfurled behind her, attached to a pole on her scooter. She sticks the landing and then joins the others, striking a pose.

103 THE CMCS 103
 PONYVILLE - FOREVER! YAY!

104 CROWD 104
 <roaring approval>

ANGLE ON Ms. Harshwinny with a slack-jawed Spike beside her.

105 MS. HARSHWHINNY 105
 Enjoying the spectacle, Mr. Spike?

But Spike's not facing the procession, he's facing the crowd.

106 SPIKE 106
 (eyes glazed)
 So many thousands of ponies. All
 watching. Thousands upon thousands-

107 MS. HARSHWHINNY 107
 Okay, it's time.
 (no response)
 This is the signal.
 (no response)
 I'm giving you the signal now.
 (then, sharp)
 Spike!

108 SPIKE 108
 (snapping out of it)
 Oh. Right. Okay legs, do your
 thing.

He FORCES HIMSELF TO WALK toward the torch.

109 SPIKE (CONT'D) 109
 Walk over and light it. Walk over
 and light it. Easy peasy. Cider
 squeezy. Easy peasy.

He stands before the torch, with the eyes of an entire stadium full of ponies fixed upon him. Spike attempts to breathe fire... and has a COUGHING FIT.

110 SPIKE (CONT'D) 110
 Okay. Just a little nervous. Hard
 to breathe fire when your nervous.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Princesses Twilight and Cadance lean forward in their seats.

111 CADANCE 111
What's wrong?

112 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 112
This is not going great.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Spike tries again. More COUGHING.

113 SPIKE 113
Come on, Spike. Calm yourself.
Count to ten. One, two... okay...
the next number is... okay I know
this... the next number... One,
two...
(then, gazing into stands)
... three... thousand... fourteen
thousand... twenty thousand...

An EERIE SILENCE FALL OVER THE CROWD waiting for Spike to act as he stares back at them, frozen and entranced.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Cadance turns to Twilight quizzically.

114 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 114
Equestria, we have a problem.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

EXT. STADIUM - FIELD - CONTINUOUS

All eyes on Spike. He tries again. Another coughing fit.

115 SPIKE 115
Oh no. Tell me this isn't
happening.

116 MS. HARSHWHINNY 116
(wound pretty tight)
Mr. Spike, I do not mean to offend
your Honorableness but would you
light the darn thing already?

117 SPIKE 117
I don't know what it is, but I just
don't have the stuff today. Did
you bring a match?

118 MS. HARSHWHINNY 118
(wound tighter)
You're a *dragon*. Why would I bring
a match??

119 SPIKE 119
(hoarse)
Then some cough drops, maybe?
(off her look)
Nevermind. I'll keep trying.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Nearly everpony's on the edge of their seat sweating bullets.

120 CADANCE 120
My first Equestria Games as ruler
of the Crystal Kingdom and it's
starting like this??

Twilight looks back at her sheepishly. Then...

121 CADANCE (CONT'D) 121
(to room)
Somepony go down and help him!

Meanwhile Twilight, unnoticed by the others, tips her horn to
FIRE A DISCREET SPELL down at the field.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Spike stares in futility at the still-unlit torch.

122 SPIKE 122
Light, darn you! Light!

Then suddenly... the torch BURST INTO FLAMES. The crowd
ERUPTS, overjoyed. Ms. Harshwhinny, nearly collapsing with
relief, steps over to congratulate the mystified Spike.

123 MS. HARSHWHINNY 123
Well done, Mr. Spike. Better late
than never.

ANGLE ON Shining Armor addressing all vast assembly.

124 SHINING ARMOR 124
Let the Games begin!!

125 THE CROWD 125
 <deafening roar>

ANGLE ON Spike staring at the torch, scratching his head.

EXT. STADIUM - LATER

Rarity, Applejack and Rainbow Dash stand waiting. Then...

126 RARITY 126
 There are our little superstars!

Sweetie Belle, Applebloom and Scootaloo come racing over.
Each gets a warm greeting from their respective "sister."

127 RARITY (CONT'D) 127
 You were fabulous!

128 APPLEJACK 128
 Made me sit up proud like a
 cornstalk in August.

129 RAINBOW DASH 129
 Ya done good, squirt.

Twilight approaches.

130 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 130
 You three really were wonderful.
 But does anypony know what was
 going on with Spike?

131 APPLEJACK 131
 He sure seemed to be havin' a tough
 time of it there for a spell.

132 RARITY 132
 He put things right in time,
 though.

133 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 133
 Actually, it was me. I didn't want
 him to be embarrassed by ponies
 rushing down to help him in front
 of the crowd, so I cast a secret
 spell to light it for him.

134 RARITY 134
 Oh dear. Have you told him?

135 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 135
 No, but he might have figured it
 out on his own.

136 APPLEJACK 136
You gotta tell him just in case.

137 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 137
I know. I'm just afraid of how
he'll take it. I know what pride
he takes in a job well done.

138 RAINBOW DASH 138
Psst. Here he comes now. Act
casual.
(strikes casual pose)
'Sup.

ANGLE ON a dazed Spike approaching.

139 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 139
Spike! There you are. Is
everything okay?

140 SPIKE 140
I guess, I dunno. The weirdest
thing happened down there.

141 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 141
Yeah, about that. I -

142 SPIKE 142
I mean, there I was, trying to
light the torch, with the whole
world watching, and feeling like
the hugest failure ever. And then
the thing just lit. It was
amazing!

143 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 143
Oh whew. I was afraid you'd be
upset.

144 SPIKE 144
Upset?? Are you kidding, why would
I be upset to discover I can light
fire WITH MY MIND?!?

The ponies exchange bewildered glances.

145 ALL THE PONIES 145
Huh???

146 CRYSTAL PONY #1 (V.O.) 146
Look, it's the Great and Honorable
Spike the Brave and Glorious!

Some CRYSTAL PONIES approach.

147 CRYSTAL PONY #2 147
Can we get your autograph?

148 SPIKE 148
Sure!

149 CRYSTAL PONY #1 149
How you saved our Kingdom last time
you were here was really amazing.

150 SPIKE 150
You know what else is amazing?
Watch this!

Spike STRAINS over the autograph he just signed to light it
with his mind. The Crystal Ponies look on, confused.

151 SPIKE (CONT'D) 151
Gonna light this autograph on fire
with my mind.

He STRAINS again for another awkward beat.

152 SPIKE (CONT'D) 152
Don't worry. Once it bursts into
flames through brainpower I'll sign
another one for you. Promise.

He STRAINS some more.

153 SPIKE (CONT'D) 153
<effortful grunting>

ANGLE ON Applejack, Dash, Rarity, Twilight and the CMCs.

154 APPLEJACK 154
You better tell him. Now.

155 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 155
Spike, may I have a word with you a
moment?

156 SPIKE 156
Sure. Here you go.
(handing over autograph)
Better be careful with that. Might
burst into flames later. Delayed
reaction.

The befuddled Crystal Ponies take the autograph and walk off.

157 SPIKE (CONT'D) 157
Hey Twi, what is it? Hold on, give
me a second.

He puts his hands to his temples like a soothsayer.

158 SPIKE (CONT'D) 158
If I can set fire to stuff with my
mind, mindreading must be just
around the corner, and I predict
that you are about to ask me... to
set fire to something WITH MY MIND.

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 159
No. Because you can't, Spike.

160 SPIKE 160
Oh really? So how do explain what
happened down there in front of
thousands and thousands -

161 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 161
I did it, Spike. I saw you were
having trouble so I cast a spell to
do it for you.

162 SPIKE 162
(sinking)
... in front of thousands and
thousands...

163 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 163
I'm sorry, Spike. I just couldn't
stand to see you stuck like that.
You understand, don't you?

164 SPIKE 164
I - I - I need to be alone right
now.

He walks off.

165 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 165
Spike?

He keeps right on walking. The ponies all droop.

Meanwhile, ANOTHER CRYSTAL PONY approaches Spike.

166 CRYSTAL PONY #3 166
Oh Great and Honorable Spike the
Brave and Glorious. Can I get your
autograph?

167 SPIKE 167
Sorry. You should probably ask
somebody special instead.

He gives the pony a sad smile and keeps right on walking.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - LATER

The Ponyville aerial relay team of Rainbow Dash, Futtershy and Brutus takes its place amidst an ELABORATE ARRAY OF HOOPS, ready to race. The other teams preparing for the start include the WONDERBOLTS - SOARIN', FLEETFOOT and SPITFIRE. Shining Armor steps forward to address the crowd.

168	SHINING ARMOR	168
	Our next event: the aerial relay!	

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

Rarity, Applejack and Pinkie Pie cheer with the other fans.

169	PINKIE PIE	169
	Ooh, I hope we win.	

170	APPLEJACK	170
	Do they look nervous?	

171	RARITY	171
	(pouty)	
	I can't tell from here. The	
	disabling spell they put on all	
	horns to prevent cheating during	
	competitive events makes it so my	
	opera goggles won't stay up.	

172	SWEETIE BELLE	172
	Hey, where's Spike?	

173	SCOOTALOO	173
	Oh no! He wouldn't want to miss	
	this for anything!	

174	APPLEBLOOM	174
	I'll find him.	

Applebloom hurries away.

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - VARIOUS - A LITTLE LATER

Applebloom scurries around town, searching for Spike. Eventually, she spots him near the Crystal Palace.

175	APPLEBLOOM	175
	Spike! Come on, quick kicking	
	around over here. Rainbow Dash and	
	Fluttershy are about to compete.	
	You'll miss it.	

176 SPIKE 176
You know this is the spot where I
supposedly helped rescue a whole
kingdom? Everypony here thinks it
was such a huge deal, but to me I
just did what needed to happen.

177 APPLEBLOOM 177
Um... can we talk about this on the
way back to the stadium?

178 SPIKE 178
But then, when I knew I was doing
something great - lighting the
torch to begin the Equestria Games -
I blew it. I just blew it. I let
everypony down.

179 APPLEBLOOM 179
Nopony thinks that.

180 SPIKE 180
Of course they do. They're all
just being nice about it. And when
will a little guy like me ever get
a chance to make it right? When?

181 APPLEBLOOM 181
You could ask Ms. Harshwhinny if
there's anything else that needs
doing, and then you could do that.
Would that make it all better?

182 SPIKE 182
Hmm. It just might. Great
thinking, Applebloom. Come on,
let's go!

They BOLT.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - A LITTLE LATER

Ponies cheer as Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy and Brutus give the Wonderbolts a run for their money down below. Meanwhile, Spike plies Ms. Harshwhinny with questions.

183 SPIKE 183
So seriously? Nothing at all?

184 MS. HARSHWHINNY 184
No, we've got it all covered, you
don't worry about a thing.

185 SPIKE 185
But I'd be glad to -

186 MS. HARSHWHINNY 186
You rescued this entire kingdom.
You certainly have earned the
opportunity to sit back and relax
and enjoy the show.

187 SPIKE 187
But if there's anything -

188 MS. HARSHWHINNY 188
Tut, tut. Not another word. Time
to take a little Spike time.

She treats him to a soda from a vendor.

189 MS. HARSHWHINNY (CONT'D) 189
(with a pat on his head)
Enjoy.

Spike just looks at the soda and SCOWLS.

ANGLE ON the end of the race. The Wonderbolts finish first,
with the Ponyville anchor Rainbow Dash just behind.

190 RARITY/APPLEJACK/PINKIE PIE 190
Second place./ We got silver!/ Yay!

Meanwhile, rather than join the celebration, Spike sets down
his soda and leaves.

INT. STADIUM CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Spike heads for the field but gets stopped by SECURITY.

191 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 191
Halt. Only authorized personnel
past this point.

192 SPIKE 192
(bluffing haughtiness)
What? Don't you know who I am?

193 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 193
(realizing)
Great and Honorable Spike the Brave
and Glorious. A thousand pardons.

He lets Spike pass.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Shining Armor stands before the medal podium, where the aerial relay teams have received their medals.

194	SHINING ARMOR	194
	Congratulations to all our medalists. And now, the national anthem of -	

Spike rushes up in front of Shining Armor.

195	SPIKE	195
	And I shall do the honor of singing all the words!	

196	RAINBOW DASH	196
	Spike? What are you doing?	

197	SPIKE	197
	(to Dash)	
	You know how they always just play the music?	
	(to crowd)	
	Well I know all the words to our anthem and will sing them for you now, loud and proud, to the enjoyment of all!	

198	CROWD	198
	<cheers and applause>	

199	SPIKE	199
	Maestro, music please!	

The MUSIC BEGINS PLAYING. Spike seems confused. He glances back at Rainbow Dash.

200	SPIKE (CONT'D)	200
	Wait, this isn't the Ponyville anthem.	

201	RAINBOW DASH	201
	Duh! They only play the anthem for the winners. The Wonderbolts are from Cloudsdale!	

202	SPIKE	202
	But... but I don't know the words to the Cloudsdale anthem. I've never even heard it!	

Dash winces and shrugs. Meanwhile...

203 CRYSTAL PONY IN CROWD 203
Sing for us, O Great and Honorable
Spike the Brave and Glorious!

204 CROWD 204
<enthusiastic agreement walla>

205 SPIKE 205
(mouth going dry)
But of course.

Spike clears his throat. Here goes nothing.

206 SPIKE (CONT'D) 206
(singing)
*Oh we're the Wonderbolts and we're
super fast and we're from
Cloudsdale which is the part of
Equestria that we like best... yes
we're proud and we're fast and we
like Cloudsdale because it has nice
trees and we love it... and isn't
this song over yet because I really
wish it was.*
(music still going)
Over.
(music still going)
Now.
(waits till it ends, then)
Now.

Dead silence.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Princesses Twilight and Cadance look on in DUMBFOUNDED SHOCK.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

Ms. Harshwhinny looks on in DUMBFOUNDED SHOCK.

INT. STADIUM - MEDAL PODIUM - SAME TIME

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy look on in DUMBFOUNDED SHOCK.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

The rest of the Mane 6 and the CMCs look on in shock.
Then...

207 PINKIE PIE 207
(genuinely blown away)
Wow. That ROCKED! Spike, that was
awesome!! Woo-hoo!!!

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

A sullen Spike looks on as Pinkie Pie, the only enthusiast in the otherwise silent and massive crowd, continues raving like a remote maniacal spec.

208	PINKIE PIE	208
	(yelling in distance)	
	Yay, Spike! Loved it! Yip-yip-yip-yippeeeeeee!!	

As Spike slowly dies inside, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

INT. LODGING - TWO WEEKS LATER

The CMCs get ready to leave to attend more of the Games.

209	APPLEBLOOM	209
	(calling O.S.)	
	Spike you coming?	

210	SWEETIE BELLE	210
	Wow, I can't believe the Games have gone by so fast.	

211	SCOOTALOO	211
	I'm almost sad to be going back to Ponyville tomorrow. It's been so exciting!	

Spike enters.

212	SPIKE	212
	I fit all your souvenirs into your bags. Except for these. They're a little big.	

He holds up two HUGE FOAM HOOFS with "#1" on them.

213	SCOOTALOO	213
	It's okay. We'll wear them home.	

Scootloo and Sweetie Belle each slip on one, waving them in the air together.

214	SCOOTALOO/SWEETIE BELLE	214
	Ponyville's Number One! Woohoo!!	

215	APPLEBLOOM	215
	If you're done packing, why don't you come with us? The last medal round of the whole Games is tonight.	
216	SCOOTALOO	216
	And it's the absolute coolest event of the whole two weeks, too: the Ice Archery finals!	
217	SWEETIE BELLE	217
	And because it's at night, Luna presides. As usual. Awesome.	
218	SPIKE	218
	Nah, I need time to unpack all your stuff so I can then repack it tomorrow morning. You know, to prevent wrinkles.	
219	SWEETIE BELLE	219
	Seriously?? But you've spent practically the entire Games hiding out in here.	
220	SCOOTALOO	220
	And this is the last event.	
221	APPLEBLOOM	221
	You've gotta come.	

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - THAT NIGHTINT.

The SUN SETS over the horizon, the sky darkens... and Celestia and Luna ceremonially change places, with Luna now occupying the center chair.

ANGLE ON Princess Twilight and Princess Cadance.

222	TWILIGHT SPARKLE	222
	Looks like all-in-all the Games have gone almost perfectly. Not too shabby for the new ruler of a host kingdom.	
223	CADANCE	223
	Thanks. But how's Spike? Will he be joining us for the final event?	
224	TWILIGHT SPARKLE	224
	I certainly hope so. Maybe I'd better go check on him.	

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Shining Armor once again addresses the crowd.

225	SHINING ARMOR	225
	Ice Archers, take your places!	

Several UNICORNS take their places on one side of the field. On the opposite side stands an array of ARCHERY TARGETS.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

The rest of the Mane 6 sit with the CMCs, looking on. Dash acquaints the CMCs with some of the game's finer points.

226	RAINBOW DASH	226
	The key to victory here is for the archer to keep the full force of their magic hitting dead center.	

227	SCOOTALOO	227
	Or the ice will come out lopsided?	

228	RAINBOW DASH	228
	Exactly. The whole target's gotta be completely encased in ice to win.	

Twilight arrives.

229	PINKIE PIE	229
	Yay, Twilight came to join us. And luckily we have an extra seat.	

230	TWILIGHT SPARKLE	230
	Actually I was looking for Spike. Have you seen him?	

231	APPLEBLOOM	231
	He wouldn't come.	

232	SWEETIE BELLE	232
	We tried everything we could think of to talk him into it.	

233	SCOOTALOO	233
	But he wouldn't listen.	

234	PINKIE PIE	234
	You can have his extra seat though.	

Twilight rushes off.

235 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) 235
Twi?

INT. LODGING - A LITTLE LATER

Lounging on a sofa, Spike entertains himself by blowing gusts of air at a quill feather, keeping it suspended in mid-air.

236 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.) 236
Spike? You here?

Spike LEAPS TO HIS FEET and yanks clothes out of bags.

237 SPIKE 237
Uh, yeah. I'm super busy.

Twilight enters the just as Spike starts repacking the clothes strewn around him that he just pulled out.

238 SPIKE (CONT'D) 238
Look at all this packing left to do. Crazy, right?

239 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 239
No more hiding out. You're coming with me. Now.

240 SPIKE 240
Okay fine. I'll come.

Then, pulling out SUNGLASSES and a WIDE-BRIMMED HAT.

241 SPIKE (CONT'D) 241
Can I at least wear these?

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - A LITTLE LATER

And intense Ice Archery competition is underway. Determined participants fire BLUE MAGIC from their horns at the targets, causing ice to radiate out from where the magic strikes, gradually engulfing the target in ice.

Suddenly, one of the unicorns loses their footing and SLIPS, and its ERRANT MAGIC BEAM strikes a fellow competitor in the head, ENCASING IT'S HEAD IN ICE.

242 CROWD 242
<gasps>

The stricken unicorn's horn then starts FIRING INVOLUNTARILY from within the ice, causing the ice to continue engulfing its whole body at an alarming rate.

243	SHINING ARMOR	243
	What's happening?	
	(tries firing magic)	
	Gah! Blocked!	
	(then, to competitors)	
	Fire a spell to stop this.	
244	ICE ARCHER #1	244
	We're blocked for everything but ice.	
245	SHINING ARMOR	245
	Somepony help!	

EXT. STADIUM - SAME TIME

Twilight and Spike approach the entrance to the stands together, with Spike doing his best to be incognito in his sunglasses, hat, and JACKET WITH THE COLLAR UP.

246	TWILIGHT SPARKLE	246
	Honestly Spike, I don't see why you're being so hard on yourself.	
247	SPIKE	247
	I let everypony down. Twice! You never let anypony down so you have no idea what that's like.	
248	TWILIGHT SPARKLE	248
	Are you kidding? I've totally let ponies down. That's not the point. The torch got lit, the all the aerial relay teams got their medals. No harm no foul.	
249	SPIKE	249
	(re: corridor entrance)	
	Can we at least watch from inside there? I'm not sure I'm ready to face crowds in the stands just yet.	
250	TWILIGHT SPARKLE	250
	I suppose.	

Then, hearing the COMMOTION barely audible in b.g.

251	TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)	251
	But what's all that noise?	

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Full blown chaos on the field. The stricken unicorn lies on the ground, fully encased in ice... turning blue and fading fast...

Ms. Harshwhinny stands over him, surrounded by THREE CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARDS.

252 MS. HARSHWHINNY 252
We're out of time. Release him
now!

253 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 253
But we need the combination of all
four of us to unlock the disabling
spell.

254 MS. HARSHWHINNY 254
So where's the fourth of you?

255 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 255
We can't find him.

256 MS. HARSHWHINNY 256
Don't give me that! Have you
checked the bathrooms?

257 SPIKE (O.S.) 257
Get out of the way!

Ms. Harshwhinny look up to see Spike RUNNING STRAIGHT AT HER.

258 SPIKE (CONT'D) 258
Move! Now!!

Ms. Harshwhinny complies just in time as Spike BLASTS the ice with a HUGE RAGING BLAST OF FIRE. Then AGAIN. And AGAIN. Each time the ice shrinks and shrinks, till at last the Unicorn is released.

Spike leans over the motionless Unicorn and cradles its head in his hands.

259 SPIKE (CONT'D) 259
You okay, buddy?

The Unicorn <SPUTTERS> back to consciousness, makes EYE CONTACT with Spike and SMILES WEAKLY.

As Spike helps the Unicorn to it's feet...

260 CROWD 260
<erupts with joy>

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - LATER

Spike steps up into the stands, and gets mobbed by the Mane 6 and the CMCs.

261 ALL THE PONIES 261
 <ebullient congratulations walla>

Spike accepts it all wordlessly as Cadance arrives.

262 CADANCE 262
 I just wanted to thank you
 personally for saving that unicorn,
 and the Games, O Great and
 Honorable Spike the Brave and
 Glorious. You must be very proud.

263 SPIKE 263
 Not really.

264 ALL THE PONIES 264
 What?

265 SPIKE 265
 It was nothing special. I just saw
 what needed to be done and reacted.
 It just so happens I can breathe
 fire... if any of you could do that
 you'd have done the same.

266 APPLEJACK 266
 Forgive me for being blunt, but
 you're not makin' a lick of sense.

267 ALL THE PONIES 267
 <general agreement>

268 SPIKE 268
 (shrugs)
 It's just how I feel.

269 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 269
 Wait a second. I think I get it.
 I finally understand.

All eyes on her.

270 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D) 270
 You keep saying you let everypony
 down. And we all keep saying you
 didn't. But now I know we're all
 wrong. You know who was
 disappointed in you, Spike?
 (MORE)

TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

(a beat)

You. You were disappointed in you.

Spike lowers his eyes.

271	TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)	271
	And only you can make it right with you again. What would that take Spike? Rescuing a unicorn from a block of ice obviously didn't do it. So what would?	

Spike shrugs, his expression heavy and sad.

272	SPIKE	272
	I don't know.	

He thinks.

273	SPIKE (CONT'D)	273
	I guess having a chance to light the torch again and do it right this time. To have my big moment of honor and not choke. But it's too late for that.	

274	CADANCE	274
	He's right. That big moment is passed. But there's another big moment coming up. As Princess of the Host Kingdom, it's my duty to set off the fireworks at the Closing Ceremonies tonight.	

275	SPIKE	275
	Yeah, well don't choke.	

276	CADANCE	276
	I doubt I will. Because with any luck I won't be down there at all.	

277	SPIKE	277
	Huh?	

278	CADANCE	278
	Would you do me and the Equestria Games and the entire Crystal Kingdom the great honor of lighting fireworks in my place at the Closing Ceremonies tonight?	

Spike just looks back at her, beaming.

279 CADANCE (CONT'D) 279
Would you do that for us?

280 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 280
So whaddayasay, O Great and
Honorable Spike the Brave and
Glorious?

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - LATER THAT NIGHT

Spike stands amidst the pageantry next to Ms. Harshwhinny.

281 MS. HARSHWHINNY 281
Okay, it's time.

282 SPIKE 282
Easy peasy cider squeezy!

Spike strides right up to a row of fireworks and BREATHEs as small blast of fire to LIGHT EACH FUSE one by one, through...

283 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 283
You know, it feels good to give to
others. I really love it.

ANGLE ON the CMCs watching in the stands.

284 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 284
Whether it's supporting someponies
in their big moment.

ANGLE ON Princess Twilight watching from her box seat.

285 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 285
Or helping out a princess.

WIDEN ON Princess Cadance next to Twilight, watching.

286 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 286
Or helping out another princess.

ANGLE BACK ON Spike standing back to watch as all the lit fuses burn down...

287 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 287
But every now and then the time
comes when, no matter how many
folks are watching, you gotta do it
just for you.

The fireworks LAUNCH into a SPECTACULAR DISPLAY. And then, amidst the explosive staccato...

ANGLE ON the subtle reflections of shifting color on Spike's beaming face.

288 SPIKE (CONT'D)
And that's okay.

288

FADE OUT.

END.