

Distribution:

Production:

Devon Cody
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
Ashley Irving-Scott

The HUB:

Donna Ebbs
Carin Davis
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Patrick Callan

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Michael Vogel
Brian Lenard
Kathy Page
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro Brand:

Mark Wiesenbahn
Matt Mattus
Donna Tobin

MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Equestria Games"
Episode 424
Written by: Dave Polsky

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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 EMPIRE 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	
	Listen up gang, we're almost there		*
	so I've got a few things to say.		

ANGLE ON APPLEBLOOM, in a row of seats with SCOOTALOO, SWEETIE BELLE and SPIKE, suddenly leaping to her feet. *

3	APPLEBLOOM	3	
	Oh no! We forgot the hoop! How		*
	are we going to do our thing		*
	without the hoop?!		*

4	SCOOTALOO	4	*
	Shh! Rainbow Dash is talking.		*

5	APPLEBLOOM	5	*
	But I left the hoop back in		*
	Ponyville!		*

6	SPIKE	6	*
	Don't worry. Packed an extra. Got		*
	ya covered. Who's the dragon?		*

Scootloo and Sweetie Belle high-hoof Spike while a blushing Applebloom sits back down. *

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
That's the spirit! 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.

10 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D) 10
... or the Trot/Canter/Gallop
Relay...

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

11 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D) 11
... 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.

12 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D) 12
(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!

13 ALL THE PONIES 13
<cheers>

14 RAINBOW DASH 14
Wiiiiith the possible exception of
Brutus, Fluttershy and me.

ANGLE ON the shrugs of FLUTTERSHY and BRUTUS.

15 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D) 15
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.

16	SCOOTALOO	16
	Don't feel bad, Rainbow Dash. We have absolutely no shot at winning gold, either!	
17	RAINBOW DASH	17
	That's because you're carrying the flag for Ponyville in the opening ceremony. It's a non-competitive event. There are no winners.	
18	SCOOTALOO	18
	Winners or not, we still have the chance to be awesome!	
19	RAINBOW DASH	19
	That's the spirit. You hear that everypony? Winners or not, we all still have the chance to be awesome!	
20	ALL THE PONIES	20
	<cheers>	
21	RAINBOW DASH	21
	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. Amidst all the commotion, PINKIE PIE approaches Rainbow Dash.

22	PINKIE PIE	22	*
	Dash, you'll be glad to know I'm keeping careful count of all the medals won so far at the Games.		*
	And hooboy, is it a nail-biter.		*
23	RAINBOW DASH	23	*
	What are you talking about? The Games haven't even started.		*
	Nopony's won anything.		*

24 PINKIE PIE 24 *

Which means it's a twelve way tie! *

I tell you what, sports fans, you *

cannot make this stuff up. *

(hyperventilating) *

Don't. Think. I. Can. Take. The. *

Excitement! Hold me. *

Then, as Dash reluctantly comforts overwrought Pinkie, some *

SERVANT CRYSTAL PONIES approach. *

25 SERVANT CRYSTAL PONY #1 25 *

There's the one. Returned to our *

empire at last. What an honor. *

(officious hoof clap) *

Prepare the royal reception! *

The other SERVANT CRYSTAL PONIES produce a SEDAN CHAIR. *

26 RAINBOW DASH 26 *

Aw, no need for all the fuss. I'm *

just a regular ol' pony deep down. *

But if you insist... *

Dash flies into the chair, and they DUMP HER OUT. *

27 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D) 27 *

Oof. Ouch. *

28 SERVANT CRYSTAL PONY #1 28 *

A thousand pardons. But this is *

not for you. *

ANGLE ON Spike with the CMCs, standing before a cart PILED *

HIGH WITH BAGS FULL OF GEAR, seemingly unaware of the CROWD *

OF ADMIRING CRYSTAL PONIES slowly gathering around them. *

29 SPIKE 29 *

It's all in there, gang. Hoop. *

Streamers. Scooter. Leave it to *

Spike, world champion gear carrier,

for all your gear carrying needs.

30 SWEETIE BELLE 30 *

(re: gathered onlookers) *

Um... why are all these ponies *

staring at us? *

31 SPIKE 31 *

They must know a quality packing *

job when they see one. *

32	APPLEBLOOM	32	
	And the Ponyville flag? You sure?		*
	And what about the flagpole?		*
33	SPIKE	33	
	In with the portable ramp.		
34	SCOOTALOO	34	
	Give it a rest, Applebloom.		
35	SPIKE	35	*
	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?		
36	APPLEBLOOM	36	
	This isn't helping.		
37	SPIKE	37	
	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?		
38	APPLEBLOOM	38	
	You forgot the hoop?!?		*
	Scotaloo ELBOWS Applebloom.		*
39	SPIKE	39	
45	Whenever I'm afraid I'll forget	45	
	something and I start to panic, I		
	have a simple trick: I count to		*
	ten, and by the time I'm done I've		*
	calmed myself enough to get the job		*
	done right every time. Easy peasy		*
	cider squeezy. And nothing's more		*
	important than a job well done.		*
	Suddenly, the Servant Crystal Ponies LIFT SPIKE into the		*
	sedan chair and RACE OFF WITH HIM.		*
40	SPIKE (CONT'D)	40	*
	Hey - put me down!		*
41	SCOOTALOO	41	*
	What's going on??		*

42 APPLEBLOOM 42 *
Help! Somepony stole Spike! *

Spike stands up in the sedan chair as it speeds along. *

Spikes POV: Bags and CMCs receding into the distance. *

43 SPIKE 43 *
Must. Protect. Bags. *

Spike LEAPS off the back of the chair, but LOSES HIS BALANCE *
in midair and FACE PLANTS on the ground. *

44 SPIKE (CONT'D) 44 *
Oof. *

Spike looks up and, to his surprise, sees PRINCESS TWILIGHT *
and PRINCESS CADANCE looking down at him. *

45 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 45 *
Spike! Are you all right? *

46 SPIKE 46 *
(groaning) *
Mostly.... *

The Servant Crystal Ponies THROW THEMSELVES TO GROUND. *

47 SERVANT CRYSTAL PONY #1 47 *
A thousand pardons, O Great and *
Honorable Spike the Brave and *
Glorious. *

48 SPIKE 48 *
Huh? Whothewhatnow? *

49 CADANCE 49 *
(to Servants) *
Thanks for bringing Spike to us. *
(then) *
It's okay, Spike. We'll have our *
hoofponies go back for your bags. *

50 SPIKE 50 *
Can they hang back a sec and tell *
me what's going on first? *

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.

51 SPIKE 51
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.

52 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 52
Last time you were here you got the
Crystal Heart to Princess Cadance
in time to save this entire empire *
from destruction... soooooo that
kind of makes you a hero.

53 CADANCE 53
And since that day, the legend of
you has spread across the Crystal
Empire. You are known throughout *
my empire as Great and Honorable *
Spike the Brave and Glorious.

54 SPIKE 54
But I just did what you told me to
and acted on impulse. Don't see
what's heroic about that.

55 CADANCE 55
Seems like there's an empire full *
of Crystal Ponies here that feels
differently.

56 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 56
You're a big shot here, Spike.
Isn't that awesome? See that? *
That's you.

Spike sees a GIANT CRYSTAL STATUE depicting his heroics. *

57 SPIKE 57
Whoa.

58 CADANCE 58
This is why we all hope you'd do us
the honor of lighting the torch at
the Opening Ceremony.

59 SPIKE 59
Light the torch to begin the entire
Equestria Games?

60 CADANCE 60
Would you do that for us?

61 SPIKE 61
Me? But what about Applebloom,
Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle. Who
will help them with their stuff?

62 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 62
(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 stadiums seats are filled to capacity. Shining Armor steps forward to address the group.

63 SHINING ARMOR 63
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.

64 APPLEJACK 64
That's so exciting about Spike, but
does anypony see him yet?

65 RARITY 65
I see Dash and Fluttershy!

66 PINKIE PIE 66
(waving toward below)
Over here! Look over here! Here
we are, sitting over here! Hi!

67 APPLEJACK 67
I don't think they can hear you,
Pinkie.

68 PINKIE PIE 68
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...

69 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 69
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?

70 CADANCE 70
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.

71 MS. HARSHWHINNY 71
And that's all there is to it. You'll be great.

72 SPIKE 72
Just stand where you tell me until you give me the signal. Then I walk over and light it.

73 MS. HARSHWHINNY 73
Couldn't be simpler.

Then...

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - CONTINUOUS

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

74 SPIKE 74
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.

75 MS. HARSHWHINNY 75
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.

76 MS. HARSHWHINNY (CONT'D) 76
Spike? You coming?

77 SPIKE 77
(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.

78 MS. HARSHWHINNY 78
(under breath)
Honestly, as if I didn't already *
have a million things to do. *
(then, exasperated) *
Would somepony take Spike the Hero *
by the hand and help him walk? *

Just as some Crystal Ponies hurry over to help, Spike spots *
the CMCs amidst the crowd, getting ready.

79 SPIKE 79
Excuse me a sec.

He races over to them.

80 SPIKE (CONT'D) 80
You guys okay? You got everything
you need?

81 APPLEBLOOM 81
Yep, it's all here.

82 SPIKE 82
You're not nervous or anything?
Because if you are I can just drop
this whole torch thing and be here
for ya.

83 SCOOTALOO 83
No, I think we're good.

84 SWEETIE BELLE 84
Never better.

85 APPLEBLOOM 85
That count-to-ten trick works like
a charm.

86 SPIKE 86
I know, but really, just say the
word and I'll -

87 MS. HARSHWHINNY 87
 (trying to be patient) *
O Great and Honorable Spike the
Brave and Glorious. It's time.

88 THE CMCS 88
 (waving cheerfully)
Good luck, Spike! / You'll be
great! / What an honor!

89 SPIKE 89
But -

Ms. Harshwhinny firmly pulls him along.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - LATER

Rarity, Applejack and Pinkie Pie watch the PROCESSION wend *
around the track, then SPOT THE CMCS readying themselves. *

90 RARITY 90
Oooh, come on little sisters... *

91 APPLEJACK 91
Don'tblowitdon'tblowit.

92 SHINING ARMOR (O.S.) 92
Now please welcome the delegation
from Ponyville!

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

[PRODUCTION NOTE: The routine the CMCS perform here is the *
same one they prepped in Episode 405 "Flight to the Finish".] *

Scootaloo 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.

93 THE CMCS 93
PONYVILLE - FOREVER! YAY!

94 CROWD 94
<roaring approval>

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

95 MS. HARSHWHINNY 95
Enjoying the spectacle, Mr. Spike?

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

96 SPIKE 96
(eyes glazed)
So many thousands of ponies. All
watching. Thousands upon thousands-

97 MS. HARSHWHINNY 97

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

98 SPIKE 98
(snapping out of it)
Okay legs, do your thing.

He FORCES HIMSELF TO WALK toward the torch.

99 SPIKE (CONT'D) 99
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.

100 SPIKE (CONT'D) 100
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.

101	CADANCE	101
	What's wrong?	

102 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 102
This is not going great.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Spike tries again. More COUGHING.

103 SPIKE 103
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.

104 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 104
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.

105 SPIKE 105
Oh no. Tell me this isn't
happening.

106 MS. HARSHWHINNY 106
(wound pretty tight)
Mr. Spike, I do not mean to offend
your Honorableness but would you
light the darn thing already?

107 SPIKE 107
I don't know what it is, but I just
don't have the stuff today. Did
you bring a match?

108 MS. HARSHWHINNY 108
(wound tighter)
You're a *dragon*. Why would I bring
a match??

109 SPIKE 109
(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. *

110 CADANCE 110 *
(to room)
Somepony go down and help him!

Twilight sees PONIES RACE FROM THE ROOM. Then, fretting for *
Spike, she discreetly tips her horn down at the field and *
FIRES IT UP. It RIPPLES with magic... *

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Spike stares in futility at the still-unlit torch.

111 SPIKE 111
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.

112 MS. HARSHWHINNY 112 *
H-how'd you do that?

113 SPIKE 113 *
I'm... not sure.... *

114 MS. HARSHWHINNY 114 *
(shrugs and exits) *
Ah well, better late than never. *

ANGLE ON Shining Armor addressing all vast assembly.

115 SHINING ARMOR 115
Let the Games begin!!

116 THE CROWD 116
<deafening roar>

BACK ON Spike still at the torch, scratching his head. *

EXT. STADIUM - LATER

*

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

117 RARITY 117
 There are our little superstars!

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

118 RARITY (CONT'D) 118
 You were fabulous!

119 APPLEJACK 119
 Made me sit up proud like a
 cornstalk in August.

120 RAINBOW DASH 120
 Ya done good, squirt.

Twilight approaches.

121 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 121
 You three really were wonderful.
 But does anypony know what was
 going on with Spike?

122 APPLEJACK 122
 He sure seemed to be havin' a tough
 time of it there for a spell.

123 RARITY 123
 He put things right in time,
 though.

124 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 124
 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.

125 RARITY 125
 Oh dear. Have you told him?

126 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 126
 No, but he might have figured it
 out on his own.

127 APPLEJACK 127
 You gotta tell him just in case.

128 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 128
I know. I'm just afraid of how
he'll take it. I know what pride
he takes in a job well done.

129 RAINBOW DASH 129
Psst. Here he comes now. Act
casual.
(strikes casual pose)
'Sup.

ANGLE ON a dazed Spike approaching.

130 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 130
Spike! There you are. Is
everything okay?

131 SPIKE 131
I guess, I dunno. The weirdest
thing happened down there.

132 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 132
Yeah, about that. I -

133 SPIKE 133
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!

134 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 134
Oh whew. I was afraid you'd be
upset.

135 SPIKE 135
Upset?? Are you kidding, why would
I be upset to discover I can light
fire WITH MY MIND?!?

The ponies exchange bewildered glances.

136 ALL THE PONIES 136
Huh???

137 CRYSTAL PONY #1 (V.O.) 137
Look, it's the Great and Honorable
Spike the Brave and Glorious!

Some CRYSTAL PONIES approach.

138 CRYSTAL PONY #2 138
Can we get your autograph?

139 SPIKE 139
Sure!

140 CRYSTAL PONY #1 140
How you saved our empire last time
you were here was really amazing. *

141 SPIKE 141
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.

142 SPIKE (CONT'D) 142
Gonna light this autograph on fire
with my mind.

He STRAINS again for another awkward beat.

143 SPIKE (CONT'D) 143
Don't worry. Once it bursts into
flames through brainpower I'll sign
another one for you. Promise.

He STRAINS some more.

144 SPIKE (CONT'D) 144
<effortful grunting>

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

145 APPLEJACK 145
You better tell him. Now.

146 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 146
Spike, may I have a word with you a
moment?

147 SPIKE 147
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.

148 SPIKE (CONT'D) 148
Hey Twi, what is it? Hold on, give
me a second.

He puts his hands to his temples like a soothsayer.

149 SPIKE (CONT'D) 149
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.

150 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 150
No. Because you can't, Spike.

151 SPIKE 151
Oh really? So how do explain what
happened down there in front of
thousands and thousands -

152 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 152
I did it, Spike. I saw you were
having trouble so I cast a spell to
do it for you.

153 SPIKE 153
(sinking)
... in front of thousands and
thousands...

154 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 154
I'm sorry, Spike. I just couldn't
stand to see you stuck like that.
You understand, don't you?

155 SPIKE 155
I - I - I need to be alone right
now.

He walks off.

156 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 156
Spike?

He keeps right on walking. The ponies all droop.

Meanwhile, ANOTHER CRYSTAL PONY approaches Spike.

157 CRYSTAL PONY #3 157
Oh Great and Honorable Spike the
Brave and Glorious. Can I get your
autograph?

158 SPIKE 158
Sorry. You should probably ask
somebody special instead.

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

*

159 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 159 *
Spike, come back. You were great *
out there. *

160 SPIKE 160 *
No, you were. *
(to CMCs) *
And you were. *
(to Dash and Fluttershy) *
And you will be. *
(then) *
But not me. *

161 RAINBOW DASH 161 *
Dude! You rescued a whole empire!! *

162 SPIKE 162 *
All I did was carry a crystal heart *
from one place to another, like *
carrying a bag, which just happens *
to be the one thing I'm good at. *
Carrying bags. *

The ponies look on as Spike mopes away. *

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - LATER *

The Ponyville aerial relay team of Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy 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.

163 SHINING ARMOR 163
Our next event: the aerial relay!

INT. STADIUM CORRIDOR - SAME TIME *

Rarity, Applejack and Pinkie Pie enter with the other fans. *

164 APPLEJACK 164 *
That's Dash and Fluttershy! *

165 PINKIE PIE 165 *
Oh no, we can't be late for that! *

Rarity gets led away by SECURITY to a detaining area. *

166 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 166 *
Step right over here, miss. *
Unicorns will no longer be admitted *
without a disabling spell. To *
prevent cheating. *

167 RARITY 167 *
But I'm afraid I haven't time for *
this, my good man. My dear dear *
friends are about to race. *

168 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 168 *
Oh, so you think you're special? *

169 RARITY 169 *
Is... that a trick question? *

SECURITY puts the DISABLING SPELL CAP on Rarity's horn. *

170 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 170 *
And make sure you don't even try *
casting a spell or we'll know it. *

171 RARITY 171 *
Oh really? How? *

Rarity tests the SPELL CAP out be FIRING UP HER HORN, which *
causes it to emit a THUNDEROUS AIR HORN BLAST. *

172 RARITY (CONT'D) 172 *
(blushing) *
Oh. Like that. *

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - A LITTLE LATER

The ponies cheer as Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy and Brutus *
give the Wonderbolts a run for their money down below. *

173 PINKIE PIE 173 *
If Ponyville medals here we'll have *
8 medals so far, putting us tied *
for the lead with Cloudsdale... *
unless Cloudsdale medals here, too. *
Which they will, probably... *

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Ponyville and Cloudsdale are NECK AND NECK. The race is *
working its way to a THRILLING FINISH. *

ANGLE ON Ms. Harshwhinny busy keeping thing organized behing *
the scenes, while Spike bends over A RAILING IN THE STANDS *
above to get her attention. *

174 SPIKE 174 *
(calling down) *
Ms. Harshwhinny, I know you're *
really busy but - *

175 MS. HARSHWHINNY 175 *

You got that right. What is it? *

176 SPIKE 176 *

Maybe there's something else I can *

do for the Games, you know, *

something really worthy of the *

Crystal Empire's admiration? *

177 MS. HARSHWHINNY 177 *

What are you talking about? You *

lit the torch for the whole thing! *

178 SPIKE 178 *

Well, actually, that wasn't really -

179 MS. HARSHWHINNY 179 *

And that wasn't "worthy" enough for *

you? For ponies' sake! Next thing *

you know you'll be asking to put on *

a rock concert! *

(then) *

Pssht. Celebrities. *

180 SPIKE 180 *

Wait... that's it! *

Brightening, he RUNS OFF. Meanwhile... *

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

181 RARITY/APPLEJACK/PINKIE PIE 181

Second place./ We got silver!/ Yay!

INT. STADIUM CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER *

Spike heads for the field but gets stopped by SECURITY.

182 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 182

Halt. Only authorized personnel

past this point.

183 SPIKE 183

(bluffing haughtiness)

What? Don't you know who I am?

184 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 184

(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.

185	SHINING ARMOR	185	
	Congratulations to all our		
	medalists. And now, the anthem of -		*

Spike rushes up in front of Shining Armor.

186	SPIKE	186	
	And I shall do the honor of singing		
	all the words!		

187	SHINING ARMOR	187	*
	Spike? What are you doing?		

188	SPIKE	188	
	(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!		

189	CROWD	189	
	<cheers and applause>		

190	SPIKE	190	
	Maestro, music please!		

The MUSIC BEGINS PLAYING. Spike seems confused. *

191	SPIKE (CONT'D)	191	
	Wait, this isn't the Ponyville		
	anthem.		

192	SHINING ARMOR	192	*
	They only play the anthem for the		*
	winners. The Wonderbolts are from		
	Cloudsdale!		

193	SPIKE	193	
	But... but I don't know the words		
	to the Cloudsdale anthem. I've		
	never even heard it!		

194	CRYSTAL PONY IN CROWD	194	*
	Sing for us, O Great and Honorable		
	Spike the Brave and Glorious!		

195	CROWD	195	
	<enthusiastic agreement walla>		
196	SPIKE	196	
	(mouth going dry)		
	But of course.		
197	SHINING ARMOR	197	*
	And um... now the Cloudsdale		*
	anthem, as sung by... Spike.		*
The music PLAYS ON. Spike clears his throat. Then...			*
198	SPIKE	198	*
	(whispering)		*
	Where do I come in?		*
199	SHINING ARMOR	199	*
	(whispering)		*
	About two measures ago.		*
200	SPIKE	200	*
	(leaps into song)		*
	<i>Oh we're the Wonderbolts! And</i>		*
	<i>we're super fast! And we're from</i>		*
	<i>Clouds-dale which is a part of</i>		*
	<i>Equestria that we like best and</i>		*
	<i>we're proud and we're fast and we</i>		*
	<i>like Clouds-dale because it has</i>		*
	<i>nice trees and we love it... and</i>		*
	<i>isn't this song over yet because I</i>		*
	<i>really wish it was.</i>		*
	(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... *

REVEAL Pinkie Pie's face LIGHTING UP. *

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Pinkie's voice echoes in the stadium's vast silence as Spike slowly dies inside. *

201	PINKIE PIE	201	
	(far far away)		*
	NAILED IT!		*

FADE OUT. *

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE *

INT. LODGING - DAY *

The CMCs get ready to leave while Spike pulls out a suitcase. *

202	APPLEBLOOM	202	*
	Spike, you coming?		*

203	SPIKE	203	*
	Nah, I got this stuff to pack up.		*

204	SCOOTALOO	204	*
	But you've been moping in here for		*
	almost the entire Games.		*

205	SWEETIE BELLE	205	*
	And tonight's the closing ceremony.		*

206	SPIKE	206	*
	Which means we leave tomorrow.		*
	Ergo the packing.		*

EXT. STADIUM - DUSK *

The SUN SETS over the horizon, the sky darkens. *

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME *

Celestia and Luna ceremonially change places, with Luna now occupying the center chair. *

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Shining Armor once again addresses the crowd.

207	SHINING ARMOR	207	
	And so the Games conclude as they		*
	always to do with the Ice Archery		*
	finals. Ice archers, take your		*
	places!		*
208	CROWD	208	*
	<thundering cheer>		*

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 as
PAGENTRY OF THE ICE ARCHERY COMPETITION UNFOLDS BELOW. *

209	APPLEJACK	209	*
	Too bad Ponyville doesn't have any		*
	ice archers competing. We got no		*
	one to root for.		*
210	PINKIE PIE	210	*
	It's okay. Ponyville has 37 medals		*
	and Cloudsdale 36, so looks like		*
	we'll be medal champs of the Games		*
	anyway! Wheeee!		*
211	RAINBOW DASH	211	*
	But Cloudsdale has two ice archery		*
	finalists down there right now. If		*
	they both medal, Cloudsdale wins		*
	the medal count.		*
212	PINKIE PIE	212	*
	So you're saying it all comes down		*
	to this one event?!		*
213	APPLEJACK	213	*
	Pretty much.		*
214	PINKIE PIE	214	*
	Ohmygoshohmygoshohmygosh--		*

Twilight approaches. Pinkie Pie abruptly stops freaking out. *

215	PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)	215	*
	Twilight! Come take this extra		*
	seat next to me and freak out over		*
	the medal count. I'll show you how.		*
	(then)		*
	Ohmygoshohmygoshohmygosh--		*

216 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 216
Actually I was looking for Spike.
Have you seen him?

217 APPLEBLOOM 217
He wouldn't come.

218 SWEETIE BELLE 218
We tried everything we could think
of to talk him into it.

219 SCOOTALOO 219
But he wouldn't listen.

220 PINKIE PIE 220
You can have his extra seat though.

Twilight rushes off.

221 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) 221
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.

222 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.) 222
Spike? You here?

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

223 SPIKE 223
Uh, yeah. I'm super busy.

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

224 SPIKE (CONT'D) 224
Look at all this packing left to
do. Crazy, right?

225 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 225
No more hiding out. You're coming
with me. Now.

226 SPIKE 226
Okay fine. I'll come.

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

227 SPIKE (CONT'D) 227
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. Ice radiates out from where the magic strikes, gradually engulfing the target in ice. [Periodically, the competitors TAKE A BREATH and their magic briefly STOPS before resuming.]

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

Dash acquaints the CMCs with some of the game's finer points.

228 RAINBOW DASH 228 *
The key to victory here is for the *
archer to keep the full force of *
their magic hitting dead center. *

229 SCOOTALOO 229 *
Or the ice will come out lopsided? *

230 RAINBOW DASH 230 *
Exactly. The whole target's gotta *
be completely encased in ice to *
win. *
 (then) *
Keep your eye on Number 7 from *
Cloudsdale. He's the favorite. *

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Number 7 from Cloudsdale is already well ahead of the competition. Glancing over, he sees the Pony Next to Him making gains. Number 7 REACTS and UPS THE INTENSITY.

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.

231 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 231 *
Honestly Spike, I don't see why *
you're being so hard on yourself. *

232 SPIKE 232 *
I let everypony down. Twice! You *
never let anypony down so you have *
no idea what that's like. *

233 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 233 *
Are you kidding? I've totally let *
ponies down. That's not the point. *
 (MORE)

TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

The torch got lit, the all the
aerial relay teams got their
medals. No harm no foul.

234

SPIKE

234

(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.

*

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Number 7 from Cloudsdale is ON THE VERGE OF WINNING but,
glancing over, he sees the Pony Next to Him is ON THE VERGE
OF WINNING, TOO.

*

*

*

Number 7 TAKES A BREATH and his MAGIC STOPS. Then, REVVING
UP for one last PUSH FOR THE FINISH, he FIRES AN
EXCEPTIONALLY POWERFUL BLAST... with so much RECOIL that he
LOSES HIS FOOTING, still FIRING HIS MAGIC THROUGHOUT.

*

*

*

*

235

CROWD

235

<gasps>

*

*

He STUMBLES BACKWARDS and FALLS, and the BLAST GOES SKYWARD.

*

ANGLE ON a CLOUD OVERHEAD STRUCK BY THE MAGIC.

*

CLOSE ON the CLOUD QUICKLY CRYSTALLIZING.

*

ANGLE ON the ponies in the STANDS DIRECTLY BELOW the RAPIDLY
SOLIDIFYING CLOUD scrambling to get out from under it.

*

*

236

CROWD (CONT'D)

236

<panicked screams>

*

*

PAN ACROSS the stands as DETERMINED UNICORNS RISE IN UNISON.

*

ANGLE ON Shining Armor ANTICIPATING THE MISTAKE.

*

237

SHINING ARMOR

237

NO!!

*

*

The unicorn attendees FIRE MAGIC at the CLOUD, but it's
THWARTED BY THE DISABLING SPELL. The SIMULTANEOUS AIRHORN
BLASTS ROCK THE ENTIRE STADIUM.

*

*

*

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

*

Celestia and Luna let LOOSE A MAGIC BLAST OF THEIR OWN, but
RUBBLE SHAKEN LOOSE FROM ABOVE BY THE 1000s of DISABLING
SPELL BLASTS blocks them inside.

*

*

*

They proceed to fire MAGIC AT THE RUBBLE to free themselves
and RESTORE A LINE OF SIGHT toward the cloud.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

The cloud, now completely solid, is kept from CRASHING TO THE
GROUND by DOZENS OF PEGASI - including Rainbow Dash and
Fluttershy - STRUGGLING to keep it aloft.

238 RAINBOW DASH 238
Steer it toward the field! Away
from the crowds!

239 FLUTTERSHY 239
We can't hold on much longer!

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Shining Armor is an island of calm among the panic.

240 SHINING ARMOR 240
(to the ice archers)
Somepony fire heat!

241 ICE ARCHER #1 241
We're only enabled for ice.

242 SHINING ARMOR 242
Those pegasi could get crushed
under that weight. Somepony cut
the disabling spell!

243 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 243
There isn't time!

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy still struggling, but
losing ground.

244 RAINBOW DASH 244
Descending... too... fast...

245 SPIKE (O.S.) 245
Dash! Fluttershy! MOVE!!!

Dash and Fluttershy look down, then SCOOT AWAY FROM EACH
OTHER, creating a space that suddenly FILLS WITH FIRE.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Spike FIRING A RAGING TORRENT OF FIRE unlike
any he's fired before, RAPIDLY MELTING THE ICE CLOUD.

Another INCREDIBLE BLAST.

Then ANOTHER.

As their load becomes bearable, the Pegasi EASE what's left
of the cloud to the ground, while Spike steps out from under
the CASCADING MELT to FIRE ONE LAST BLAST to finish it off. *

Rainbow Dash approaches Spike. She's speechless. *

246 RAINBOW DASH 246 *

Spike... you... that... *

247 SPIKE 247 *

What? *

248 CROWD 248

<erupts with joy>

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - LATER

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

249 ALL THE PONIES 249

<ebullient congratulations walla>

Spike accepts it all wordlessly as Cadance arrives.

250 CADANCE 250

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.

251 SPIKE 251 *

I guess.

252 ALL THE PONIES 252 *

You guess????

253 SPIKE 253

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.

254 APPLEJACK 254

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

255 ALL THE PONIES 255

<general agreement>

256 SPIKE 256
(shrugs)
It's just how I feel. *

257 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 257
Wait a second. I think I get it. *
I finally understand. *

All eyes on her. *

258 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D) 258
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? *
(a beat) *
You. You were disappointed in you. *

Spike lowers his eyes. *

259 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D) 259
And only you can make it right with *
you again. What would that take *
Spike? *

Spike shrugs, his expression heavy and sad. *

260 SPIKE 260
I don't know. Can you turn back *
time? Cuz I'd sure like a do-over *
on that Opening Ceremony. *

261 CADENCE 261
271 We can't turn back time. But as *
Princess of the host empire, it's *
my duty to set off the fireworks at *
the Closing Ceremonies tonight.

262 SPIKE 262
Yeah? Well don't choke. *

263 CADANCE 263
I doubt I will. Because with any
luck I won't be down there at all.

264 SPIKE 264
Huh?

265 CADANCE 265
Would you do me and the Equestria
Games and the entire Crystal Empire
the great honor of lighting
fireworks in my place at the
Closing Ceremonies tonight?

*

Spike just looks back at her, beaming.

266 CADANCE (CONT'D) 266
Would you do that for us?

267 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 267
So whaddayasay, O Great and
Honorable Spike the Brave and
Glorious?

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - LATER THAT NIGHT

Shining Armor oversees the raising of the top three MEDAL
COUNT FLAGS. The center flag raised highest is Ponyville's.

*

*

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

*

JUBILATION among Pinkie Pie and the other ponies.

*

268 PINKIE PIE 268
We did it! Ponyville won the medal
count! And only by one medal.

*

*

*

269 RAINBOW DASH 269
Hmm. Wonder which medal that was?

*

*

Dash and Fluttershy flash their Aerial SILVERS.

*

270 RAINBOW DASH/FLUTTERSHY 270
(in unison)
Bam!

*

*

*

ANGLE ON Applejack and Applebloom.

*

271 APPLEJACK 271
How's it feel to have opened the
best Equestria Games in Ponyville
history, squirt?

*

*

*

*

272 APPLEBLOOM 272
Probably as good as it feels to
close them.

*

*

*

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

*

Spike stands amidst the pageantry next to Ms. Harshwhinny.

*

273 MS. HARSHWHINNY 273
Okay, it's time.

274 SPIKE 274
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...

275 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 275
You know, it's weird... no matter *
how many times others tell you *
you're great, all the praise in the *
world means nothing if you don't *
feel it inside. *

The fireworks begin LAUNCHING ONE-BY-ONE, through... *

276 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 276
And when you care about doing *
things well, you can become your *
own toughest critic. But good *
friends can help you find a way *
past all that, so you can feel *
inside about you the way they feel *
inside about you. *

Spike stares amidst the explosive staccato at the SPECTACULAR *
DISPLAY overhead, the subtle reflections of color shifting on *
his beaming face. *

277 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 277
And that feels good. *

FADE OUT. *

END.