

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8
Molt Down
Ep 811
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Premise: October 26th, 2016
Outline: November 10th, 2016

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. EVERFREE FOREST – DAY**

Rarity has asked Spike to lead her into the forest to find his old pet Pee Wee. She’s making a dress inspired by Phoenix feathers and wants to see one up close. Spike is happy to help, though he awkwardly tries to keep Rarity to one side of him as they walk. When Rarity asks what’s up, Spike admits he has a “stone scale” (i.e., a pimple) and is embarrassed. Rarity bets Spike’s “pimple-wimple” is cute, but when she sees it, it definitely is not. “See?” Spike tells her. Rarity assures him that everypony gets the odd blemish from time to time and it’s nothing to be embarrassed about, in fact it’s a sign of maturity. Unconvinced, Spike leads her to the nest, but is surprised to find that Pee Wee no longer lives there. He’s moved out of his parents’ nest and into his own. Rarity picks up a few feathers, explaining that she isn’t surprised at all. Everypony grows up at some point and has to leave the nest. Rarity notices Spike scratching at his scale and suggests he visit Zecora, who makes great pimple cream. Embarrassed, Spike corrects her. It’s not a pimple, it’s a stone scale that, he assures her, will definitely be gone by tomorrow. Rarity commends him for being so positive. He’s right. Pimpily-wimplies don’t last forever and Spike will be back to his adorable self in no time. Spike just wants her to stop saying the word “pimple.”

SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – SPIKE’S ROOM – NEXT MORNING

Twilight Sparkle knocks on the door, but there’s no answer. She looks in at Spike, sound asleep. She comes in and opens the curtains, trying to wake him, but he just whines at her to let him sleep. She explains that it’s already afternoon and he promised to help her with a lecture she’s working on. Spike is surprised to hear it’s so late in the day, but on the bright side, it’s given his stone scale even more time to clear up. Twilight doesn’t think it’s been enough time – she floats a mirror over and Spike sees his single blemish has grown into a full-on break out!

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 3 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – SPIKE’S ROOM – RESUME**

Spike leaps up and closes the curtains, then jumps back under the covers. Twilight asks him what he’s doing. Spike, “Hiding my hideous face!” Twilight walks over and sits on the bed. She lifts the covers and shines her horn on his face. Yep. It’s a pretty bad break out, but pimples aren’t the end of the world. Spike, “They’re not pimples!” Twilight explains that sometimes these things can be stress related. When she was in magic school, she had terrible breakouts before every test. She points out that Spike might not have any tests coming up, but he did spend yesterday with Rarity. Spike asks her with a nervous laugh, what could possibly be stressful about that?

Twilight lets it go and suggests he visit Zecora. She makes... “...really good pimple cream,” Spike finishes—he’s heard, but at this point he’s not leaving the house until his scales clear. Fine. She floats a stack of index cards over to him. If he’s going to stay in his room, he can still help her practice. Spike rolls his eyes, exasperated. Twilight starts to recite her lecture from memory, but there’s a sudden BLAST of flame as Spike BURPS. PAN OVER to reveal Spike sitting in his bed—his claws cupping a pile of ash that used to be Twilight’s lecture. Twilight looks at the ashes, devastated. Desperate to make it up to her, Spike offers to help her re-write it, but he feels another fire burp coming on. Twilight tells him he should head outside where things are less—flammable. She can probably reconstruct her lecture from memory—and her copious notes.

SC. 4 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – LATER

Wearing the wide-brimmed hat, trench coat and sunglasses he used as his “disguise” in 617, Spike avoids the ponies going in and out of the school and walks toward the lake where he sits, gazing into the water, despondent. He takes off his sunglasses and looks at his stone scale-riddled refection—definitely not cute. Just then, Rarity calls to him from the school gates and he quickly covers back up. Rarity comes over and compliments him on his film-noir fashion aesthetic, but she could really use his help again. Dress forms are one thing, but nopony makes a better dress model than Spikey-wikey and she wants her phoenix feather-inspired dress to be perfect! Not wanting Rarity to see how bad his pimply-wimplies have become, or even worse accidentally fire burp and burn her boutique to the ground, Spike comes up with an excuse. He heads toward the school, explaining to Rarity that he can’t help her—he’s super busy giving prospective students tours all day. Just then Pinkie walks by leading an actual group of perspective students. “Oh. I thought I was giving tours today. Guess not. Free day!” She bounces off and the group of students look expectantly at Spike who tries to disappear inside his trench coat.

SC. 5 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP – CONTINUOUS

Spike does his best to lead the tour, but his stone scales continue to itch and hurt. He tries to ignore it, but doesn’t do a very good job and the tour group stare at him, confused as he fidgets and scratches under his coverings. Things only get worse when he can’t keep from fire burping every time he tries to answer one of their questions. When the mother of one of the prospective students asks if all dragons fidget, wear oversized clothes, and belch fire uncontrollably, Spike suddenly SHOUTS that he doesn’t know. He takes the group to the library where he continues to shout—loudly explaining that it’s the most serene spots at the school where students can spend time in quiet reflection or study. When the same pony asks why Spike is shouting, Spike is confused. “Am I shouting?” The whole group nods emphatically. Several students (BLAZE among them) come out of the library and confirm. Spike needs to quiet down and stop yelling at the top of his lungs—they need to study and it’s pretty distracting. The same pony in the tour group agrees. Spike’s constant scratching at his scales has made it hard to focus on the tour too. Same with the fire belches. Spike tries to play it off, like he doesn’t know what they’re talking about, but then accidentally BURPS a blast of flame that incinerates his “disguise.” Embarrassed, Spike runs off.

SC. 6 - EXT. SCHOOL – BROOM CLOSET – DAY

Spike hides, hoping he can just wait out whatever is going on with him, but Blaze finds him. Spike shout-speaks at her to leave him alone, but Blaze just laughs. She’s seen some pretty bad molts in her time, but his is the definitely the worst. Spike asks what she’s talking about and Blaze explains that everything he’s going through: stone scale breakouts, fire burps, loss of volume control, they are all symptoms of the molt. Basically it’s dragon adolescence. She pats him on the back in congratulations, but he shrinks back in pain—from two big patches of stone scales on his back. Whoops. Sorry. Regardless, Spike should be happy. Soon he’ll strike out on his own. Spike doesn’t understand and Blaze explains. In the Dragonlands, parents kick young dragons out of the house when they start to molt. Trying to put a positive spin on it, Spike shout-asks if that’s because they want to foster the fierce independence that dragons are famous for. Blaze thinks for a second, then says actually she thinks it’s because molting dragons are so annoying and disgusting. It’s almost a biological reaction to them, like a molt gross-out effect. Oh, and she hasn’t told him about the smell yet. She takes a sniff. “Ugh, I think it’s started already.” Off Spike giving himself a horrified sniff we...

END OF ACT ONE**ACT TWO****SC. 7 - EXT. SCHOOL – RESUME**

Blaze really doesn’t want to hang around and wait for Spike’s stench to get worse, but Spike needs answers. He yell-asks a series of panicked questions. Are ponies affected by the molt gross-out affect? Is Twilight going to kick him out of the castle? Where is he going to live? He’s too young to grow up. Blaze: “You didn’t think you’d be a baby dragon forever, did you? You have to leave the nest sometime.” She explains that he can find a nice hoard to guard, or maybe a village to terrorize—although that’s probably off the table now that dragons and ponies are friends. She doesn’t know what he’ll do, but she does know that nopony—no creature, in fact—is gonna want to be around him. Well, actually she takes that back. The molt stench is like a magnet for predators. Predators? Spike is shocked. What predators do dragons have? Blaze keeps forgetting how little Spike knows about dragons. Full grown dragons are tough, sure, but there are tons of creatures that are even bigger than them—Tatzlwurms, Hydras, Rocs. Spike: “Dragons are scared of rocks?” Blaze shakes her head. How does he not know this stuff? Rocs are humungous birds of prey that can snack on a molting dragon like candy. Regardless, his symptoms are only gonna get worse, his friends are gonna be disgusted by him, and Twilight will most likely kick him out. Congrats! Just then Pinkie Pie appears. She’s heard their, really loud, conversation and wants to know if this is a shouting contest. If so, she has a free day and is totally up for some shouting—also, where is that boiled brussels sprouts covered in cotton candy smell coming from because it is really... interesting. Off Spike’s concern...

SC. 8 - INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – SPIKE’S ROOM – DAY

Spike decides he needs to make himself scarce until the whole molt thing is over. Twilight is already upset with him for burning up her lecture. He’s not going to give her the chance to

experience the molt-gross out effect and kick him out. He’s gonna pack a bag and hide in the forest. He decides to leave Twilight a note, explaining everything, that way TS won’t see his disgustingness in person. As he’s packing, he comes across one of his old books with pictures of his favorite gems. Distracted by the delicious looking pictures, he gets caught up and doesn’t notice Twilight walk in on him. “Spike, what is that smell!?” Horrified and embarrassed, Spike leaps to his feet and BURPS burning up his book. Not knowing what else to do, he shouts at Twilight to hold her nose until he’s gone, then he runs off, mortified. Off Twilight’s confused expression...

SC. 9 - INT. ZECORA’S HUT – DAY

Desperate, Spike tells Zecora she’s his only hope. If she can’t get rid of his symptoms, he’ll be stuck in the forest until the molt is done and he has no idea how long that will take. Everypony says she has the best pimple cream, which she is applying to the even bigger stone scale break out on his back. He’s hoping she can whip something up to deal with the rest. She agrees to try her best, as we reveal she’s talking to him through a clothes pin she has on her muzzle. Maybe they should tackle the smell situation first. As Spike SHOUTS at her that it’s all so embarrassing, Zecora changes her mind. Maybe getting a handle on his volume is more pressing. Spike scratches at his back, asking if there’s anything more she can do for the stone scales. In addition to being uncomfortable, they definitely are prime contributors to the molt gross-out effect. He feels a fire belch coming on, but Zecora is able to direct it to light the fire under her cauldron. Spike worries if he can’t get things under control, not even his closest friends will want him around. Suddenly, Rarity calls to Zecora from outside. Spike freaks. He definitely doesn’t want her to see him like this. Trying to whisper, but actually shouting, he begs Zecora not to let Rarity know he’s there. Zecora doesn’t know how he’ll be able to keep Rarity in the dark, between the noise and the smell, but she lets him hide in a cupboard.

Rarity walks in, practically shouting herself about the weird smell. She hopes whatever uniquely pungent ingredient Zecora is using will help her get over what she’s come to believe is an allergy to phoenix feathers—her ears are totally clogged and she can’t hear a thing—hence her own volume level. She also asks Zecora for some pimple cream for Spike—she knows he’s having some scale issues. Spike is despondent inside the cupboard: “You have no idea.” Zecora shouts at Rarity, covering for Spike as he moves from hiding place to hiding place to avoid Rarity in some super funny physical comedy stuff that ends with him jumping out the window.

SC. 10 - EXT. ZECORA’S HUT – CONTINUOUS

Finally, Zecora gives Rarity some eardrops and pimple cream and sends her on her way. Once Rarity is gone, Zecora walks around to find Spike cowering against the back of the tree hut. Zecora asks if he’s all right and Spike is actually able to whisper “No.” Zecora doesn’t understand. He’s able to not shout—that must be a good sign. But Spike points over her head at the GIANT ROC flapping in the air just above the trees. He’s not better, he’s terrified. Off both of their terror-stricken expressions we...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 11 - EXT. ZECORA’S HUT – RESUME

Zecora’s and Spike’s fear paralysis is broken as the Roc takes a swipe at them with its talons, but they just manage to jump out of the way. Spike scrambles up a tree and the Roc zeros in on him. It rips several trees out of the ground by the roots trying to get at him—and grabs Zecora in the process! As the bird swoops into the sky preparing for another dive, Spike tries to run off for help and smacks right into Rarity. Totally oblivious to the situation because she can’t hear anything, Rarity shout-explains that she’s come back for some clarification on the ear-drop instructions. Was it two drops once a day or one drop twice a day? “And is that horrible smell actually coming from you, Spike?” Spike shouts at her. They have to get help! They have to save Zecora! Despite his panic, or maybe because of it, the itching of his back goes into overdrive, causing him to scratch at it like a maniac. Rarity would very much like to understand what Spike is talking about, but she can’t hear and his scratching is very distracting. Before Spike even has time to be mortified, the Roc returns, swooping down and snatching Rarity with the same claw it uses to hold Zecora. As both pony and zebra scream, Spike pulls at the awful bird’s massive talon, but it only nips at him with its giant beak in response. Spike manages to burp a FLAME BLAST which drives the bird back, knocking the desperate Spike from its claws as it soars back into the sky.

As the intense itching returns and Spike instinctively rubs his back against a tree—just as Twilight emerges from the forest. Spike, “Of course. If my back didn’t itch so much and we weren’t in immediate danger, this would be very embarrassing.” Twilight tells him she read his note and has been looking for him ever since. How could he think that she’d kick him out of the castle? Spike doesn’t have time to explain as the Roc makes another dive and they have to scatter to avoid being grabbed up by its free claw—Rarity calling for help as the bird zooms by.

Spike immediately gets back to scratching his back, which is itching uncontrollably now. He tells Twilight that they have to save Zecora and Rarity, but it’s all he can do to stop itching long enough to dive out of the way when the bird attacks. Twilight takes to the sky and BLASTS the Roc with magic, but the bird is too huge to be anything other than annoyed by her attempts. As Twilight tries her best, flying around the humongous bird and blasting at it, dogfight-style, Spike’s scratching reaches a fever pitch. Suddenly his back starts to GLOW. The glow grows and spreads until Spike’s whole body is surrounded in light. With a SUDDEN FLASH the light dissipates and Spike emerges—his stone scales are completely gone and he’s sports a brand new pair of awesome DRAGON WINGS!

Before he can even appreciate it, Spike looks up to Twilight’s desperate situation in the sky. He FLIES up and helps. Twilight is amazed but doesn’t have time to discuss it—she’s too busy trying to save their friends—though Rarity manages to shout some positive wing stuff as she flies by in the Roc’s claw. Together, Spike and Twilight, are able to tag team the Roc. Spike FLAMES its beak as Twilight BLASTS its claw and the combined attack is enough to get the bird to release their friends and fly off. Unfortunately, both Zecora and Rarity immediately plummet toward the ground. Both Twilight and Spike dive after and grab them, flying them to

safety. Rarity looks around and asks if she’s still screaming. She very well might be. She still can’t hear.

Spike is glad everypony is safe, but it’s time for him to go. Who knows if the molt is finished or if there will be any other weird or dangerous side effects. Rarity and Twilight tell him that whatever happens they want to face it with him—he’s family. Spike explains how in the Dragonlands dragon families kick young molting dragons out. The ponies point out that they aren’t dragons and Ponyville isn’t the Dragonlands. They don’t want Spike going anywhere.

SC. 12 - EXT. TWILIGHT’S SCHOOL – DAY

Spike flies through the halls, giddy at the use of his wings. Twilight still can’t believe he thought she’d kick him out when Blaze walks by. She compliments Spike on his new wings—did she forget to tell him that dragons usually get those after the molt? Spike looks at her, exasperated. “Yes!” Twilight tells Blaze she’s glad Spike has somepony who can tell him about Dragon culture, but next time maybe include some of the positive stuff too.

SC. 13 - INT. RARITY’S BOUTIQUE – DAY

CLOSE on Rarity as she takes pins from the cushion tied to her hoof and pins up a large piece of gold fabric. She talks louder than normal, her ears not yet cleared up, about how Spike should never have worried for a single second about any of his friends suffering from some kind of molt gross-out effect. Even if they did find it unsettling, and let’s face it—the smell was pretty bad, nopony is going to stop caring about him just because he’s going through something that is totally natural—for dragons. Besides, getting older happens to everypony. Sure there are changes, but true friends love you no matter what. Plus, sometime change can be wonderful—like being able to be a model for any size dress. She looks up, “Just a bit higher I think.” PULL WIDE to reveal that Spike is modeling Rarity’s phoenix dress. He flaps his wings and hovers an inch higher so she can pin up the hem. Spike is glad to help, but he’s pretty sure there are wonderful things about flying that don’t involve dresses. Rarity still can’t quite hear him. She agrees that there’s nothing more wonderful than dresses. That’s what he said, right? Off Spike’s SIGH...

END