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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.

1 RARITY
 (whispering)
Shh, we don't want to wake the
bats!
 (off Spike's look)
Yes, I know I'm talking to a rock.

2 SPIKE
 (whispering)
I didn't say anything.

Rarity frees the gem with a <POP>. A tense BEAT as Spike and Rarity look at the bats. They don't wake up. Spike and Rarity <PHEW!>. Rarity floats the gem to Spike's waiting basket. [NOTE: throughout the following, they speak in HUSHED TONES.]

3 RARITY
The last time I was here, I woke
them and ended up with a mane full
of bats! Thanks for coming along,
Spike. I'm so happy you're here to
protect me!

4 SPIKE
No problem, Rarity.
 (huffing up, intense)
If they come at you, I will release
the dragon. I'll be like RAWR--

5 RARITY
Shh!

6 SPIKE
 (quietly)
Rawr.

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

7 RARITY
For once I wish unicorn magic
wasn't so... luminescent.

Suddenly there's another O.S. GLOW.

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

9 SPIKE (O.S.) *
I can't! *

Rarity turns to Spike and her anger quickly shifts to shock-- *
Spike is glowing! Rarity <SCREAMS>! *

SC. 2 - EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS *

As a <SCREAMING> Rarity and Spike are chased out of the cave *
by bats we... *

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT 1

SC. 3 - 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.

10 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm so glad you two could visit!

11 PRINCESS LUNA
Of course. You've done a wonderful
job with the castle.

12 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Thanks! My friends helped me
decorate. But I made those crumpets
on my own.

Princess Luna and Princess Celestia politely smile and bite
the crumpets but clearly they're not great. Twilight takes a
bite of her own, then immediately spits it out.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Maybe I should have had Pinkie
help.

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

14 RARITY
Twilight! **There's** something's wrong
with Spike! *

15 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike! What's wrong?

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

Distressed, Twilight magics some books over and flips through
them fruitlessly. *

17 TWILIGHT
I don't know what to do! **There's**
nothing in these books about
dragons! *

18 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Maybe we can be of some help. *

Princess Celestia and Luna step over. *

19 RARITY
Oh! Goodness. I didn't realize you
had company. *

Rarity flips her mane, attempting to make herself more
presentable. A BAT flies out of it. *

20 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. *

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

22 SPIKE
Great! <GROAN> How do I make it
stop? *

23 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.** *

24 RARITY *
But the Dragonlands are full of... *
dragons! And they're ghastly *
creatures! Not you of course, *
Spikey Wikey. But remember that *
rotten Garble? *

25 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? *

Twilight and Rarity share a look, heartened by his request. *

26 RARITY *
Of course we will, Spike. *

27 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
It'll be a great opportunity to do *
research on dragon culture! *

Off Rarity and Spike's looks: *

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

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

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

31 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
I think we might want something a *
little more practical this time.

CUT TO:

SC. 4 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - DAY

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

32 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.

*
*

33 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)

(hushed tones)

It's not supposed to be flattering,
it's supposed to blend in!

*

34 RARITY

And if our trip here weren't hot
and exhausting enough, this rock-
wear is cramped and poorly-
ventilated!

*
*
*
*
*

35 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.

*
*

36 GARBLE

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

*
*
*

37 SPIKE

It's Spike.

*
*

38 GARBLE

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

*
*

39 SPIKE

It's nice to see you too, Garble!

*

40 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.

*

41 SPIKE

Hey! That's my rock.

*

42 GARBLE

Oh really? Then why aren't you
sitting on it?

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

*
*

SC. 5 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS

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

SC. 6 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS

Just then, the DRAGON LORD, TORCH, (a hulking, egotistical 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.

*
*

43 TORCH
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.

*

44 TORCH (CONT'D)
AGREE WITH ME!!!

*
*

45 DRAGONS
The best! / Agreed! / Torch! Torch! Torch!

*
*
*

ON Spike as the dragons <CHEER>:

*

46 SPIKE
Who is that?

47 GARBLE
It's Dragon Lord Torch, dummy.

*

48 SPIKE
No, next to him.

*

49 GARBLE
That's his daughter, 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.

50 SPIKE
Oh. <GULP>.

*

SC. 7 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS

Twilight furiously magics a quill across parchment.

*

51 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
This is fascinating! Dragons are
generally disorganized, but they do
whatever the Dragon Lord says.

*

*

*

*

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

*

*

SC. 8 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS

Torch holds up his scepter and continues:

*

52 TORCH
Unfortunately, according to dragon
law, it is time for me to step
down. Sad, I know.

*

*

*

*

Silence.

*

53 TORCH (CONT'D)
BE SAD!!!!

*

*

The dragons <GRUMBLE> and make <SAD NOISES>.

*

54 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.

*

*

*

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.

*

*

*

SC. 9 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS

56 RARITY
That Torch is rather scary, but he
has exquisite taste in scepters!

*

57 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
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. 10 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS

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

*

58 SPIKE
'Scuse me.

*

*

59 GARBLE
Ugh. You even sneeze like pony.

*

*

Torch continues:

60 TORCH
The Gauntlet is dangerous, for I
designed it myself. 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.

*

61 SPIKE
I don't want to go through that
gauntlet! I don't even want to be
Dragon Lord. Come on, let's go
home.

*

*

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.

*

*

*

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

*

*

*

Spike cowers.

*

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

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

65 SPIKE *
But I'd get destroyed in that *
Gauntlet. *

66 TORCH *
I know. That's what will make it *
fun to watch! *

Just then, Ember intervenes. *

67 EMBER *
Father. Look at him. He is a runt. *
He can not compete. Let him go. *

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

Spike <LAUGHS> nervously. *

69 TORCH (CONT'D) *
That wasn't a joke, it was a fact. *
When I want you to laugh I will say *
"LAUGH WITH ME"! *

70 SPIKE *
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. *

71 TORCH *
Very well, little dragon. I release *
you. You wouldn't last five seconds *
anyway. *

72 SPIKE *
Thank you! *
(to Ember) *
And thank you. *

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

73 TORCH *
Where do you think you're going? *

74 EMBER *
To prepare for the gauntlet. *

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

76 EMBER *
That may be, but I'm tougher than *
most of these boulderheads and you *
know it. *

77 TORCH *
I am your father and I forbid it! *

78 EMBER *
But-- *

79 TORCH *
I've made my decision! *

He flies off, leaving a fuming Ember behind. Meanwhile, as *
Spike and his "rock" wait for the dragons to clear out, *
Garble and his friends pass by them. *

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

81 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?!

82 GARBLE *
That's baby stuff. When I'm in *
charge, those ponies will regret *
they ever crossed me! We'll take *
whatever we want from Equestria. *
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. *

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

84 SPIKE *
I can't let any of them win! *

85 TWILIGHT *
But what can you do, Spike? *

86 SPIKE *
The only thing I can... *
(Spike steels himself) *
I have to win the Gauntlet of Fire! *

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

END ACT 1

ACT 2

SC. 11 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - RESUME *

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

SC. 12 - INT. ROCK COSTUME - CONTINUOUS

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

87 RARITY *
What do you mean you're going to *
compete? *

88 SPIKE *
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. *

89 TWILIGHT SPARKLE *
There has to be another way! It's *
too dangerous. Besides, if you win, *
you'd have to stay here! *

90 SPIKE *
(sadly) *
I know. But there's no other way to *
keep my friends safe. *

Twilight and Rarity get a little misty.

91 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
This is the bravest thing you've
ever done, Spike.

92 RARITY
Well, if you're staying to compete,
then we're staying to cheer you on.

93 SPIKE
But how will you blend in?

*

94 RARITY
You just leave that to me, darling!

CUT TO:

SC. 13 - EXT. THE SEA - LATER THAT DAY

Twilight and Rarity, disguised as a pile of seaweed and driftwood, wave furtively up to:

SC. 14 - EXT. THE CLIFF OVER THE SEA - CONTINUOUS

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

*

95 TORCH
I thought I released you, Tiny One.

*

*

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

*

*

*

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

*

*

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

*

98 TORCH
Dragons! Your first challenge is to
fly across the Serpent Sea to
Flamecano Island.

99 GARBLE
Everydragon should just go home
now, because I already beat you in
my mind.

The Dragon Lord <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.

*
*
*

100 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Haha. Good luck. Just kidding, I
hope you lose.

*
*
*

SC. 15 - INT. SERPENT SEA - CONTINUOUS

Spike lands in the water and surfaces.

*

101 SPIKE
Thanks, Garble, I was planning on
swimming anyway!

*
*
*

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

102 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
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!

*
*

103 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
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.

*
*

104 RARITY
You can do it! You're almost there.

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.

*

105 SPIKE
He's gonna drown!

*
*

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

*

106 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. 16 - EXT. FLAMECANO ISLAND - BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Spike pulls the dragon up onto the beach. Rarity and Twilight do a funny sideways crabwalk up the beach and then plop down nearby. All of them are winded and exhausted. Spike looks down at the other dragon.

107 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:

108 EMBER
What do you think you're doing?

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

110 EMBER
Did that seaweed just talk?

Spike gets in between Ember and the ponies.

*

111 SPIKE
NO!

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

112 TWILIGHT
Oh, hello. Don't mind us. We're
just... Gauntlet of Fire fans. We
never miss one.

*
*
*
*

Twilight watches the falling dragons with a wince.

*

113 EMBER
Ponies?

*
*

114 SPIKE
You leave them alone! They're my
friends!

115 EMBER
Friends? Dragons don't do friends.

*
*

116 SPIKE *
This dragon does, and I won't let *
you hurt them! *

117 EMBER *
Relax. I don't care as long as they *
don't get in my way. I have a *
gauntlet to win. *

118 SPIKE
Oh. I didn't realize you were
competing.

119 EMBER *
Why? Because I'm the princess? *

120 SPIKE *
No. Because your dad said-- *

121 EMBER *
Oh, I know what my dad said! But *
he's wrong. Everydragon thinks the *
"princess" is some delicate little *
thing to protect. Well, I'm NOT! *

She lets out an impressive gust of fire breath, then looks at *
Spike as if daring him to contradict her. *

122 SPIKE
No argument here.

123 EMBER *
When I'm Dragon Lord, no one will *
underestimate me ever again. *

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. *

124 GARBLE *
(with effort) *
Um... little help? *

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. *

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

126 SPIKE *
Uh-huh. You're welcome. *

```

127          GARBLE
For what? I didn't say thank you.
      (sniffs the air)
Wow, you even smell like ponies. Or
is it coming from over there...?

```

Garble sniffs in the direction of the driftwood. Suddenly Ember gets in front of him.

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

129 GARBLE
I like your style. Who are you?

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

130 SPIKE
Oh, that's just my old neighbor...
Bolthamburger.

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.

```
131          GARBLE
Stupid slingtails knocked me down.
But I'll get through. I've wasted
enough time making small talk with
you two. Get it? Because you're too
small to win this.
```

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

132 EMBER
Why did you cover for me? You could
have had one less competitor to
beat.

```
133             SPIKE
That wouldn't have been nice.
Besides, I could ask you the same
thing. You could have told Garble
about my friends.
```

134 EMBER
 (shrugs)
Whatever. I guess we're even.

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

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

*
*
*
*

136 SPIKE
Are you kidding? Those boulders are
huge!

*
*

Spike spots a big branch nearby and gets an idea.

137 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Hey, what if we work together? You
fly me up there, and I'll take care
of the boulders.

Spike picks the branch up and swings it around.

138 EMBER
I don't know...

139 RARITY (O.S.)
Spike!

*

140 SPIKE
Excuse me for a sec...

Spike walks up to a nearby seaweed pile.

141 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Yeah?

142 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)
No, over here.

A tree shakes its branches. Spike walks over to it. Twilight and Rarity pop their heads out of the trunk.

143 RARITY
How do you like my latest creation?
The silhouette is much more
slimming than the last one.

144 SPIKE
You're the prettiest tree I've ever
seen. Is that why you called me
over?

145 RARITY *

No. Are you sure it's a good idea *

to team up with Ember? You don't *

know her too well.

```
146          SPIKE
I know she could have told Garble
about you, but she didn't. I think
we can trust her. *
```

Twilight consults her notes. *

```

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

```

148 EMBER (O.S.)
Spike?

Spike returns to Ember.

149 EMBER (CONT'D)
Let's do it. It's the only way
we'll make it up there.

150 SPIKE
Really? Great! It's a deal.

Spike and Ember shake on it.

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

```
152          RARITY                                     *
We do all those things, plus sleep                *
overs!                                              *
```

153 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Good luck. We'll meet you at the
top.

SC. 17 - EXT. FLAMECANO - SKY - MOMENTS LATER

Ember is flying with Spike on her back, facing the rear and holding the big branch. Around them, other dragons are being knocked out of the sky. As a boulder comes in from behind:

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

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

155 SPIKE (CONT'D) *
Go left! *

Ember turns to the left and the boulder whizzes by. A *
slingtail hurls a boulder from the left just as Garble, who's *
made it to the top, hurls a boulder at them head-on. Spike *
gasps. Ember's not going to be able to dodge both. *

156 SPIKE (CONT'D) *
Go right and brace yourself! *

Ember goes right as Spike races up her back and swings at *
Garble's boulder, which shatters. They land at the top of the *
Flamecano. *

157 EMBER
Ugh! That dragon is the worst! We
cannot let him win.

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

159 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.

160 RARITY
You're going in there?!

161 SPIKE
<GULP> We have to.

162 EMBER *
Listen, Spike, we wouldn't have *
made it this far without teamwork. *
Maybe we should keep it up? *

163 SPIKE
Really?

164 EMBER *
(quickly) *
I mean, just until we get through *
that tunnel. *

165 SPIKE
Okay.

*

166 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We'll be right behind you.

167 RARITY
Not in this we won't. A tree inside
a volcano is bit too suspicious.
You two head in, I'll only be a
second...

Spike and Ember brace themselves and head into...

SC. 18 - 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, including Garble. He glares at them as they get to...

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- A section of the tunnel blocked by a series of spinning "fire blades". Ember and Spike watch as a few other dragons time it wrong and get knocked back by the blades. 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.

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- 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. 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.

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SC. 19 - 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).

*

168 RARITY
You made it! Oh, we were so
worried.

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

Spike collapses on the floor. Twilight <LAUGHS>.

170 EMBER
Wait, how did you two get through?

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

172 RARITY
Twilight teleported us.

*
*

Suddenly the crater nearest to them starts rumbling.

173 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.

174 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.

175 RARITY
Thanks, Spike! I owe you one.

*
*

176 SPIKE
Don't worry about it. It was
nothing.

*
*
*

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

*
*
*
*
*

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

*
*
*
*

179 EMBER
Not really. Unless I count you...

*
*

Spike looks touched for a moment, then...

*

180 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.

*
*
*
*

181 SPIKE
Wait. What do you mean?

*

182 EMBER
Well, there's only one winner, one
scepter, and one Dragon Lord. So, I
guess it's every dragon for
themselves.

*
*
*
*

183 SPIKE
Oh. So, we aren't really friends?

*

184 EMBER
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. 20 - INT. FLAMECANO - CONTINUOUS

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

185 SPIKE
I can't believe Ember ditched me.

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

187 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.

*

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

*

*

189 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.

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

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

192 RARITY
We're obviously hopelessly lost!

193 SPIKE
I don't think so.

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

*

194 RARITY
Oh, Spikey-wikey, you're a genius!

195 SPIKE
Yep. It looks like we made it!

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

196 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.

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

198 GARBLE
You're not.

Suddenly Garble lands on the bridge in front of him. Twilight and Rarity hide in their costume.

*

199 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.

200 RARITY
<GASP> We have to do something!

201 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Or not... Look!

Suddenly Ember swoops in, grabs Spike, and carries him to safety on the Bloodstone Scepter side of the bridge.

202 SPIKE
Ember! I thought it was every
dragon for themselves. Why did you
save me?

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

204 SPIKE
About crevices looking the same?

205 EMBER
No! About being friends. And... I
am. I mean, we are. Ugh, please
don't make me talk about my
feelings.

Spike beams and hugs Ember. Ember looks confused.

*

206 EMBER (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

*

*

207 SPIKE
It's called a "hug."

*

*

208 EMBER
Oh. I don't know if I like it. But
okay.

*

*

*

From the other side of the bridge, the stalagmites go:

*

209 TWILIGHT SPARKLE/RARITY
Aww.

210 GARBLE
What the--?

Garble "unmasks" the ponies.

211 EMBER
Spike! Get the scepter!

Before Garble can get to the ponies, Ember tackles him. They wrestle mid-air.

212 SPIKE
But **you** should be the one to get
it!

*

213 EMBER
I'm kind of in the middle of
something!

214 GARBLE
Yeah! A fight! With me! I'm sick
and tired of you two helping each
other! Dragons don't do helping!

215 EMBER
This dragon does!

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

216 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike, hurry! If you don't take it,
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. 21 - EXT. FLAMECANO - CONTINUOUS

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

SC. 22 - INT. FLAMECANO - CAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Spike points the scepter at Garble.

*

217 SPIKE
Leave her alone!

Garble **reluctantly** stops fighting Ember.

*

218 GARBLE
Yes, Dragon Lord Spike.

219 SPIKE
Um... now go [start you long journey](#) home. And give every dragon you see on the way a hug. Don't tell them why. *

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

221 SPIKE
I command you to do it!

Garble flies off [with a huff](#). Spike helps Ember up. *

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

Spike gives the scepter to Ember.

223 SPIKE
Dragon Lord Ember sounds a lot better.

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

225 SPIKE
The Dragon Lord is whoever brings the scepter back to your father. Besides, I know 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.

226 EMBER
Are you sure about this?

227 SPIKE
Absolutely. Besides, my home is in Equestria with my friends.

228 EMBER
Well, you'll have at least one friend here, too.

Off of Ember giving Spike an [awkward](#) hug we DISSOLVE TO... *

SC. 23 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - LATER

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

229 TORCH
Ember? You?

230 EMBER
I know you didn't think I could do
it, but I did.

A tense beat as Ember braces herself for Torch's wrath. But.. *

231 TORCH
It's not that I thought you
couldn't do it. I **thought** something
would happen to you. I know what's
in that gauntlet--it's dangerous! *

232 EMBER
Yeah, you could have gone easy on
the boulders... and the fire
blades...

233 TORCH
But you made it. And I've never
been more proud. I should have
realized I raised you to be strong.
Strong enough to win, and strong
enough to lead.

Ember smiles. **ANGLE ON** a nearby rock. *

SC. 24 - INT. ROCK - CONTINUOUS *

Spike, Twilight, and Rarity watch Torch and Ember. *

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

235 SPIKE
And a new friend. *

236 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>. *

SC. 25 EXT. DRAGONLANDS - CONTINUOUS

*

Torch turns to the crowd of dragons.

237 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.*

*
*

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

*
*

239 GARBLE
I can't tell you!

*
*

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

*