

Distribution:

Production:

Devon Cody
Meghan McCarthy
Josh Haber
Jayson Thiessen
Jim Miller
Lesley Crawford
Melinda See

The HUB:

Tegan Molloy
Allegra Newman
Linda Shima Tsuno
Wayne Winstead

Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
Kathy Page
Michael Vogel
Brian Lenard
Gabriel Monje
Daniel Barnes
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales

Hasbro Brand:

Jamie Cipolla
Yusun Hwang
Husuk Jung
Andrea Ehret
Marissa Mansolillo
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Kristen Riley
Katherine Padilla
Brain Chapman

MY LITTLE PONY 6

Gauntlet of Fire

605

Premise by: Joanna Lewis & Kristine Songco

Outline: November 10th, 2014

GAUNTLET OF FIRE

Outline by Joanna Lewis & Kristine Songco

TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. CAVE – DAY**

Spike helps Rarity (in her stylish miner's helmet) as she hunts for gems. Spike hands Rarity a sample, but she rejects it, claiming that she needs amethyst, not sapphire. Rarity admits it's hard to tell them apart in this dank, dark cave. As Rarity continues her search, there's an O.S. glow. She thanks Spike for the light, and Spike responds with a groan. She turns to see Spike's scales are glowing! He looks at Rarity, concerned: "Help!"

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT 1****SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – LIBRARY – DAY**

Buried in books, Twilight tries to research Spike's condition, while Spike (scales still glowing) eats gems despite his efforts to stop. Rarity is confused – if Spike is hungry, he should eat. Spike says he's not hungry, but he can't fight the urge to eat. He's worried if he overindulges, he'll turn into a big scary dragon again and he doesn't want to put his friends in that kind of danger. Rarity magics the gems away from a grateful Spike as Twilight announces she's found what ails him. She asks if Spike has the sudden urge to go to the Dragonlands. Spike (O.S.): "Maybe." REVEAL Spike by the closed door, walking into it as if trying to get out. Spike doesn't get it – it's like his body wants to leave but his mind wants to stay here with his friends. Twilight says it's the "call of the Dragon Lord." Something important is happening in the Dragonlands and the only way to stop Spike's symptoms is to heed the call and find out what it is. Spike reluctantly agrees to go. He can't live like this forever. Twilight and Rarity volunteer to go with him – in disguise of course. Rarity says she can dig up their old dragon costume, but Twilight thinks maybe they should go with something more practical this time.

SC. 3 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS – DAY

Spike sits on a rock. From inside the rock we hear Rarity, "Well, this disguise isn't flattering in the slightest!" Twilight shushes her – it's not supposed to be flattering, it's supposed to blend in – and talking rocks don't blend in anywhere! Around them, several other glowing dragons are gathered, some of them eating gems and getting bigger, including Garble and his friends (from "Dragon Quest"). They give Spike a hard time about showing up. He was called by the *Dragon* Lord, not the Pony Lord. Spike, corrects them that the ponies have princesses, not lords. Their banter comes to a halt as **Dragon Lord Scorch** (a big, hulky dragon with a deep booming voice) appears and calls every dragon's attention. Garble takes a seat on Spike's rock, much to Twilight and Rarity's dismay.

As Lord Scorch announces it is time for him to retire, Spike notices a teenage girl dragon sitting next to him. Smitten, Spike asks who she is and Garble tells him it's Scorch's daughter, **Ember**. He also discourages Spike from even looking at her, "unless you want Lord Scorch to eat you." Spike admits it's hard to look away. Ember is beautiful. Inside the rock, Rarity huffs a little bit. She's a tiny bit jealous, but admits to Twilight that Ember's scales do look lovely when the sun hits them just right.

Dragon Lord Scorch goes on to say that as per tradition, all eligible dragons must compete in a gauntlet to determine who will be his successor. (Twilight figures that explains the impulse to eat gems – so the dragons can bulk up before competing for Dragon Lord.) He holds up his scepter and says whoever retrieves it from the heart of the Flamecano will be the new Dragon Lord. Dragon Lord Scorch points to an ominous looking volcano in the middle of a treacherous sea.

SC. 4 - INT. ROCK COSTUME – CONTINUOUS

Inside the rock, Rarity comments that Scorch is very scary, but he has exquisite taste in scepters. Twilight, holding a book, says that's the Bloodstone Scepter. It's what gives the Dragon Lord the power to compel the dragons to come to him.

SC. 5 – EXT. DRAGONLANDS – CONTINUOUS

Spike gulps, admitting to his friends in their rock costumes that he doesn't want to be Dragon Lord, let alone go through that gauntlet. He timidly approaches Lord Scorch and asks to be dismissed given his diminutive size, lack of wings, love of ponies, etc. Scorch takes in Spike's tiny frame and agrees. He releases Spike from the competition – waving his scepter over him. Spike's scales stop glowing. Relieved, Spike heads back to tell Twilight and Rarity, but on the way he overhears Garble and his friends discuss what they'll do when they become Dragon Lord. One dragon says he'll make burps the official greeting of dragons. Another says he'll raid Equestria for pillows. "Those ponies have slept in comfort for too long!" Garble plans to do all that, plus take all the ponies' gems and whatever else he feels like.

When Spike makes it back to the Twilight and Rarity rock, they ask if he can go and Spike tells them that Lord Scorch released him. Rarity: "That's wonderful! I can't wait to get out of this disguise. I don't do well with Earth tones. I'm more of a summer." Spike says they can go home if they want, but he's decided to stay and compete.

END ACT 1**ACT 2****SC. 6 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS – LATER THAT DAY**

Twilight and Rarity try to talk Spike out of competing. He was released! They can just go home to Ponyville! Spike tells them he'd like nothing better, but the other competitors have horrible plans for Equestria when they become Dragon Lord. Spike can't let that happen, so he has to compete and he has to win. Twilight: "But if you win, doesn't that mean you'd be the Dragon Lord? Wouldn't you have to stay here?" Spike sadly nods. He can't think of another way to protect them. Twilight and Rarity say it's the bravest thing he's ever done and promise to stay and cheer him on. Spike: "But how will you blend in?" Rarity: "You leave that to me, darling." CUT TO:

SC. 7 - EXT. SEA – LATER THAT DAY

Twilight and Rarity, disguised as a pile of seaweed, wave furtively to Spike, who stands with the other competing dragons (several wearing armor) on a cliff over the sea. The Dragon Lord announces the first obstacle is to fly across the sea to Flamecano Island. Garble brags that the other dragons should just give up now – there's no way he's going to lose. He points to Spike, "This one, on the other hand can't even fly!" The other dragons laugh at Spike, but Spike is determined.

The Dragon Lord roars and breathes a blast of fire, signaling the start of the Gauntlet. With that, Garble and the other dragons take to the sky. Spike takes a deep breath and jumps off the cliff into the sea below. Suddenly, sea serpents emerge from the waves and spit huge geysers of water at the dragons flying overhead, knocking several out of the sky. The sea serpents don't even notice Spike swimming between them since they're not looking for a swimming dragon. As Spike nears the island, Rarity and Twilight quietly cheer him on. Suddenly, a helmeted dragon falls from sky right in front of him, unconscious. As the dragon starts to sink below the surface of the water, Spike dives down and pulls the dragon to the surface. Together with Rarity and Twilight they pull the dragon to the shore.

SC. 8 – EXT. SEA SHORE – CONTINUOUS

Spike pulls the dragon up onto the beach. The dragon is about twice his size, but nowhere near as big as Garble or the other dragons competing. Spike removes the dragon's helmet and discovers it's Ember! When she comes to, she angrily asks what Spike thinks he's doing. Rarity calls out from inside her disguise that Spike saved her life. Ember lifts up the pile of seaweed, revealing the two ponies. Spike tells Ember that Rarity and Twilight are his friends and to leave them alone. Ember tells Spike to relax – she's not interested in eating his friends. She has a gauntlet to win. He says he didn't realize she was competing and Ember tells him that no one does. She explains that her father thinks she's too small to compete, but she is determined to win. "Then he'll be forced to make me Dragon Lord!"

Ember quickly dons her helmet and Twilight and Rarity dive back into their disguise as Garble and the other dragons arrive at the beach. Garble looks at Spike, shocked the tiny guy made it this far. He asks Spike who his little friend is? Spike covers for Ember, saying she's his old neighbor, Bolthamburger. One of the other dragons asks if anyone else smells pony, but Ember tells them it's probably just Spike. The other dragons laugh, but Garble tells Ember it doesn't matter how funny she is, neither she nor Spike will make it to the top of Flamecano. They're way too little. Garble and the other dragons leap into the sky. Ember asks Spike why he covered for her. He could have had one less competitor to deal with. Spike says that wouldn't have been nice, besides he could ask her the same question since she didn't out Rarity and Twilight.

Spike and Ember look up at the Flamecano. It's too steep to climb and worse still, Slingtails (large dinosaur-like lizards) dot the cliff face, using their massive tails to heave giant boulders at the dragons trying to fly to the top. Spike and Ember watch as Garble and the others dodge the boulders. Ember realizes one hit from a boulder and she'd be toast. She doesn't know how she's going to get to the top. Spike doesn't either. Normally he would climb but his claws can't penetrate the hard rock. Spike suggests they work together. If she flies him up there, he'll bat away the boulders. To his surprise, Ember agrees. Twilight and Rarity sidebar with Spike. Ember could easily decide to drop him and they can't protect him from the ground. Spike points out that she could have turned both of them over to the other dragons, but she didn't. He believes he can trust her.

SC. 9 – EXT. FLAMECANO – CONTINUOUS

While Ember flies Spike to the top, Spike helps Ember dodge the boulders being thrown at them by the Slingtails. Other dragons are being knocked out of the sky. As Spike and Ember near the top, they notice a tree that seems to be traveling up the volcano. Ember: "Is that your friends?" Spike: "Yup, Rarity is the best at making costumes." Suddenly, an errant boulder falls from the sky and rolls straight toward Rarity and Twilight's tree. Spike leaps from Ember and slides down the cliff face batting the boulder away in time to save his friends. Unfortunately he's unable to stop his own descent. Ember swoops in and grabs him, taking him back to the top – because they had a deal.

SC. 10 – EXT. FLAMECANO TOP – CONTINUOUS

Ember doesn't understand why he'd risk everything to save the ponies or why they'd put themselves in so much danger just to support him. Spike tells her that's just what friends do. Doesn't Ember have anyone who looks out for her? Ember admits that she doesn't. Her arrangement with Spike is the closest thing to friendship she's ever experienced and now she's glad it's over. Spike is hurt, thinking they were becoming friends, but Ember reminds him that dragons don't really do friendship, besides, she has a competition to win. With that, she takes off into the heart of the Flamecano, leaving him standing speechless on the rim.

END ACT 2**ACT 3****SC. 11 – INT. FLAMECANO – CONTINUOUS**

Spike, along with Rarity and Twilight, now disguised as stalagmites, make their way down a narrow path into the heart of the volcano. Spike is reeling from how Ember ditched him, but Rarity wonders if he isn't better off. They wander through maze-like caves and caverns inside the volcano. Just when they think they're hopelessly lost, they

realize they're in the heart of the Flamecano! Hot lava bubbles below, but across a stone bridge, the Bloodstone Scepter is nestled in a giant rock made of hardened lava. Spike can't believe it! He runs toward the scepter, when out of nowhere Garble lands on the bridge in front of him. Garble: "I am not losing to a puny pony-loving dragon like you!" With that, Garble picks Spike up and holds him over the lava. Garble is about to drop him when Ember swoops in, grabs Spike, and carries him to safety. Spike is surprised. Didn't she have a competition to win? Ember admits that being Dragon Lord would be pretty hard without anyone to look out for her or without a friend to share it with.

Stalagmite Twilight and Rarity can't help but "Aww." Garble notices and unmask the ponies. Ember leaps to their defense while shouting for Spike to get the Scepter. Spike calls out that she should be the one to get the scepter, but Ember is already wrestling with Garble in midair. With no other option, Spike takes the scepter and uses its power to compel Garble to leave Ember alone. Garble obeys. Spike: "Uh, now go home. And give every dragon you see on the way a hug. Don't tell them why." Garble says that'll be super embarrassing, but can't help but fly off. Ember bows to Spike, her new Dragon Lord. But Spike insists on giving the scepter to Ember. He knows she'd make a great leader who will protect the ponies and besides, his place is in Equestria with his friends. Ember says Spike has at least one friend in the Dragonlands, too. DISSOLVE TO...

SC. 12 – EXT. DRAGONLANDS – LATER

Scorch crowns Ember as the new Dragon Lord. He's actually very proud of his daughter. He was worried for her safety but he should have realized he raised his daughter to be strong. From the edges of the Dragon Land, Twilight and Spike watch the crowning ceremony. Twilight says she's proud of Spike as well. With Ember as Dragon Lord, the ponies will be safe *and* Spike has earned himself a friend and a powerful ally. Then they look around... where's Rarity? "Over here!" REVEAL Rarity dressed as a stylish bush. "You know, I've really come around to this whole camouflaging idea. It's never been done before. I daresay, it could be the latest trend!" They head back to Ponyville.

TAG

SC. 13 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS – LATER

Ember is in the middle of settling a dispute amongst Garble and his friends. Garble's friends complain that he just hugged them for no reason. Ember says that's strange, but not something the Dragon Lord needs to settle. Suddenly, Spike bursts in. "Lord Ember, you summoned me?" Ember is confused. She didn't summon any dragon. Spike says his scales turned red and he was hungry for gems. Ember asks Spike what he was doing when this happened? "Um, I was by a bonfire." "And when was the last time you ate?" "Yesterday? I was saving my appetite for the bonfire." As Spike sheepishly admits it wasn't the call of the Dragon Lord after all we FADE OUT!

END