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MY LITTLE PONY 6

"The Times They Are A Changeling"

Episode 617

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TEASER

SC. 1 - EXT. EQUESTRIAN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

ESTABLISHING the FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS as it chugs across the beautiful but barren FROZEN NORTH.

1 TWILIGHT (O.S.)
I hope Shining Armor and Princess
Cadance don't think it's too soon
for me to come back to the Crystal
Empire for a visit...

SC. 2 - INT. THE FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS - CONTINUOUS

TWILIGHT turns from the snowy landscape out the window to STARLIGHT.

2 TWILIGHT
...but I just know Flurry Heart has
already grown so much. I wonder if
I'll even recognize her.

3 STARLIGHT
(teasing)
She's the only baby they have,
Twilight. I think it'll be pretty
easy to figure out who she is.

4 TWILIGHT
That's not what I mean, Starlight.

5 STARLIGHT
(smiling)
I know. And I am looking forward to
seeing Sunburst again, but you're
right. We were just there and you
are supposed to be teaching me
about friendship.

6 TWILIGHT
Well, I'm an Aunt now and I'm going
to visit that baby as much as I
can. Besides, I'm sure there's more
than one friendship lesson to be
learned in the Crystal Empire.
Right, Spike?

Both Twilight and Starlight turn to look--

PULL BACK TO REVEAL: SPIKE has been sitting next to them, just off-camera, the whole time. Spike is wearing a TRENCH COAT (collar up), dark SUNGLASSES, and a HAT (the brim down).

Under their combined gaze, Spike looks uncomfortable and shrinks down in his seat.

7 SPIKE
(silly disguised voice)
Spike? Who's Spike?

Twilight and Starlight share a look, like: *really?*

8 STARLIGHT
You're Spike, Spike. And why are
you dressed like that?

Spike realizes he's BUSTED. He raises his glasses.

9 SPIKE
Guys! You're blowing my disguise.
How did you even know it was me?

10 STARLIGHT
Because you're *YOU*-- in a coat,
hat, and glasses. Also, we're kinda
the only ones here.

PULL FURTHER BACK TO REVEAL: The train car is empty except for the three of them.

11 SPIKE
Right. I should probably find a wig
too.

12 TWILIGHT
A wig for what?

13 SPIKE
I'm trying to stay under the radar.
I don't want to be a distraction
during your visit.

14 TWILIGHT
Why would you be a "distraction"?

15 SPIKE
Come on, Twilight, how could "Spike
the Brave and Glorious" not be a
distraction?

16 STARLIGHT
We get it. The Crystal Ponies adore
you.

17 TWILIGHT
He did save the Empire. Twice.
(to Spike)
But still, I don't think you'll
need a disguise.

18 SPIKE
We'll just see about that.

Twilight and Starlight share a dubious look.

SC. 3 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Twilight, Starlight and Spike (still in "disguise") exit the train to see-- NOBODY. The station is EMPTY. Twilight looks around, confused.

19 TWILIGHT
This place is usually so busy. I
wonder where everypony is?

SC. 4- EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Twilight, Starlight, and Spike (disguised) look around as they walk through the city.

20 STARLIGHT
It's like a ghost town.

21 SPIKE
Maybe I don't need a disguise after
all.

Spike takes off his hat and glasses. INSTANTLY the trio hears a <SQUEAL FOR JOY>!

22 CRYSTAL PONY 1 (O.S.)
It's Spike, the Brave and Glorious!

SUDDENLY there's a FLOOD of CRYSTAL PONIES! They RUSH in, seemingly out of nowhere and LIFT Spike onto their shoulders! Spike starts CROWD SURFING!

23 CRYSTAL PONIES
<CHEERING> Spike! Spike! Spike!...

Twilight and Starlight share a surprised look.

24 STARLIGHT
Huh.

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 5 - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - STREETS - RESUME

Spike is still crowd surfing, enjoying an outpouring of Crystal Pony hero worship.

25 SPIKE
Waaa-hoooo!

26 CRYSTAL PONIES
Spike! Spike! Spike!

27 CRYSTAL PONY 1
Spike the Brave and Glorious has
come to save us again!

They crowd cheers.

28 SPIKE
Absolutely.
(then)
Save you from what?

29 TWILIGHT
Is something wrong? Why was
everypony hiding before?

SUDDENLY the whole crowd goes SILENT as everypony turns to eyeball Twilight and Starlight. One of the Crystal Ponies turns to another.

30 CRYSTAL PONY 1
(sotto)
It sure looks like Princess
Twilight Sparkle and her pupil.

31 CRYSTAL PONY 2
(sotto)
But how can we be sure?!

32 CRYSTAL PONY 3
(sotto)
We can't. Either one of them could
be the-- you know...

33 CRYSTAL PONY 1
EVERYPONY RUN!!!

<WHOOSH> SUDDENLY the Crystal Ponies are all GONE! Spike DROPS, hitting the ground!

34 SPIKE
Ouch!

The Ponies look around-- it's like a ghost town again.

35 TWILIGHT
Okay. Something strange is
definitely going on.

Spike stands, rubbing his hind quarters.

36 SPIKE
You think?

SC. 6 - EXT. CRYSTAL CASTLE - MOMENTS LATER

As Twilight, Starlight and Spike approach, they see CRYSTAL PONY GUARDS stationed around the base of the Castle. Twilight walks up and two of the Guards blocks her path.

37 GUARD 1
Who goes there?

38 STARLIGHT
Seriously? You don't recognize
Twilight Sparkle? The Princess of
Friendship?

39 GUARD 1
Of course we recognize her.

40 GUARD 2
But that doesn't mean it's her.

41 TWILIGHT
I don't understand. What are you
saying?

Twilight and Starlight share a confused look, but Spike puts up a claw and strides forward.

42 SPIKE
Don't worry. I got this.
(to the soldiers)
Guys, look, obviously it's me,
Spike the Brave and Glorious. Why
don't you just let us pass?

43 GUARD 2
(to Guard 1)
It *does* look like him.

44 GUARD 1
(to Guard 2)
Well, it would, wouldn't it?
(back to the others)
I'm sorry, but we'll need to see
some kind of proof.

Spike stares up at the guards, stunned. Then...

45 SHINING ARMOR (O.S.)
We'll take it from here.

All turn to see SHINING ARMOR, PRINCESS CADANCE, and FLURRY HEART, in a FOAL CARRIER being floated along by SUNBURST. The Guards part to let them get close.

46 TWILIGHT
Shining Armor, thank goodness!
Everypony's gone crazy. What's
happening?

47 SHINING ARMOR
I can explain, Twilly-- If it is
really you. We just need to make
sure.

48 TWILIGHT
Ooooookay. How?

Cadance steps forward.

49 CADANCE
"Sunshine, Sunshine--"

Twilight joins in the little routine, clapping hooves with Cadance, and shaking her tail.

50 TWILIGHT AND CADANCE
"--Lady bugs awake! Clap your
hooves and do a little shake!"

Shining Armor turns to the guards.

51 SHINING ARMOR
It's okay, everypony. It's her.

Everypony relaxes as Shining Armor hugs his sister. Cadance also steps forward for an embrace. Sunburst eyes Spike and Starlight.

52 SUNBURST
Princess, have your friends been
with you since you got off the
train?

53 TWILIGHT
Yes. Of course. What is all this
about?

Cadance stands tall, darkening.

54 CADANCE
A Changeling has been spotted on
the outskirts of the Empire!

55 TWILIGHT
A Changeling!?

56 SPIKE
Um... That's not good.

57 CADANCE
No. It's not. And after what
Chrysalis and her kind did at our
wedding in Canterlot, we're not
taking any chances.

58 SUNBURST
Changelings feed off of love, and
since everypony in the Empire loves
Flurry, we're worried they've come
for the baby.

59 SHINING ARMOR
A Changeling can shape-shift to
look like anypony. That's why we've
posted extra guards to check pony's
identities.

60 CADANCE
I'm sorry there's all this
craziness. We're so glad you're
here. Flurry Heart has been looking
forward to seeing you again.

Flurry Heart nuzzles her face over the side of the foal-
carrier and makes cute <BABY GURGLES> at Twilight.

61 TWILIGHT
Oh! She's gotten so big!

Twilight, Starlight and Spike gather around the baby, making
a fuss.

Meanwhile, Guard 1 approaches Shining Armor, having a private
word on the side.

62 GUARD 1
<WHISPER, WHISPER>

Shining Armor looks to Spike.

63 SHINING ARMOR
Um... the Royal Guards were
wondering if Spike, the Brave and
Glorious, would like to join them
to search for the Changeling
outside the city.

64 SPIKE
(slightly freaked)
Search for the Changeling? Outside
the city?

65 GUARD 1
Honestly, the stallions would feel
a lot safer with you there.

66 SPIKE
(puffing up)
Oooh.

Twilight, who's been listening to this, steps closer.

67 TWILIGHT
I don't know if that's such a good
idea, Spike. It could be dangerous.

Spike, looks from Twilight to the expectant faces of the
guards.

68 SPIKE
Come on, Twilight. I'm Spike. They
need me.

69 SHINING ARMOR
(to Twilight reassuring)
He will be surrounded by the
Empire's best guards.

Spike turns to Shining Armor.

70 SPIKE
Tell them not to worry. Spike the
Brave and the Glorious will be
there to protect them.

Off Twilight's eye roll...

SC. 7 - EXT. FROZEN NORTH - DAY

Several ROYAL GUARD PONIES, walk with Spike among them in the middle of the pack. They CROSS from the temperate Crystal Empire into the snowy desert of the Frozen North.

The main Guard turns to Spike.

71 GUARD 1
Spike, the Brave and Glorious. You have faced these evil creatures before. What can you tell us?

72 SPIKE
Oh. Um... Well, they are Changelings, so... they can, ah, change.

73 GUARD 1
(calling out)
Do you hear that? These monsters can look like any of us, so be on your guard, guards. Even more than normal.

74 ALL GUARDS
<RALLYING CHEERS>

75 GUARD 1
Now, spread out!

Half of the guards go one way and half go the other. Spike looks around realizing he's been left alone in the snow.

76 SPIKE
Okay. I guess Spike the Brave and Glorious will cover this area.

Spike wanders around, looking at all the snow.

77 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Not too many places to hide.

Spike sees a ROCK sticking out of the frozen ground.

78 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Unless there's a Changeling under that rock. Heh, heh, which is ridiculous.

Spike starts to move on, but stops suddenly.

79 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Unless the Changeling is that rock.

Spike walks up tentatively and give the rock a little kick.
The rock does not respond.

80 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Okay, "rock", where were you when
the Changeling was spotted?

The rock is silent.

81 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Not talking, huh? Well, you can't
fool me.

Spike rears back and gives the rock another kick, dislodging
it, as he slips on the ice and goes flying.

SC. 8 - EXT. FROZEN NORTH - OUTSIDE ICE CAVES - LATER

Spike tumbles HEAD OVER DRAGON-TAIL, down a slope, in the
direction of some ICE CAVES! The rock rolls next to him.

SC. 9 - INT. ICE CAVES - CONTINUOUS

Spike ROLLS down the sloping floor of the ice cave!

82 SPIKE
WHOA-WHOA-WHOA!

Spike's headed for the edge of a CREVASSE with a SHEER DROP!

He reaches out and GRABS a stalagmite-like ICICLE that STOPS
HIM. The rock keeps rolling and tumbles off the drop. It
falls a LONG WAY before we hear it <HIT> bottom.

83 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Whew... Okay. I guess sometimes a
rock is just a rock. Thanks, Mr.
Icicle--

<SNAP!> The icicle breaks off in his hands and he SLIDES
toward the edge!

84 SPIKE (CONT'D)
--FOR NOTHING!

But Spike is able to SCRAMBLE up, his back legs CHURNING UP a
pile of ice-shavings, like an embankment, that stops him from
sliding further.

Spike, now safe, carefully climbs back up the sloping floor
headed for the door.

85 SPIKE (CONT'D)
I've got to get back to the guards.
They're probably worried without me
there-- <SURPRISED YELL>!

Spike walks past an ICE WALL framed in a cave opening and is surprised to catch a glimpse of what appears to be his OWN REFLECTION staring back at him.

86 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Heh, heh. Just my reflection. I'm
glad nopony saw that. How
embarrassing!

Spike WAVES to himself - the reflection waves back. Spike strikes a pose.

87 SPIKE (CONT'D)
(admiring himself)
Definitely brave. Obviously
glorious.

Spike dances a little JIG and the reflection dances too. Then Spike turns to go... But the reflection STAYS PUT.

Spike turns back, suddenly.

88 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Huh?

But now the reflection has gone back to matching him exactly.

Spike gets closer, peering into the reflection. The reflection gets closer too...

Spike jumps to the side, out of the ice wall/mirror's view, behind the cave mouth that frames the wall.

He carefully leans in and PEEKS AT THE ICE WALL/MIRROR. His reflection peeks back, matching his movements.

He springs forward and does a SILLY TROT across the ice wall/mirror before reaching the other side of the cave wall. His mirror version matches the move exactly.

89 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Just my imagination, I guess.

Spike turns to walk off, and his reflection does so too, but then--

--His reflection suddenly TRIPS, and falls out of the wall of ice-- There was NO ICE WALL/MIRROR there at all!

Spike's double stands and brushes himself off.

90 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Hey! What kind of handsome
trickster are you?

91 VIOLET
The Changeling kind.

In a <BURST> of magic, the double suddenly TRANSFORMS into...
A CHANGELING! It's forked tongue darting out with a HISS as
Spike jumps back in terror.

92 SPIKE
AUGGGGGHHHH!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 10 - INT. ICE CAVES - RESUME

Spike cowers in fear as the Changeling (whom we'll come to
know as VIOLET) REARS UP over the dragon, HISSING
horrifically!

93 SPIKE
AAAHHHHHHH!!! You're the
Changeling!

Spike stumbles away quickly, down the slopped cave floor! The
Changeling watches him, concern in his eyes.

94 VIOLET
No, wait! <HISS> Come back!

But Spike doesn't hear him! Breathing heavy, Spike jumps over
rocks and ducks under icicles, in a general panic... Which
causes him to trip over the ice embankment he dug earlier and
slip right over the edge of the crevasse--

95 SPIKE
AAAHHHHHHH!!

Spike's falling to certain doom! He covers his eyes!

But then he stops in mid-air, hanging there.

96 SPIKE (CONT'D)
This is unexpected.

PULL OUT to reveal - the Changeling is holding Spike with a
hoof! He saved him!

Violet brings the surprised dragon back up to solid land. Violet talks with a disturbing <HISS> affectation, his fork tongue darting out uncontrollably.

97 VIOLET
You really should watch <HISS>
where you're going. The ice <HISS>
is pretty slippery. I wouldn't want
you to get hurt because of me.

Spike looks at the Changeling, confused.

98 SPIKE
You... saved me?

99 VIOLET
It's okay, you can run away now. I
know you don't want to be friends
<HISS>.

Violet turns and starts to fly away, but--

100 SPIKE
Wait!

Violet looks back, still hovering.

101 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Changelings are evil. They don't
want to be friends.

Violet lands in front of Spike.

102 VIOLET
Evil? Not me. And all I've ever
wanted is a friend...

SC. 11 - INT. CHANGELING HIVE - FLASHBACK

Inside a CHANGELING NURSERY HIVE several large EGGS start to
SPLIT OPEN and reveal CHANGELING FOALS!

103 VIOLET (O.S.)
...From when I first split my
chrysalis in the nursery hive.

The newborn Changelings instantly start <HISSING>
aggressively at one another... except for NEWBORN VIOLET, who
seems shy, <HISSING> to himself.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL: QUEEN CHRYSALIS watching with dark
pleasure written across her face.

104 QUEEN CHRYSALIS
Ahh... The new generation! With you
my Kingdom shall FEAST on the LOVE
of Equestria, until it is dry!
<DARK LAUGHTER!>

The newborn Changelings all <GIGGLE/HISS>, ELATED by this--
Expect for Newborn Violet who is clearly HORRIFIED!

SC. 12 - EXT. CANTERLOT - FLASHBACK

The Changeling Army follows Queen Chrysalis into battle
against the Canterlot Ponies (as seen in "A Canterlot Wedding
- Part 2").

105 VIOLET (O.S.)
I'm ashamed to <HISS> say that I
took part in the attack on
Canterlot during the Royal Wedding--

ANGLE ON: Violet. He looks to see-- two Canterlot Ponies,
huddling together, protecting one another from the attack.

106 VIOLET (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'd never <HISS> seen true
friendship, and I didn't want to
just <HISS> steal and feed on its
love-- I wanted to share it!

From the castle, white light expands in a heart-shape casting
Violet and all the other Changelings out!

SC. 13 - INT. ICE CAVES - RESUME

Spike watches the emotive Changeling, moved by his story.

107 VIOLET
After <HISS> seeing that, I knew I
couldn't live under Queen
Chry<HISS>salis any more. I set off
looking for love to share. But--

The Changeling looks to the ground, saddened.

108 SPIKE
But what?

109 VIOLET
I <HISS> still need to feed. And
there's <HISS> so much love in the
Crystal Empire now. It's why I came
here, but it's driving me crazy!

110 SPIKE
That would be from the Royal
Crystalling. It's pretty much a
giant outpouring of light and love
for a new baby.

Violet's stomach <GRUMBLES> and he <HISSES> uncontrollably.
Spike takes a step back.

111 VIOLET
<HISS> Sorry. I'm just <HISS> so
hungry. If I had a friend, maybe
the love we shared would be enough
to <HISS> sustain me, but I can't
just ask the Crystal Ponies. They
sort of run away screaming. I don't
think they'd even believe I just
wanted to be friends <HISS>.

Spike smiles, an idea coming to mind.

112 SPIKE
What if I told you there's somepony
who they would believe, whose every
word they hang on?

113 VIOLET
If only such a being ex<HISS>ited!

114 SPIKE
It does! I mean, I do. It's ME!
Spike!

Violet looks at him, waiting for more. Spike is surprised his
name alone didn't evoke a response.

115 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Spike? The Brave and Glorious?
You've probably heard of me.

116 VIOLET
Not really, but I was raised by an
evil queen.
(then)
I can't believe you want to help
me. That you'd share so much love
and kindness.

Spike smiles confidently.

117 SPIKE
Well, it's what anypony would do
for a friend.

Violet starts to smile back, but then his face suddenly TRANSFORMS INTO A HORRID DEMON-LIKE INSECT FACE as he <ROARS> and <HISSES> uncontrollably!

Surprised, Spike JUMPS BACK! But Violet quickly shakes it off, embarrassed.

118 VIOLET
I'm so sorry!!!

119 SPIKE
What was that?!

120 VIOLET
Feeding frenzy. It happens when I'm around true love and kindness <HISS>. It's <HISS> sooo embarrassing. Are you sure you really want to be my friend?

121 SPIKE
Of course! And I bet I can get the whole Crystal Empire to want to be your friend too.

Violet start to go into FEEDING FRENZY mode again, but puts his hooves to either side of his face to stop it.

122 SPIKE (CONT'D)
But, maaaybe I should talk to them alone first. Just to get them used to the idea.

Violet nods feverishly, unable to contain his excitement.

123 SPIKE (CONT'D)
What's your name anyway?

124 VIOLET
Violent Mandible.

125 SPIKE
(screws up his face)
We might need to come up with something else.

SC. 14 - INT. CRYSTAL PALACE - MINUTES LATER

At the edge of the throne room, one of the GUARDS is talking to another.

126 GUARD 1
What do you mean Spike didn't go
with you? He didn't go with me
either! Could he have faced the
Changeling on his own?

127 SPIKE (O.S.)
You're not that far off!

Spike enters the Palace to the <ELATION> of the guards!

Across the room, Twilight, Starlight, Shining Armor, and
Cadance see Spike enter. They hurry towards him, Sunburst
with Flurry Heart in her carrier following behind.

128 TWILIGHT
Spike! What do you mean? Did you
see the Changeling?

129 GUARD 1
Did you defeat the evil creature?

Spike strides forward, full of confidence.

130 SPIKE
Well, I'm not so sure all
Changelings are evil. And this is
Spike the Brave and Glorious
talking.

Crickets. They all stare at him like he has three heads-- not
the response he anticipated.

131 SPIKE (CONT'D)
(less confident)
I mean, you know, maybe not all
Changelings are evil.

Sunburst steps forward, putting himself between Spike and the
baby. Cadance and Shining Armor fall in behind.

132 SUNBURST
And maybe you're a Changeling
impersonating Spike to get close to
the baby.

They all start to regard Spike suspiciously. Spike puts his
claws up, laughing nervously.

133 SPIKE
Heh, heh. Right. I mean, of course
most Changelings are evil, but what
if some weren't?

Cadance steps forward.

134 CADANCE
Spike, Queen Chrysalis put me in a
dungeon and took my place at my own
wedding so she and her army of
Changelings could feed off of the
love of the innocent ponies of
Canterlot.

135 TWILIGHT
I hate to say it, Spike, but I'm
pretty sure all Changelings are
bad.

136 SPIKE
But--

Shining Armor steps forward.

137 SHINING ARMOR
Why are you even talking about
this? Changelings are vicious,
shape-changers that can't be
trusted.

138 GUARD 1
Spike the Brave and Glorious knows
that.

Spike looks up at the skeptical faces surrounding him.

139 SPIKE
(disappointed)
Right.

Off Spike, dejected...

SC. 15 - INT. ICE CAVES - LATER

Violet waits, impatiently, as Spike returns.

140 VIOLET
<HISS> So? What did they say? How
many new friends <HISS> do I have?

141 SPIKE
Well... things didn't go exactly
the way I thought.

Violet's face drops. He kicks his hoof in the ice.

142 VIOLET
I understand. Thanks for trying. I
guess <HISS> it's not surprising.
How can you expect ponies who look
like this...

Violet suddenly SHAPE-SHIFTS into a tall Crystal Pony.

143 VIOLET (CONT'D)
To trust something that looks like
this...

He SHIFTS back, <HISSING> with his forked tongue.

Spike looks sadly at his friend, then suddenly another idea
comes.

144 SPIKE
Actually, I might just have a plan.

As Violet looks up with excited expectation...

SC. 16 - INT. CRYSTAL PALACE - DAY

Spike walks back into the palace with a tall Crystal Pony
(Violet in disguise) by his side. Twilight walks up to them.

145 TWILIGHT
Hi Spike, I really appreciate that
you tried to find something
positive about the Changelings, I'm
just not there's anything positive
to find.

146 SPIKE
Oh. Um... yeah.

The tall Crystal Pony next to Spike shifts, uncomfortably.

147 TWILIGHT
Who's this?

148 SPIKE
This? Oh, this is, ah...

The tall Crystal Pony (Violet) extends a hoof.

149 VIOLET (IN DISGUISE)
(a bit stiff)
Violet. Violet... Gentlepony.

150 TWILIGHT
(shakes)
Well, Violet Gentlepony. It's nice
to meet you. How do you know Spike?

151 VIOLET (IN DISGUISE)
Oh, Spike and I go way back--

152 SPIKE
(jumping in)
--to the Equestria Games. We met
then and we've been writing letters
back and forth ever since.

153 TWILIGHT
Spike, I didn't know you had a pen
pal.

154 SPIKE
I have to do something while you
and Starlight are studying all the
time.

155 VIOLET (IN DISGUISE)
I like to brag to all my friends
about my letters from Spike the
Brave and Glorious, but of course I
knew him before all that.

156 SPIKE
(laughing nervously)
Heh, heh, though not much before.

157 VIOLET (IN DISGUISE)
Right!

They both laugh nervously. Twilight regards them oddly.

158 SPIKE
Come on, Violet, you promised to
take me around the city.

Spike leads Violet out. Twilight watches them go, a curious
look on her face.

SC. 17 - INT./EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - VARIOUS - MONTAGE

MONTAGE: As Spike takes Violet (disguised as a Crystal Pony)
around the many sights of the Crystal Empire...

- They walk through the town square. A few of Spike's FANS
follow. Violet's eyes fill with excitement over the
magnificent sparkling buildings. She turns to Spike

159 VIOLET (IN DISGUISE)
It is more wonderful than I could
possibly have imagined!

- The crowd of Spike FANS has grown. Violet looks at all of them interacting, sharing, embracing, smiling at each other. Violet stares in wonder.

- Violet watches as Spike signs autographs for the now large group of FANS. Castle Guards help hand them out, exchanging smiles with everyone.

- Spike and Violet in the center of the group as Violet is clearly telling an exciting story. He stands up on his hind legs, moving them like a bicycle - and everypony breaks out into laughter! **END MONTAGE**

SC. 18 - INT. CRYSTAL CASTLE - DAY

Violet and Spike enter the castle, a group of Guards walking ahead of them. Guard 1 asides to another.

160 GUARD 1
Violet Gentlepony is nearly as
entertaining as Spike himself!

161 GUARD 2
That would be heresy if it weren't
so true!

Behind them, Spike and Violet overhear. Violet whispers to Spike.

162 VIOLET (IN DISGUISE)
This place is everything I've ever
dreamed of, but...
(low to Spike)
I can't pretend to be a Crystal
Pony forever.

Guard 1 looks back over his shoulder at Violet and Spike, then turns back. This makes Spike nervous, so he speaks in even more of a whisper.

163 SPIKE
(soto)
Relax, you're winning everypony
over. Once they come to love you,
it won't matter that you're a
Changeling.

Spike turns to see Princess Cadance standing in front of them. He looks up at her, unsure if she overheard.

164 CADANCE (O.S.)
Hello, Spike. Twilight told me you
were off with a friend.

Spike laughs nervously. Sunburst stands close behind Cadance, with Flurry Heart. Violet's eyes go wide when he sees the baby.

165 SPIKE
Cadance! Of course, this is my pen-
pal, Violet Gentlepony.

166 CADANCE
A pleasure to meet you. I'm
Cadance, and this is Flurry Heart--

Sunburst floats Flurry over. Violet leans in close to the baby, clearly excited!

167 VIOLET (IN DISGUISE)
She's beautiful! There's so much
LOVE around her. I-- I-- <ROAR>!

Violet's disguise falters then falls away as he goes into
FEEDING FRENZY MODE--

--SHOCKING EVERYPONY! All jump back, including Spike!
Sunburst JUMPS in front of Flurry Heart, shielding her from
the Changeling!

Violet tries to pull himself together, but the love around
Flurry Heart is too strong. He's just a HISSING, forked-
tongue mess.

168 VIOLET (CONT'D)
I, <HISS>, I'm so <HISS> sorry! I
can't <HISS> stop...

Cadance grabs Flurry Heart and stumbles back. Several of the
guards start to form up around Violet.

169 CADANCE
Spike, how could you have brought a
Changeling into the Castle?!

170 GUARD 1
Spike the Brave and Glorious would
never do that! He's a hero.

171 GUARD 2
This Changeling must be
impersonating his friend!

Spike looks from the expectant faces of the Guards to the terrified faces of Cadance and Sunburst.

172 SPIKE
I... Yes. That must be it!

173 GUARD 2
What have you done with Spike's friend, evil creature?!

The guards step forward. Violet looks to Spike, a tear in his eye, then turns and runs off.

174 GUARD 1
After it! Don't let the Changeling escape!

As the guards rush out after Violet, Cadance steps forward and looks down at Spike.

175 CADANCE
I'm sorry, Spike. I hope your friend is okay.

176 SPIKE
Yeah... me too.

Off Spike, guilt-ridden...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 19 - EXT. CRYSTAL PALACE - DAY

Spike walks out of the Castle, miserable. The flurry of activity surrounds him as everypony searches manically for the Changeling. Guard 1 runs up.

177 GUARD 1
Spike, you have survived two encounters with the Changeling monsters! Surely you must know the secret to defeating them.

178 SPIKE
(sadly)
Actually, I don't think I know much of anything.

The Guard looks at Spike, confused. Shining Armor exits the Castle followed by a group of guards.

179 SHINING ARMOR
The Changeling nearly got to Flurry
Heart. Spread out! He's most likely
still nearby, disguised as one of
us.

The Guards and Shining Armor branch out to start their
search. As the dust settles, Spike is alone again.

180 SPIKE
(to himself)
Actually, I'm pretty sure Violet
got as far away from here as
possible.
(realizing)
And I know where!

With that, Spike rushes off.

SC. 20 - INT. ICE CAVE - DAY

Spike sticks his head around the opening to the cave.

181 SPIKE
Hello? Violet?

Nothing. Just the sound of his own voice echoing back. Spike
walks inside, careful of his footing on the sloped floor.

182 SPIKE (CONT'D)
I just wanted to say I'm sorry. I
should have stood up for you. I
just got scared.

Behind him are two large ICE CHUNKS. Spike wanders around,
calling out.

183 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Come on, Violet. I know you're in
here.

Suddenly one of the ice chunks behind Spike TRANSFORMS - it's
the Changeling!

184 VIOLET (O.S.)
My name is <HISS> not Violet--

Spike turns to see Violet REARING UP!

185 VIOLET (CONT'D)
It's VIOLENT MANDIBLE!! <HISSSS>

Violet bears down on Spike, <HISSING> horribly. Spike steps back and slips, sliding toward the CREVASSE.

At the last moment, Spike sticks out a claw and hangs on, dangling over the sheer drop. Violet flies over and looks down at him.

186 SPIKE
Um... little help?

187 VIOLET
Why do you think I would help you?
<HISS> I'm an evil Changeling!

188 SPIKE
(thinks, then...)
I don't think you'll help, I know
you will.

With that, Spike lets go and falls over the edge. Violet's eyes go wide as he dives over the edge after Spike. After a beat the two of them pop back up.

Violet drops Spike back on the ground.

189 VIOLET
What did you do that for!?

190 SPIKE
I needed to prove that I trusted
you. Because I do. I'm just sorry I
let you down.

191 VIOLET
It's okay. I know it's hard.
Everyone in the Crystal Empire
loves you. I couldn't ask you to
risk that for a Changeling <HISS>.

192 SPIKE
You don't have to ask. Come on.

Spike starts to head out.

193 VIOLET
What are you going to do?

194 SPIKE
What I should have done in the
first place.

SC. 21 - INT. CRYSTAL PALACE - DAY

Twilight, Starlight and Cadance watch as Guards search frantically through the castle. It's chaos as they check everywhere, under rugs, behind furniture, etc.

Sunburst appears floating Flurry Heart, as a chair is flipped over in front of him.

195 SUNBURST
Hey! Be careful around the baby.

196 GUARD
Are you sure it's the baby and not
a Changeling?

Cadance uses her magic to put the chair upright and float Flurry Heart over to her.

197 CADANCE
We're sure.

198 GUARD
Right. Sorry, Princess.

The Guard goes back to the search. Sunburst joins the others.

199 STARLIGHT
I know it's bad that there's a
Changeling around, but is all this
really necessary?

200 CADANCE
If there's one Changeling, there
could well be a whole army on the
way.

201 TWILIGHT
I know, but Starlight is right.
Isn't this starting to get a little
out of hand?

Another Guard tips over a vase, which Twilight "catches" using her magic and puts back.

202 CADANCE
I understand, but I don't know what
else we can do.

203 SPIKE (O.S.)
I do!

Everyone turns to see Spike standing in an open archway, claw-in-hoof with VIOLET THE CHANGELING!

Shining Armor rushes in with several guards.

204 SHINING ARMOR
Spike! Get away from that thing!

The Guards SURROUND THEM! Violet flinches, like he's considering bolting, but Spike gives his hoof a squeeze, reassuring him.

205 SPIKE
No. He's not a thing. His name is Violet. And he's my friend.

The Guards and the other ponies all <GASP!>

206 GUARD 1
Surely Spike has fallen under the influence of the Changeling!

207 GUARD 2
Spike the Brave and Glorious has betrayed us all!

The crowd starts to <MURMUR> and even <YELL!> in outrage as Spike looks around at all the shocked and angry faces.

Violet looks to Spike, nervously, but Spike doesn't back down. MUSIC FADES UP...

208 SPIKE
*Would you still say, I'm a hero and
brave
If I told you something you
couldn't believe?
Would you run in dismay, scared and
afraid
From something that you couldn't
see?
You know the day turns to night
The dark turns to light
So why can't you see that a
Changeling can change?*

Spike takes a step forward, extending a claw, but the crowd of ponies shuffle back.

209 SPIKE (CONT'D)
*No two ponies they say, are exactly
the same
No two snowflakes match their
design
So what kind of world do we live in
today?*

(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

*Did we forget to be friendly and
kind?*

*You know the day turns to night
The dark turns to light
So why can't you see that a
Changeling can change?*

Spike leads Violet toward Cadance, Shining Armor, Sunburst and the baby, but they all step back.

210 SPIKE (CONT'D)

*Have you ever felt completely left
out?*

*Have you ever just wanted a friend?
I tell you it's true, some
Changelings want that too
Someone who they can trust and
depend*

*You know the day turns to night
The dark turns to light
So why can't you see that a
Changeling can change?
The summer grows cold
The young grow to old
So why can't you see that a
Changeling can change?*

Spike finishes his song, and is greeted--

--with DEAD SILENCE. Everypony just stares, mouths open, completely unable to process.

Suddenly we hear the clapping of a single set of hooves. PAN OVER to reveal Twilight, who walks up to Violet and Spike. She puts a hoof on Spike's shoulder

211 TWILIGHT

Spike, I'm proud of you.

212 SPIKE

You are?

213 TWILIGHT

Of course. You're a celebrity here in the Crystal Empire and you just risked all of it for a friend. I can't imagine anything more brave than that.

The rest of the crowd starts to <MURMUR> - is Twilight right? Twilight looks at the crowd.

214 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
All of us ponies talk so much about friendship, but we weren't ready to extend it to someone because of what we thought they were - without even bothering to ask them about it.

Twilight turns back to Violet.

215 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Spike earned his reputation here in the Crystal Empire. And if Spike says Violet is a true friend, I believe him.

Twilight extends a hoof to Violet, who eagerly takes it.

216 VIOLET
Thank you <HISS>.

Around them, the other ponies watch as Cadance walks up with Flurry Heart--

217 CADANCE
Twilight is right. Spike showed us that we all need to open to the possibility that friendship can come from anywhere.

Cadance floats Flurry Heart over. Violet looks into the carrier and the baby GIGGLES. At this--

--the crowd <CHEERS!!!>

218 SHINING ARMOR
Welcome to the Crystal Empire, Violet. I'm sorry we didn't take the time to get to know you. Hopefully we can change that now.

219 VIOLET
That'd be <HISS> so amazing! I want to learn all about friendship <HISS>. And maybe one day I can take that knowledge back to the Changeling Kingdom. If the Changelings discovered how to create love for one another, we'd never have to feed on it from others!

Sunburst walks up and extends a hoof to Spike.

220 SUNBURST
Spike, you really are a hero.

221 GUARD 1
To Spike the Brave and Glorious!

The crowd <CHEERS> as several Crystal Ponies push forward and hoist Spike into the air. Spike and Violet make eye contact - both grinning ear to ear.

Starlight walks up to Twilight.

222 STARLIGHT
It looks like you were right after all.

223 TWILIGHT
Right about what?

224 STARLIGHT
There is more than one friendship lesson to be learned in the Crystal Empire.

Twilight and Starlight share a smile as we...

FADE OUT

END