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MY LITTLE PONY 6

"Gauntlet of Fire"

Episode 605

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TEASER

SC. 1 - INT. CAVE - DAY

We PUSH IN ON a dark cave where SPIKE helps RARITY (who's wearing a stylish miner's helmet) hunt for gems. Sleeping BATS hang from the ceiling. Rarity's horn glows as she magics a gem out of the wall. The gem <SCRAPES> as it dislodges. A tense BEAT as Spike and Rarity look at the bats. They don't wake up. Spike and Rarity look relieved. Rarity floats the gem to Spike's waiting basket. [NOTE: throughout the following, they speak in HUSHED TONES.]

1 RARITY

PHEW! The last time I was here, I woke them and ended up with a mane full of bats! Thanks being my basket holder, Spike.

2 SPIKE
Basket holder? I thought I was your bodyguard.

3 RARITY
Hmm? Oh yes. That too, of course.

Rarity's horn glows again as she sets to work on another gem. She looks at the sleeping bats illuminated in the glow.

4 RARITY (CONT'D)
For once I wish unicorn magic wasn't so... luminescent.

Suddenly there's another O.S. GLOW.

5 RARITY (CONT'D)
Spike, you'll wake the bats! Turn that off!

6 SPIKE (O.S.)
I can't!

Rarity turns to Spike and her anger quickly shifts to shock-- Spike is glowing! Off Rarity's shocked look...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT 1

SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM- DAY

TWILIGHT, PRINCESS LUNA, and PRINCESS CELESTIA are gathered at the table, a plate of crumpets in front of them.

7 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm so glad you two could come!

8 PRINCESS LUNA
Of course. We so rarely get a chance to relax and just visit.

9 PRINCESS CELESTIA
There's usually some crisis we have to deal with. Somepony always needs our help. But today--

Just then, a dirt-covered Rarity bursts in with the still GLOWING Spike.

10 RARITY
HELP! Twilight! There's something's wrong with Spike!

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike! What's wrong?

12 SPIKE
I don't know! <GROANS> All of the sudden my scales just started glowing and <PAINED> burning.

13 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Maybe we can be of some help.

Princess Celestia and Luna step over.

14 RARITY
Oh Goodness. I didn't realize you had company.

Rarity flips her mane, attempting to make herself more presentable. A dirt clump falls out.

15 PRINCESS LUNA
It's true that little is known about dragon culture, but this is a phenomenon we've seen before. It is the Call of The Dragon Lord.

16 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Dragons glow whenever the Dragon Lord has need of them in the Dragonlands.

246AB
17A - Spike

17 17 20 SPIKE 25 26 27 245ABC
Great! <GROAN> How do I make it
stop?

18 18 20 PRINCESS LUNA
The only way to end the summons is
to answer it. You must journey to
the Dragonlands and see what is
expected of you.

19 28 RARITY
But the Dragonlands are full of...
dragons! And they're ghastly
creatures! Not you of course,
Spike/Wikey. But remember that
rotten Garble?

20 20 SPIKE
<GULP> How could I forget? He would
have burnt us to a crisp if you
weren't there.
(to Rarity and Twilight)
If I have to go to the Dragonlands,
would you two come with me?

21 270 271 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh my goodness! I'd love to! We are
sadly lacking any information on
dragon culture and customs. I could
research them, maybe even write an
article! This could be my chance to
make a great contribution to the
knowledge of Equestria!

Off Rarity and Spike's looks:

22 272 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
And be there for Spike, of course.

23 17 20 RARITY
We'd be happy to come with you,
Spike.

24 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Be very careful. The Dragonlands
are particularly dangerous for
ponies. It would be wise to be
discreet.

25 21 22 RARITY
Oh, I'm sure I still have the
dragon costume we used the last
time we snuck into the Dragonlands!

26 ²⁷⁰ ²⁷¹ TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I think we might want something a
little more practical this time.

CUT TO:

SC. 3 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - DAY

ON Spike sitting on a rock. Under him are two sets of eye
holes. From inside the rock we hear:

27 ³⁰ ³¹ RARITY (O.S.)
Well, it may be practical, but this
disguise isn't flattering in the
slightest!

PULL OUT to reveal: The Dragonlands, a rocky barren terrain
carved out to look like an arena.

28 ^{274B} ²⁷⁵ TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)
(hushed tones)
It's not supposed to be flattering,
it's supposed to blend in!

29 ³⁰ ³¹ RARITY
And if our trip here wasn't long
and exhausting enough, this rock-
wear is cramped and poorly-
ventilated!

30 SPIKE
(covertly)
SHHHH!

Spike nervously greets other glowing DRAGONS of all shapes
and colors. More gather, including GARBLE and his friends
(from "Dragon Quest"). They spot Spike.

31 GARBLE
Hey, look. It's our old friend,
Sparkle Warkle.

32 SPIKE
It's Spike.

33 GARBLE
Are you sure your pony friends
didn't give you a pony name?

34 ^{36AB} ³⁷ SPIKE
It's nice to see you too, Garble!

35 30 (31) GARBLE
I didn't say it was nice to see
you. It's not. I don't like you.
Was I not clear about that?

Garble pushes Spike off the rock and sits on it.

36 SPIKE 32 33AB 34 35B (247)
Hey That's my rock.

37 (31) GARBLE
Oh really? Then why aren't you
sitting on it?

Garble's friends <CHUCKLE>. A concerned Spike looks down at
his "rock".

SC. 4 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS

Twilight and Rarity get a little crunched. They try not to
make any noise.

SC. 5 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS

Just then, the DRAGON LORD, TORCH, (a hulking, egotistical no-
nonsense dragon with a deep booming voice) appears on a dais
at the front of the arena. He holds a scepter with a large
red stone. It glows like the dragons. He breathes an enormous
burst of fire over the crowd. It silences the horde and the
dragons all bow in deference to their Lord.

Next to Dragon Lord Torch stands a teenage girl dragon with
sapphire scales, EMBER. She's cute, but stoic.

38 46 47 TORCH (53)
Dragons of Equestria! Hear me! I
have been Dragon Lord for longer
than many of you can remember. And
my reign has been extraordinary.

Torch looks to the crowd expectantly. Silence.

39 (46) TORCH (CONT'D)
AGREE WITH ME!!!

40 DRAGONS 42 (43) (44) (45)
The best! / Agreed! Torch! Torch!
Torch!

ON Spike as the dragons <CHEER>:

41 46 47 SPIKE 496
Who is that? 31
42 47 GARBLE
It's Dragon Lord Torch, dummy.
43 SPIKE
No, next to him.
44 GARBLE 48
That's his daughter, Princess
Ember. I wouldn't even look at her
if I were you. Unless you want
Torch to eat you. He doesn't let
any dragon near her.
45 47 SPIKE
Oh. <GULP>.

SC. 6 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS

Twilight furiously magics a quill across parchment.

46 278AB Alt. TWILIGHT SPARKLE 279AB
This is fascinating! Dragons are
notoriously reckless, but they do
whatever the Dragon Lord says.

50 51 52
44
As Twilight takes notes in the cramped space the quill
tickles Rarity's nose. She tries not to sneeze.

SC. 7 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS

Torch holds up his scepter and continues:

47 54 55 TORCH 56
Unfortunately, according to dragon
law it is time for me to step
down. Sad, I know. -use 2nd "Sad, I know"

Silence.

48 54 TORCH (CONT'D) 57B
BE SAD!!!! -use eye roll from B

58ABC
48
The dragons <GRUMBLE> and make <SAD NOISES>.

49 TORCH (CONT'D)
This is why I have summoned you. To
compete for the throne in the
Gauntlet of Fire!

Torch points to an ominous looking volcano in the middle of a treacherous sea. The sea lies east of their current location and is below a steep cliff.

50 ⁵¹ (55) TORCH (CONT'D)
Whoever has the strength and
fortitude to retrieve this
Bloodstone Scepter from the heart
of the Flamecano will be crowned
Lord of the Dragons!

Then he hurls his scepter like a discus and it soars over the sea and into the heart of the Flamecano. When it disappears into the Flamecano, all the dragons stop glowing.

51 TORCH (CONT'D) ^{62 63 64}
That was an impressive throw. BE
IMPRESSED!

The dragons all clap and make <IMPRESSED> noises.

SC. 8 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS

52 ^{65 66} RARITY
That Torch is rather scary, but he
has exquisite taste in scepters!

53 ^{280 AB} TWILIGHT SPARKLE ²⁸¹
When the scepter disappeared the
dragons stopped glowing! We are
learning so much!

Twilight's quill keeps tickling Rarity's nose she finally lets out a <DAINTY SNEEZE>.

SC. 9 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS

Garble hears Rarity's sneeze. Spike pretends it was him.

54 ^{65 66 67} SPIKE
'Scuse me.

55 ⁶ GARBLE
Ugh! You even sneeze like pony.

Torch continues:

56 TORCH ⁷⁷
The Gauntlet is dangerous, for I
designed it myself.
(MORE)

65 67 TORCH (CONT'D) 76 77

Only dragons with my ferocity,
strength and determination will be
able to finish. We will gather at
the cliff when the sun is at it's
peak!

The other dragons <BATTLE CRY>. ON: Spike. He whispers to the
Twilight/Rarity rock.

57 67 SPIKE

Well, I don't want to be Dragon
Lord or dragon toast, and I stopped
glowing so let's sneak out of here!

Spike "casually" leans against the rock and tries to push it
discreetly. But he doesn't get very far before Torch lands in
front of him.

58 TORCH

Where do you think you're going,
little dragon?

Spike cowers.

59 SPIKE

Oh, uh, hi your lordship. I was
just going home.

60 TORCH 74 75

You don't get to leave unless I say
you can.

61 67 SPIKE

But I'd get destroyed in that
Gauntlet.

62 TORCH

(excited)
Probably!

Just then, Ember intervenes.

63 EMBER 81 82 83

Dad, look at him! He's just a runt.
Besides, he doesn't even want to
compete. Let him go.

64 TORCH 71 72 73

He is rather tiny. I could squish
him with my pinky claw.

Spike <LAUGHS> nervously.

65 ^{65 67} TORCH (CONT'D)
 That wasn't a joke, it was a fact.
 When I want you to laugh I will say
 "BE AMUSED"!

66 SPIKE 70 249 250 251 252
 Of course, your lordship. I guess I
 don't understand dragon customs.
 Another reason why I shouldn't
 compete.

Spike smiles hopefully at Torch, who thinks on it.

67 ^{80 85} TORCH
 Very well, little dragon. I release
 you.

68 SPIKE
 Thank you!
 (to Ember)
 And thank you.

Spike backs away from Torch and Ember. ON Torch and Ember.
 Ember turns to leave.

69 ^{86 87} TORCH
 Where do you think you're going?

70 EMBER ^{91 96}
 To prepare for the gauntlet.

71 ⁸⁷ TORCH
 No you're not. You're not much
 bigger than that runt I just sent
 home.

72 EMBER
 But I'm smarter than most of these
 boulderheads and you know it.

73 TORCH
 Being smart won't help you win this
 gauntlet. It was designed for a big
 strong dragon to win because it
 takes a big strong dragon to lead. ⁹³
 Besides, I SAID NO!

He flies off, leaving a fuming Ember behind. ⁹²

74 EMBER
 I hate when he does that!

BACK ON Spike and his "rock" wait for the dragons to clear
 out, Garble and his friends pass by them.

75 ⁸⁵ ⁸⁷ DRAGON #1
When I become Dragon Lord, I will
make burps an official greeting.

76 DRAGON #2
Ha, you? Please. When I win, I will
pillage Equestria for all their
pillows! Why should those ponies be
comfortable while we sleep on
rocks?

77 GARBLE
That's nothing. When I'm in charge,
the first thing I'll do is get
revenge on those puny ponies!
They'll regret they ever crossed
Garble! We'll take whatever we want
from Equestria and burn the rest.
And if anypony gets in our way...

Garble lets out a gust of fire breath. The other dragons
<MURMUR> agreement. Spike looks horrified. Rarity and
Twilight surreptitiously stick their heads out from under the
rock.

78 RARITY ⁹⁰
(whispers)
I can't believe I'm saying this,
but I hope the burping dragon wins.

79 SPIKE ⁸⁷
None of them can win! Equestria is
in big trouble if any of them are
in charge!

80 TWILIGHT ^{282 AB}
But what can we do?

81 ⁸⁵ ⁸⁷ SPIKE ²⁵³ ²⁵⁴ ²⁵⁵
There's only one thing to do and
only I can do it... ²⁵⁶
(Spike steels himself) ^{88 ABCD} ⁸⁹
I have to win the Gauntlet of Fire!

Off Rarity's and Twilight's shocked expressions...

END ACT 1

ACT 2

SC. 10 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - RESUME

As the rest of the dragons clear out, Twilight and Rarity suddenly yank Spike inside their "rock."

SC. 11 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS

Twilight and Rarity sit Spike down. It's a tight squeeze.

82 ^{95 96} RARITY ^{98 99}
What do you mean you have to win
the Gauntlet? Are you going to
compete?

83 SPIKE ^{259 260 261 262 263}
It's the only way to protect
Equestria from the dragons! You
heard them. They have horrible
plans for ponies if they win! So
somehow, I have to do it.

84 ^{285 286} TWILIGHT SPARKLE ²⁸⁷
There has to be another way! It's
too dangerous. Besides, if you win,
you'd have to stay here!

85 ^{95 96} SPIKE
(sadly)
I know. But there's no other way to
keep my friends safe.

Twilight and Rarity get a little misty.

86 ^{285 286} TWILIGHT
Well, if you're staying to compete,
then we're staying to cheer you on.

87 ^{95 96} RARITY ⁹⁷
Not in this we're not!

CUT TO:

SC. 12 - EXT. THE SEA - LATER THAT DAY

Twilight and Rarity, disguised as a pile of seaweed and driftwood.

88 RARITY
Much better!

They wave furtively up to:

SC. 13 - EXT. THE CLIFF OVER THE SEA - CONTINUOUS

Spike stands with the other competing dragons (several wearing armor). Torch notices him.

89 100 101 TORCH
I thought I released you, Tiny One.

90 100 SPIKE
I decided to compete. I am a dragon, after all.

91 101 GARBLE
Are you sure? You can't even fly!

The other dragons <LAUGH> at Spike, but he looks determined.

92 TORCH
All dragons are welcome to compete, for they do so at their own peril. Flying to Flamecano Island is the first of many challenges you will face in your quest to find the Bloodstone Scepter!

Torch <ROARS>, breathing a huge blast of fire. Garble and the other dragons <ROAR> and shove each other as they take to the sky. As Garble takes off, he deliberately clips Spike with his tail and Spike falls off the cliff into the sea below.

93 102 103 104 105 106 108 109 GARBLE
Haha. Good luck. Just kidding, I hope you lose.

SC. 14 - INT. SERPENT SEA - CONTINUOUS

Spike lands in the water and surfaces.

94 112 113 264 265 266 SPIKE
Thanks, Garble, I was planning on swimming anyway!

Spike swims toward the Flamecano. The Twilight/Rarity seaweed driftwood follows him.

95 113 RARITY
You can do it Spike!

Suddenly, SEA SERPENTS (the size of submarines) emerge from the waves and spit huge geysers of water! Spike, Rarity and Twilight <SCREAM> as they're pushed forward by the serpent's wake. The Sea Serpents don't even notice Spike. Their geysers are shooting way up, knocking dragons out of the sky!

96 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Keep going Spike, they're not
looking for a swimming dragon!

Around Spike, a few dragons fall into the water but they
shake themselves off and fly again. Spike swims as fast as he
can but he's clearly tiring. Just as Spike nears the shore, a
HELMETED GREEN DRAGON falls from sky right in front of him.
Unconscious, the dragon sinks below the surface.

97 SPIKE
He's gonna drown!

Spike looks at how close he is to shore, but then dives down.
A beat. No dragon emerges.

98 RARITY/TWILIGHT SPARKLE
SPIKE!

Just then, Spike crests the water holding the other dragon,
who's green PAINT is washing off revealing BLUE SCALES.
Rarity and Twilight help pull them to shore.

SC. 15 - EXT. FLAMECANO ISLAND - BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Spike pulls the dragon up onto the beach. Rarity and
Twilight plop down nearby. All of them are winded and
exhausted. Spike looks down at the other dragon.

99 SPIKE
Hey, are you okay?

Spike removes the dragon's helmet to REVEAL it's Ember. Spike
<GASPS>. Ember <COUGHS> up some water. She realizes she
doesn't have her helmet on:

100 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Princess Ember!

101 EMBER
What do you think you're doing?

102 RARITY (FROM INSIDE COSTUME)
Only saving your life!

103 EMBER
Did that seaweed just talk?

Ember pushes past Spike and lifts up the seaweed, revealing
Twilight and Rarity.

104 EMBER (CONT'D)
Ponies? What are they doing here?

105 ¹²⁶ ⁽¹²⁹⁾ SPIKE
They're my friends!

106 EMBER ¹³⁴ ^{135A} ¹³⁶ ⁽¹³⁷⁾
Friends? Dragons don't do friends.

107 ⁽¹²⁹⁾ SPIKE
Well, this dragon does!

108 ⁽¹³⁰⁾ EMBER
Whatever. I don't care as long as
none of you get in my way. I have a
gauntlet to win.

109 ⁶ SPIKE
But I thought your dad said...

110 EMBER
I don't care what my dad said.
I'll show him and everydragon who
thinks I'm just some little
"Princess" there are better things
than being big and strong!

¹³⁸ ^(110A) Just then they hear a <SCREAM> from above as Garble falls
from the sky and lands by them with a thud, pinned under a
boulder. He looks over at Spike.

111 GARBLE
(with effort)
Help! Um...I'm being crushed. Don't
leave me here, Spike!

^(111A) Spike rushes over. Before Garble sees them, Ember puts her
helmet on and the ponies duck into their costume. Spike
pushes the boulder off of Garble.

112 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Ha! I knew you'd do it. Your pony
friends made you soft.

113 SPIKE
Uh-huh. You're welcome.

114 ⁽¹³¹⁾ GARBLE ⁽¹³³⁾
For what? I didn't say thank you.

(sniffs the air)
Wow, you even smell like ponies. Or
is it coming from over there...?

¹³⁹ ⁽¹⁴⁰⁾ ^(111A) Garble sniffs in the direction of the driftwood. Suddenly
Ember gets in front of him.

115 126 (131) EMBER
(deep voice)
That's just me. I uh, robbed some
ponies on my way over here.

116 GARBLE
I like your style. Have I met you
before? You kinda look like--

As Garble rounds on Ember, she shoots Spike a pleading look.

117 SPIKE (132)
--My uh... old neighbor...
(looking around)
Sandy... Rockbeach!

Suddenly there's a big CRASH behind them. They look up to see
dozens of SLINGTAILS (massive stone creatures that resemble
gargoyles with mammalian upper bodies and long reptilian
tails) all along the sides of the Flamecano. They use their
tails to hurl massive boulders at the incoming dragons.

118 (131) GARBLE
Stupid slingtails knocked me down.
But I've wasted enough time making
small talk. Get it? Because you're
too small to win this.

With that, Garble takes off. Once the coast is clear, Ember
removes her helmet.

119 149 (151) EMBER
Why did you cover for me? You could
have had one less competitor.

120 SPIKE
I could ask you the same thing. You
could have told Garble about my
friends.

CRASH! Spike and Ember look up at the Flamecano and watch as
Garble and the others dodge the boulders.

121 EMBER
Yikes. That looks rough.
(catching herself)
But that's what makes it a
challenge.

122 SPIKE
Are you kidding? Those boulders are
huge!
(then getting an idea)
Hey, what if we work together?
(MORE)

149 (151) SPIKE (CONT'D)

You fly me up there, and I'll help you look out for boulders, like a second set of eyes!

123 RARITY (O.S.)
PSSST! Spike!

A tree shakes its branches. Spike gives Ember the "one minute" gesture. He walks over to the tree. Twilight and Rarity pop their heads out of the trunk.

124 RARITY (CONT'D) 158
Are you sure it's a good idea to team up with Ember? You don't know her too well.

125 SPIKE 156 157 (159)
I know she could have told Garble about you, but she didn't. I think we can trust her.

Twilight consults her notes.

126 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 295 296 297
Her behavior does seem contradictory to everything I've noted about dragons so far. She could be an exception.

127 EMBER (O.S.) 149 151 154 155
Hey! You. Little fella.

Spike returns to Ember.

128 EMBER (CONT'D) 155
I've thought about it. Your plan makes sense. Let's do it.

129 SPIKE 152 153
Really? Great! It's a deal.

Spike and Ember shake on it.

130 EMBER
Just so you know, this doesn't mean we're gonna pick flowers or exchange necklaces or whatever pony friends do.

131 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 295 296
Good luck. We'll meet you at the top.

SC. 16 - EXT. FLAMECANO - SKY - MOMENTS LATER

Ember is flying with Spike on her back, he is facing the rear. Around them, other dragons are being knocked out of the sky. But none of them are being seriously hurt. As a boulder comes in from behind:

132 SPIKE
Pull up, there's on one your tail!

Ember pulls up. Another boulder comes in from the right.

133 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Go left!

Ember turns to the left and the boulder whizzes by. A slingtall hurls a boulder from the left as Garble lands at the top and hurls a boulder at them head-on. Spike gasps. Ember's not going to be able to dodge both.

134 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Dive then fly back up and to the right!

As Ember dives below the first rock, Spike hops off her back, hops on Garble's rock and then hops back on Ember as she comes up and to the right. Yeah! They land at the top of the Flamecano.

135 EMBER
(re Garble)
Ugh! That dragon is the worst! We cannot let him win.

136 SPIKE
Sounds good to me! So, what do we do now?

137 EMBER
I think we go through there.

Ember points to a couple of dragons going into a tunnel. We hear a CRASH, <YELP>, and a cloud of smoke comes out. Both Ember and Spike look nervous. The Twilight and Rarity tree approaches.

138 RARITY
My, that looks scary!
(unconvincingly)
I mean, you can do it!

139 EMBER
Listen, Spike, I wouldn't have made it this far without you.
(MORE)

162 163 EMBER (CONT'D)
 So I guess, if you want to, we
 could keep working together.
 (quickly)
 I mean, just until we get through
 that tunnel.
 140 SPIKE
 Okay.
 141 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
 We'll be right behind you.

Spike and Ember brace themselves and head into...

SC. 17 - INT. FLAMECANO - TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

MONTAGE:

- Spike and Ember approach stalagmites and stalactites that raise and lower, slamming together like a giant set of razor sharp teeth. They work together, pulling each other out of the way of the chomping stone teeth. As they go, there are a few dragons who are too afraid to go through or get stuck between the stone teeth (just stuck not skewered so they're fine), including Garble. He glares at them as they get to...

- A section of the tunnel blocked by a series of spinning blue fire in the shape of a fan. Ember and Spike watch as a few other dragons time it wrong and get knocked back by the fan. Ember and Spike have to time it just right. Ember tumbles through, narrowly dodging the blades, but Spike hesitates. From the other side, Ember grabs Spike and pulls him through safely. Garble watches them help each other and again, glares at them.

- Spike and Ember get to a seemingly harmless section of the tunnel lined with stones. Garble pushes them aside and barrels through, but halfway through a stone column shoots out from the wall, knocking him to the floor. He <GROANS>, still conscious. Spike and Ember brace themselves and run, jumping and ducking to avoid the random columns that shoot out. They're almost to the end when a column drops from the ceiling above Ember! Spike tackles her out of the way. Spike goes <PHEW> and keeps going. Ember smiles when he's not looking. Garble angrily watches them go as he gets up, takes two steps, and gets knocked down again.

SC. 18 - INT. FLAMECANO - CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Ember and Spike emerge from the tunnel, into a large cavern which is full of lava-filled craters. They're greeted by two excited stalagmites (aka Twilight and Rarity).

142 ¹⁸⁵ ¹⁸⁶ RARITY
You made it! Oh, we were so worried.

143 SPIKE
About us? Pssh. That tunnel was cake.

Spike collapses on the floor. Twilight <LAUGHS>.

144 EMBER
Wait, how did you two get through?

145 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(slyly)
Oh, we ponies have our ways.

146 ¹⁸⁵ ¹⁸⁶ RARITY
Twilight teleported us. She's been doing it the whole time. How did you think we made it this far?

Suddenly the crater nearest to them starts rumbling.

147 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Uh oh. Lava geyser! Run!

Spike, Ember, and Twilight run but Rarity trips and rolls in circles on the floor in her stalagmite costume. Spike stops.

148 ¹⁸⁵ ¹⁸⁶ SPIKE
Rarity!

He runs back as the crater explodes! He grabs Rarity and rolls her to safety, just as the spewing lava lands right where Rarity was. A <PANTING> Spike and Rarity join Twilight and Ember on the other end of the lava geyser cavern.

149 RARITY
Thanks, Spike!

150 SPIKE
It was nothing.

151 EMBER
Nothing? You risked everything to save her. And they're putting themselves in danger just to support you.

152 SPIKE
That's just what friends do. Don't you have anyone who looks out for you?

143A in 185
303 143B

304 146A

Rarity spikes/Ember TS
305

182 183 147A

184 147A

7
7th TS.

153 ^{185/186} EMBER ¹⁸⁷
Not really. Unless I count you...

Spike looks touched for a moment, then...

154 ^{188/189} EMBER (CONT'D)
...which I don't, because we were
only helping each other get through
the tunnel and now we're through
the tunnel so, that's it.

155 ¹⁹⁰ SPIKE
Wait. What do you mean?

156 EMBER ^{191/192}
Well, there's only one winner, one
scepter, and one Dragon Lord. So, I
guess it's every dragon for
themselves.

157 ^{198/199} SPIKE
Oh. So, we aren't really friends?

158 EMBER ^{193/194/195/196/197}
Maybe if we were in ponyland but
like I said, dragons don't do
friendship.

Ember takes off, leaving Spike speechless.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

SC. 19 - INT. FLAMECANO - CONTINUOUS

Spike, along with stalagmite Rarity and Twilight, make their way down a narrow path.

159 ^{199/200} SPIKE
I can't believe Ember ditched me.

160 RARITY
You're better off. She was only
looking out for herself. She's just
like all the other dragons.

161 SPIKE
She's not though. I know it. She
saved me, even when she didn't have
to. I don't care what she says.
That makes us friends.

Twilight consults her notes.

162 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Based on everything I've recorded today, friendship isn't exactly "the dragon way".

163 SPIKE
Well, it's my way.

Spike thinks he sees SOMETHING MOVE, but when he looks again, it's gone. They round a corner, wandering through a seemingly identical corridor of the maze-like caverns inside the Flamecano.

164 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Is it just me or have we seen this crevice three times already?

165 SPIKE
It's kind of hard to tell. They all look the same.

Spike heads to an archway that leads out of the maze.

166 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Except for this one! Look! We made it!

Spike points to the Bloodstone Scepter lodged in a giant rock made of hardened lava.

167 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well, we almost made it.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL the scepter is all the way across a stone bridge and that extends over a deep gorge.

168 SPIKE
We're so close! I can't believe I'm the only dragon to make it this far.

169 GARBLE (O.S.)
You're not.

Suddenly Garble emerges from a nearby tunnel. Twilight and Rarity hide in their costume.

170 GARBLE (CONT'D)
And I am not losing to a puny pony-loving dragon like you!

Garble picks Spike up and holds him over the gorge.

171 ^{199 200 201} RARITY
 <GASP> We have to do something!

172 ^{306 307} TWILIGHT SPARKLE
 Or not... Look!

^{205 206 172} Suddenly Ember swoops in from another nearby tunnel holding a bolder. She drops it on Garble's tail, pinning him to the ground. She grabs Spike. As they're flying:

173 ^{199 201} SPIKE ²⁰²
 Ember! I thought it was every dragon for themselves. Why did you save me?

174 ²⁰¹ EMBER
 That's what friends do. I heard what you said.

175 SPIKE
 About crevices looking the same?

176 EMBER
 No! About being friends. And... I am. I mean, we are. I never should have left you back there. Ugh, please don't make me talk about my feelings.

They land on the Bloodstone scepter side of the bridge. Spike beams and hugs Ember. Ember looks confused.

177 ²⁰³ EMBER (CONT'D)
 What are you doing?

178 ²⁰⁴ SPIKE
 It's called a "hug."

179 ^{205 206} EMBER
 Oh. I don't know if I like it. But okay.

^{207 179} From the other side of the bridge, Garble is trying to free his tail when the stalagmites go:

180 ^{201 309 310} TWILIGHT SPARKLE/RARITY
 Aww.

181 GARBLE
 What the--?

Garble "unmasks" the ponies. They back away toward the chamber wall. Garble is between the ponies and Spike and Ember. He frees his tail and lumbers toward them menacingly.

Apple
208/209AB-IND
182A

182 99 201 EMBER
Spike! Get the scepter!

Before Garble can get to the ponies, Ember tackles him. They wrestle mid-air. Garble pulls Ember off him and flies toward The Scepter. Spike looks on in horror, frozen to the spot. Does he run back to help Ember or does he get the Scepter?

205CDEF 211AB
182B

Ember grabs Garble by the tail and yanks with all her strength. Garble swings underneath her and behind her then grabs her and flies her down to the bridge. He almost has her pinned. Spike runs in and jumps on Garble's back.

212AB
183A

183 GARBLE
I'm sick and tired of you two
helping each other! Dragons don't
do helping!

Garble grabs Spike and tosses him. He lands back on the scepter side of the bridge. While he's distracted, Ember rolls out from under him and then jumps on his back.

184 EMBER
These dragons do!

Twilight notices some dragon shadows starting to come down the corridor.

213AB
185A

185 309 310 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 311
Spike, if you don't take the
Scepter, another dragon will!

Spike runs to the scepter and pulls it out of the lava. It glows and the glow "spreads" to Spike. Proudly, he breathes a large fire blast. WIDE SHOT - the light from the scepter washes over the cavern.

SC. 20 - EXT. FLAMECANO - CONTINUOUS

The scepter light spills out of the flamecano and over the other dragons. They look up in awe.

SC. 21 - INT. FLAMECANO - CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

ON Spike, holding the scepter.

186 214 215 SPIKE 216
Leave her alone!

Garble stops fighting Ember.

187 ²¹⁶ GARBLE
 What? You? You have the scepter?
 But that means that you're....

188 EMBER
 The Dragon Lord.
 (Ember bows her head)
 Dragon Lord Spike.

A few other dragons who have made it to the chamber bow to Spike. Begrudgingly, Garble does too.

189 GARBLE
 Dragon Lord Spike.

Spike is taken aback. Then he regains his cool. *the rest of the line*

190 SPIKE ²²⁴ ²²⁵ ²²⁶ That's right!
 That's right. Um... now do start
 you long journey home. And give
 every dragon you see on the way a
 hug. ²¹⁶ Don't tell them why.

191 GARBLE
 Aww, but that'll be super
 embarrassing!

192 SPIKE ²²⁷ ²²⁸
 I command you to do it!

²²⁹ ²³⁰ ²³¹
 Garble flies off with a huff. Spike helps Ember up.

193 ²¹⁷ EMBER
 "Dragon Lord Spike". Has a nice
 ring to it.

Spike gives the scepter to Ember.

194 SPIKE ²¹⁸ ²¹⁹ ²²⁰
 Dragon Lord Ember sounds a lot
 better.

195 EMBER
 What? No. You're the Dragon Lord
 now.

196 SPIKE
 The Dragon Lord is whoever brings
 the scepter back to your father.
 Besides, you'll make a great
 leader. I was just doing this to
 protect the ponies, but I know
 you'll protect them just as well as
 I would have.

197 ^{214 218} EMBER ⁽²²⁰⁾
~~are~~ you sure about this?
 198 ⁶ SPIKE ^{221 222 223}
 Absolutely. Besides, my home is in
 Equestria with my friends.
 199 EMBER ⁽²²⁰⁾
 Well, you'll have at least one
 friend here, too.

Ember
 232 233 234 - Spike
 199A

Off of Ember giving Spike an awkward hug we DISSOLVE TO...

SC. 22 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - LATER

Ember flies to Torch's throne and presents the scepter.

200 ^{141 142} TORCH
 Ember? You?
 201 EMBER ^{147 148}
 I know you didn't think I could do
 it, but I did.
 202 TORCH ¹⁴⁵
 I expressly told you NOT TO DO IT!
 Because--
 203 ¹⁴² EMBER
 (cutting him off)
 --I'm not big and strong! I know!
 But you know what? I won anyway.
 So, maybe it takes more than just
 being big and strong to be a good
 Dragon Lord.

A tense beat as they all stare at Torch, wondering if he's
 thinking over Ember's words or getting ready to yell at her.

204 TORCH
 I was wrong, Ember. You might not
 be big, but you are strong. And
 smart. And perhaps that counts for
 more than I thought.
 205 EMBER ^{146 147}
 Thanks Dad.
 206 ¹⁴² TORCH
 And you will make an excellent
 leader.

207 141 142 EMBER 143 144
(turns to crowd)
AGREE WITH HIM! Just kidding.
That's not gonna be my thing.

Torch <LAUGHS> as the dragons all <CHEER>.

Torch turns to the crowd of dragons.

208 142 TORCH
Dragons, hear me! I present to you
our new Dragon Lord... Ember!

Torch moves his crown from his head to Ember's. The dragons erupt in cheers and fire breath. It's a grand moment, until Garble flies down and gives Torch a hug.

209 TORCH (CONT'D)
What is the meaning of this?

210 GARBLE
I can't tell you!

Off of Ember's laugh we... FADE OUT. THE END.

SC. 23 - INT. ROCK - CONTINUOUS

Spike, Twilight, and Rarity watch Torch and Ember.

211 312 313 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You did well, Spike. With Ember as
Dragon Lord the ponies will be safe
and you've gained us a powerful
ally.

212 241 242 SPIKE
And a new friend.

213 312 313 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Plus, Ember said I could write to
her any time I had questions about
dragon culture! With this much
information, I'll be able to write
a whole book on dragons!!

Twilight holds up her notes (they already resemble a very thick book).

214 241 242 243 RARITY
And I gained tons of ideas for a
new line of camouflaging clothing!
I think I'll call it camo-mod.

Rarity floats a quill to sketch a design of a bush outfit.
~~This time,~~ Twilight's nose gets tickled. They <LAUGH>.

END