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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

Molt Down
Ep 811

Teleplay 1st Draft

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

*

SPIKE and RARITY make their way along a path through the forest. Spike holds a claw to the right side of his face.

1 RARITY
I certainly appreciate you showing
me the way to the phoenix's nests,
Spike.

*

2 SPIKE
Anything for you, Rarity. Besides,
I've been meaning to visit Pee Wee.

Rarity looks at Spike, who turns slightly to keeping the right side of his face away from her. Curious, Rarity stops and starts to casually circle him.

3 RARITY
He really was an excellent pet. I
can't imagine why you set him free.

4 SPIKE
Phoenixes aren't meant to be
domesticated. Even in the wild,
they like to keep to themselves.

5 RARITY
Yes, well, they are beautiful...

Rarity continues to walk around Spike, who continues to turn with her, keeping his claw to his face.

6 RARITY (CONT'D)
A few of their feathers will add
just the right splash of color to
my latest... (re his continued
turning) Spike! What are you doing?

7 SPIKE
(quickly)
Nothing.

She jukes around, trying to get a look at his face, but he continues to cover it.

8 RARITY
Is there something wrong with your
face?

Spike <SIGHS>, giving in.

9 SPIKE
It's a stone scale. Dragons get
them sometimes. It's red and itchy
and embarrassing.

Spike takes his claw away revealing a swollen, red scale.
Rarity is taken aback.

10 RARITY
Oh, dear. That does look...
uncomfortable. But even I get the
odd blemish from time to time, it's
nothing to be embarrassed by.

Spike <SIGHS> and walks on. Rarity follows.

11 RARITY (CONT'D)
You could pay Zecora a visit. She
makes a cream that works wonders.
(suddenly serious)
Just don't get the shampoo.

Spike stops and looks up. Rarity follows his gaze to see TWO
PHOENIXES in a nest.

12 SPIKE
There's Pee Wee's parents but I
don't see Pee Wee.

13 RARITY
Maybe he moved out. Everypony has
to leave the nest at some point.

With a sudden SCREECH another phoenix soars into frame and
lands on another nest. Spike rushes over while Rarity
retrieves a few feathers from the ground.

14 SPIKE
Pee Wee!

Pee Wee flaps over and gives Spike a peck on the cheek,
inadvertently touching Spike's stone scale.

15 SPIKE (CONT'D)
OUCH!

Startled, Pee Wee flies off. Rarity looks to Spike.

16 RARITY
Perhaps you should pay Zecora a
visit sooner rather than later.

Spike shakes his head, touching the sensitive scale.

17 SPIKE
I don't want anypony else to see
this. Besides, I'm sure it'll clear
up after a good night's sleep.

SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - SPIKE'S ROOM - NEXT MORNING *

Spike <SNORES> under the covers in the darkened room when
there's a <KNOCK> at the door.

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.)
Spike?

But the dragon just goes on <SNORING>. After a beat the door
opens a crack and TWILIGHT SPARKLE sticks her head in.

19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Spike? I can't believe you're still
asleep.

20 SPIKE
<GROGGY GRUMBLY WHINE> Just five
more minutes...

Twilight walks over and opens the curtain, flooding the room
with the bright, noonday sun.

21 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
It's nearly noon and you promised
to help me with my lecture today.

Spike pulls the covers away and sits up, facing away from
camera. He rubs his eyes.

22 SPIKE
(surprised)
Noon? Whoa. I slept like a rock.
(sudden energy)
Which reminds me, all that sleep
probably cleared up my stone scale!

Twilight looks at him, unnerved.

23 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Um... On second thought, you can go
back to sleep if you want...

Spike stares at her, confused, then rushes over to a mirror.
Spike looks at his reflection in horror as we REVEAL the
stone scales have spread all over his face!

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.

24 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike, what are you doing?

25 SPIKE
 (from under the covers)
Hiding my hideous face!

Twilight walks over and sits on the bed.

26 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I'm sure it feels terrible, but
it's just a break out. It's not the
end of the world.

Spike pulls the covers back, his face covered in swollen, red scales. He scratches at them.

27 SPIKE
That's easy for you to say. Your
face isn't covered in itchy red
spots.

28 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You know, in magic school, I used
to get terrible break outs before
every test.

29 SPIKE
I don't have any tests coming up.

30 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
No, but these things can be stress-
related, and you did spend
yesterday with Rarity.

Spike gives a nervous laugh.

31 SPIKE
 (defensive)
What could possibly be stressful
about that?

Twilight rolls her eyes. She walks back to the windows and opens the curtains.

32 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You could try Zecora. She makes a
cream that--

33 SPIKE
(finishing the thought)
--works wonders. I've heard.

Spike gets up and looks in the mirror again.

34 SPIKE (CONT'D)
But I'm not leaving the castle
until my face is back to its
adorable self.

35 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Fine...

With that, Twilight's horn GLOWS and a collection of index
cards appears next to Spike.

36 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
...but you're still going to help
me practice my lecture.

Spike rolls his eyes in exasperated quiescence and picks up
the cards. Twilight nods and paces across the room. We PAN
WITH HER.

37 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
<CLEARS THROAT> The element of
generosity and its importance in
relation to the other Elements of
Harmony--

Suddenly, Twilight is interrupted by a loud <BELCH> and a
FLASH of flame from off screen. She turns and we PAN OVER to
reveal...

SPIKE sits, cupping a pile of ash that used to be Twilight's
index cards. She looks over, devastated.

38 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
My lecture!

39 SPIKE
I don't know what happened. I just
had a sudden case of--

Spike screws up his face as another BELCH escapes from his
mouth accompanied by a MASSIVE BLAST OF FLAME. Twilight has
to BAMF out of the way, reappearing on Spike's other side.

40 SPIKE (CONT'D)
...indigestion. (re the index
cards) I'm so sorry!

41 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's okay, Spike. I'm sure I can
rewrite the lecture from my notes.
(quickly) I have a lot.

42 SPIKE
(eager)
I can help you...

Twilight looks to the massive scorch mark on the wall. Spike
follows her gaze.

43 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Maybe you should go somewhere less--
flammable.

SC. 4 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - LATER

*

Wearing the wide-brimmed HAT, TRENCH COAT and SUNGLASSES he
used as his "disguise" in 617, Spike sneaks past the STUDENTS
going in and out of the school and heads toward the lake
where he sits, gazing into the water, despondent.

He takes off his sunglasses and looks at his stone scale-
riddled reflection in the water.

44 SPIKE
(sighs)
Hey there, not handsome.

At the school entrance, Rarity exits and sees Spike sitting
by the lake.

45 RARITY
(calling out)
Oh, Spike!

Spike quickly puts his sunglasses back on as Rarity rushes
over. She stops and looks him up and down.

46 RARITY (CONT'D)
My, what a fetching ensemble you've
put together. Very noir-esque.
(with a wink) I believe Shadow
Spade herself would approve.

Spike pulls the collar of his coat as high as possible and
heads back toward the school. Rarity follows.

47 SPIKE
Uh... Thanks.

48 RARITY
But I wonder if you wouldn't mind
taking it off--

Spike quickens his pace, nervous.

49 SPIKE
What? Um, I...

50 RARITY
It's just that nopony makes a more
perfect dress model than Spikey-
wikey, and as chic as your current
outfit is, I do want my phoenix
feather dress to be perfect!

Near-panicked, Spike looks around for a way out of the conversation. He looks to the school and gets an idea.

51 SPIKE
Oh, um... sorry, Rarity, but I am
super busy all day giving tours of
the school.

52 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
Really?

Spike and Rarity look over as we WHIP PAN to reveal PINKIE PIE standing with a group of TOUR PONIES.

53 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I thought I was giving tours today.
Guess not. Free day!

With that, Pinkie BOUNCES off. The group of TOUR PONIES turn and look expectantly at Spike who tries to disappear inside his trench coat.

SC. 5 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER *

Spike begrudgingly leads the tour through the school grounds, moving as quickly as he can - trying and failing not to itch at the painful bumps on his face as he points around rapidly.

54 SPIKE
Class rooms are that way <OW>,
dorms are that way <UGH>,
Twilight's office is up there
<OUCH>, this is a fountain...

Spike hurries across the bridge over the stream running through the middle of the courtyard and the tour group has to hurry to keep up.

55 TOUR PONY
Could you slow down a bit? We've
come a long way to see the school
and I don't want to miss anything.

Spike whips around, caught, as he continues to itch.

56 SPIKE
Oh. Um... Yeah. <UUGG> Sorry.

The group stares at his vigorous scratching.

57 TOUR PONY
Is something wrong?

58 SPIKE
 (defensive)
What? Why? No!

With that, Spike immediately belches out a COLUMN OF FIRE.
The tour group dives out of the way.

59 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Sorry.

60 TOUR PONY
Do all the dragons at this school
belch fire uncontrollably?

Spike tries to answer, but it's totally inaudible.

61 SPIKE
 (unintelligible whisper)
I don't know.

62 TOUR PONY
What?

Spike tries again, but the sound doesn't come out -- like the worst case of laryngitis ever.

63 SPIKE
 (barely perceptible sound)
I don't know.

64 TOUR PONY
I'm sorry, did you say "fireworks
show"?

Suddenly Spike shouts at full volume.

65 SPIKE
 (super loud)
I DON'T KNOW.

Spike turns and walks over toward the library, leaving the Tour Pony to stare, his ears ringing, as the rest of the group falls in behind.

Spike stops by the window and points in at PONIES studying.

66 SPIKE (CONT'D)
 (still talk-shouting)
THIS IS THE SCHOOL LIBRARY. IT'S
ONE OF THE MOST SERENE SPOTS ON
CAMPUS WHERE STUDENTS CAN SPEND
TIME IN QUIET REFLECTION OR STUDY.

The tour group just stares at him.

67 SPIKE (CONT'D)
WHAT?

Several STUDENTS (BLAZE, YANA, SANDALWOOD) come out.

68 BLAZE
 (to Spike)
Could you stop shouting? We're
trying to do our homework and it's
kind of distracting.

69 SPIKE
WAS I SHOUTING?

Everyone NODS emphatically as the other Tour Pony makes it back to the group, rubbing his ears.

70 TOUR PONY
And your constant scratching and
fire-breathing is making it really
difficult to focus on the tour.

Spike manages to clear his throat and tries to play it off.

71 SPIKE
I have no idea what you're tal--

Another giant BELCH starts and Spike tries to stifle it by putting a claw over his mouth, but he just redirects the FLAME down and incinerates his entire outfit.

With nothing to cover his red and swollen scales, Spike runs off, mortified.

SC. 6 - INT. SCHOOL - BROOM CLOSET - DAY

*

Spike sits on the floor between a collection of brooms and a collection of mops. He looks around, dejected.

72 SPIKE
At least nopony can see my stone
scales or get burnt by a burp in
here.

He immediately BURPS a BLAST of fire that turns the brooms to ash. He <SIGHS>.

Suddenly the door opens and Blaze sticks her head in.

73 BLAZE
If you're trying to hide, you need
to do a better job. All I had to do
was follow the smoke.

Spike tries to talk to her, but his voice has switched back to a whisper.

74 SPIKE
 (inaudible again)
Leave me alone.

75 BLAZE
What?

Spike tries again... no luck.

*

76 SPIKE
 (like he's just mouthing)
Leave me alone.

77 BLAZE
I can't-- Was that, "sleeves made
of foam"?

Spike finally answers at FULL VOLUME again.

78 SPIKE
I SAID LEAVE ME ALONE.

With that, Spike BURPS and burns up all the mops. He drops his head, miserable. Blaze <LAUGHS>.

79 BLAZE
Wow. I have seen some pretty bad
molts in my time, but yours takes
the cake.

Spike looks up at her, curious.

80 SPIKE
Molts?

81 BLAZE
Yeah. Stone scales, fire burps,
uncontrollable volume fluctuations.
They're all signs that you've
started the molt.

She gives him a pat on the back, but he shrinks back in pain.

82 SPIKE
<ARRRRRGHHH!>

He turns and we see two big patches of stone scales on his back.

83 BLAZE
Ooooh. Sorry. But, hey,
congratulations. You're growing up!

Off Spike's look of horror, we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 7 - INT. SCHOOL - BROOM CLOSET - RESUME

*

Spike stares at Blaze, horrified.

84 SPIKE
Growing up!? No, no, no, no, no!
The last time that happened I
turned into a giant, greedy
monster!

Spike starts to pace in the tiny closet. Blaze nods.

85 BLAZE
Greed induced draconus-gigantus.
That's totally different. The molt
is completely normal. Every dragon
goes through it. Pretty soon you'll
leave and strike out on your own.

Spike stops pacing and looks at her.

86 SPIKE
Why would I do that?

87 BLAZE
You've been living with ponies your whole life, huh?
 (off his nod)
In the Dragonlands, parents kick molters out of the cave at the first stone scale.

88 SPIKE
Why?!

89 BLAZE
 (thinks)
Well, dragons aren't very...

90 SPIKE
Nice?

91 BLAZE
I was going to say warm and fuzzy, but I think it's biological. Like a molt-effect. I haven't told you about the smell yet.

92 SPIKE
Smell?

Horrified Spike gives himself a SNIFF and makes a face.

93 BLAZE
Yeah. And I think it's already started so...

She makes for the door, but Spike lunges at her, desperate.

94 SPIKE
Wait! Does the molt-effect happen to ponies too? Is Twilight going to kick me out of the castle? Where am I going to live? I'm too young to grow up!

She looks at Spike panicking and feels bad.

95 BLAZE
I'm sure you'll find a nice hoard to guard or a village to terrorize - though now that dragons and ponies are friends, I guess that's off the table.

96 SPIKE
I can't believe no creature is gonna want to be around me.

97 BLAZE
Oh, I didn't say that. The molt
stench is a magnet for predators.

98 SPIKE
 (shocked)
Dragons have predators?

Blaze looks at him like he's crazy.

99 BLAZE
How do you not know this stuff?
There's tons of creatures that are
bigger than dragons - Tatzlwurms,
Hydras, Rocs.

100 SPIKE
Dragons are scared of rocks?

101 BLAZE
Not rocks. Rocs. Humongous birds of
prey that can snack on a dragon
like candy.

Spike looks terrified. When he speaks, his voice is back to
being inaudible.

102 SPIKE
 (super quiet)
So, Twilight's kicking me out and
the only creatures who can stand to
be around me want to eat me.

103 BLAZE
Seriously, I heard none of that.

104 SPIKE
 (super LOUD)
TWILIGHT'S KICKING ME OUT AND THE
ONLY CREATURES WHO CAN STAND TO BE
AROUND ME WANT TO EAT ME.

Blaze nods eagerly and answers his volume in kind.

105 BLAZE
CONGRATS!

Suddenly the door opens and Pinkie sticks her head in.

106 PINKIE PIE
HEY! IS THIS THE SHOUTING CLOSET?
BECAUSE I'VE GOT A FREE DAY AND AM
TOTALLY UP FOR SOME SHOUTING!
 (MORE)

PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(then) Also, where is that brussels
sprouts covered in cotton candy
smell coming from? Because it is
really... interesting.

Off Spike's miserable look...

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE ON SPIKE'S PLEADING FACE

107 SPIKE
I didn't know where else to go. I
can't take the chance that Twilight
will kick me out. You aren't
feeling any molt-effect are you?

PULL WIDE TO REVEAL...

SC. 8 - INT. ZECORA'S HUT - DAY

*

ZECORA looks down at Spike, a CLOTHES PIN stuck on the end of
her muzzle to prevent her from smelling anything.

108 ZECORA
*When it comes to break outs, I've
seen all circumstances.
But as for the molt smell, let's
not take any chances.*

Zecora applies a salve to the section of stone scales on his
back - which has grown even larger.

109 ZECORA (CONT'D)
*This cream should help with the
itching and pain,
but the rest of your symptoms are
harder to tame.*

110 SPIKE
Is there anything you can do to
cure me?

111 ZECORA
*The ailments you have aren't
something to cure.
The molt's a condition that dragons
endure.*

112 SPIKE
But if anypony sees, or smells me,
they won't want to be around me!

She finishes with the cream and starts to rummage through her shelves.

113 ZECORA
*Perhaps we can lessen this strange
molt-effect,
The smell is the mostly likely
cause I suspect.*

Spike tries to answer her, but loses his voice again.

114 SPIKE
(unintelligible)
It's all so embarrassing.

Zecora turns back to him, confused.

115 ZECORA
*I know you are speaking but I can't
hear a thing.
Are you talking about teaching
asparagus to sing?*

116 SPIKE
(suddenly LOUD)
I SAID IT'S EMBARRASSING.

Zecora stares at Spike, slightly dazed by his volume. She grabs some cotton and stuffs it in her ears.

117 ZECORA
*If the goal is to not have your
friends all depart,
Perhaps your volume is where we
should start.*

Spike looks at her, concerned, then starts to feel a fire belch coming.

118 SPIKE
Oh, no...

Zecora immediately points Spike's head at the base of her cauldron as Spike BURPS a BLAST of flame and lights it. He <SIGHS> miserable.

119 SPIKE (CONT'D)
<SIGH> If we can't get things under
control, I may as well just move
into the forest now.

Suddenly, Rarity's voice comes from outside the hut.

120 RARITY (O.S.)
ZECORA? HELLO? ARE YOU THERE?

Spike looks to Zecora, pleading. He tries to whisper, but suddenly talks as LOUD as ever.

121 SPIKE
I CAN'T LET RARITY SEE ME LIKE
THIS. PLEASE DON'T LET HER KNOW I'M
HERE.

Off Zecora's uncertain look...

SC. 9 - EXT. ZECORA'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

*

Zecora opens the door and sticks her head out - the cotton still in her ears. Rarity looks at her, distraught. When Rarity speaks, she's nearly as loud as Spike.

122 RARITY
OH, DEAR. I'M TALKING EVEN LOUDER
THAN I THOUGHT, AREN'T I?

Zecora looks at her, confused, then remembers her ear plugs.

123 ZECORA
*I have volume concerns today by the
scores,
but it seems that I'm ready to help
you with yours.*

Rarity leans in, trying to hear, but just shakes her head, frustrated.

124 RARITY
I'M SORRY. I CAN'T SEEM TO HEAR
ANYTHING. I WAS HOPING YOU COULD
HELP.

Zecora glances back into her hut, where Spike climbs into a basket. He gives her a thumbs up and pulls the lid on top.

Off Zecora giving an uncertain look back to Rarity...

SC. 10 - INT. ZECORA'S HUT - CONTINUOUS

*

Zecora leads Rarity inside as she continues to shout-talk.

125 RARITY
I'VE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED. ONE
MINUTE I WAS SEWING PHOENIX
FEATHERS ONTO A DRESS AND THE NEXT
I COULDN'T HEAR MY OWN VOICE.

Zecora nods.

126 ZECORA
*The feathers of that bird can
affect pony's ears.
It's a magical ailment I've treated
for years.*

Unseen, Spike lifts the lid off of his hiding place and peers out at Rarity who shakes her head at Zecora.

127 RARITY
I KNOW YOU ARE TALKING BECAUSE YOUR
MOUTH IS MOVING, BUT THAT'S ALL.

Rarity <SIGHS> then makes a face and starts <COUGHING> as she looks around.

128 RARITY (CONT'D)
GOODNESS! I HOPE THAT INCREDIBLY
PUNGENT ODOR BELONGS TO SOME KIND
OF MAGICAL CURATIVE!

Zecora looks up at Spike who ducks back into the basket. Rarity looks over in the direction of Spike's hiding place, then up at all the shelves of ingredients.

129 RARITY (CONT'D)
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT BUSY, BUT I MUST
HAVE MY HEARING BACK. IT TURNS OUT
I TALK TO MYSELF WHILE I SEW AND
WITHOUT THAT CONVERSATION I SIMPLY
CAN'T THINK!

Zecora pulls a few things from her shelf and mixes them quickly into bottle. She gives it to Rarity along with a small piece of parchment.

130 ZECORA
*It's a simple cure and the
directions are clear,
just one or two drops in each of
your ears.*

Rarity takes the potion and the instructions.

131 RARITY
OH, THANK YOU! YOU ARE AN EAR
SAVER. OH! WHILE I'M HERE DO YOU
HAVE ANY BLEMISH CREAM? SPIKE IS
HAVING SOME SCALE ISSUES.

Spike LOUD-TALKS from inside the basket.

132 SPIKE (FROM THE BASKET)
YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

Rarity looks around, curious. She looks toward the basket.

133 RARITY
I THINK I HEARD SOMETHING. YOUR
CURE IS WORKING ALREADY!

Zecora quickly steps between Rarity and the basket, leading her to another shelf.

134 ZECORA
*The cream that you want is just
over here,
It's a popular potion for all
creatures this year.*

She looks over her shoulder as Spike climbs out of the basket and scampers out the window of the hut.

Rarity starts to turn around, but Zecora hands her a jar of the cream with a smile.

135 RARITY
OH, THANK YOU ZECORA. (makes
another face) AND I DON'T MEAN TO
BE RUDE BUT I REALLY DO THINK YOUR
HUT COULD DO WITH AN AIRING OUT.

Off Zecora taking the clothes pin off her muzzle with a frown...

SC. 11 - EXT. ZECORA'S HUT - REAR - MOMENTS LATER

*

Zecora turns the corner around the side of her hut looking for Spike.

136 ZECORA
*Rarity's gone, there's no need to
hide, (<SNIFFS> and makes a face)
Though I wonder if we should
continue outside?*

She continues to look around and finally finds Spike, cowering under a root. Zecora bends down.

137 ZECORA (CONT'D)
*I can't treat your symptoms down
there on the ground.
It's safe to come out, there's no
ponies around.*

Spike shoots her a terrified look.

138 SPIKE
(whispers)
I'm not hiding from ponies. I'm
hiding from that!

Spike points over her head at a GIANT ROC flapping in the air just above the trees.

Off both of their terror-stricken expressions we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 12 - EXT. ZECORA'S HUT - RESUME

*

Zecora's and Spike stare up at the giant bird, paralysed with fear.

With a terrifying <SCREECH>, the Roc dives and swipes with one of its talons, digging a deep channel in the earth with its claws - inches away from Spike's hiding place.

*

As the bird soars back into the sky, Spike looks up at Zecora.

139 SPIKE
Did I forget to mention the molt
smell attracts predators?

The Roc reaches the top of its arc - actually blocking out the sun - and dives again.

140 ZECORA
*That's something that would have
been quite nice to know,
But it's not worth discussing,
right now we should go!*

Spike scampers out of his hiding place and he and Zecora take off through the trees - the Roc gliding over the forest in pursuit.

*

SC. 13 - EXT. CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

*

Unfortunately, Zecora and Spike quickly find themselves at the edge of a clearing, just as the Roc swoops down from the sky.

*

141 SPIKE
It's only after me! I'll lead it
away while you get help!

Without waiting for a response, Spike runs off.

142 SPIKE (CONT'D)
This way birdy, bird! Molting
dragon over here!

Spike heads for a thick grove of trees and scampers up the biggest one.

The Roc pulls out of its dive and lets out another deafening <SCREECH>. It hovers over the grove, the WIND from its enormous, flapping wings blows the smaller trees down and nearly sends Spike flying from his perch.

*

Zecora looks on in horror and gallops over shouting.

143 ZECORA
*You can't hide in a tree, you have
to come down,
We stand a much better chance on
the ground!*

The Roc reaches down with one of its massive talons and grabs the tree next to Spike's - ripping it out of the ground by the roots. Spike stares in shock.

*

144 SPIKE
Okay, maybe this wasn't a good
plan!

Zecora rushes over and tries to help Spike down just as the Roc reaches in with its other talon and GRABS HER!

*

145 SPIKE (CONT'D)
ZECORA!

The Roc takes off into the sky again as Spike manages to climb down. He shouts after the bird.

*

146 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Bring her back!

Suddenly, the stone scales on Spike's body PULSE, growing even redder than they've been so far.

147 SPIKE (CONT'D)
<ARRGGHHH>!

Spike starts itching furiously at himself as he casts a worried look up at...

THE ROC - turning in the sky, Zecora struggling in one of its claws. The bird spots Spike, and prepares to dive again.

Spike turns and rushes back through the trees and runs smack into-- RARITY, still shout-talking.

148 RARITY
OH! SPIKE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING
HERE!?

Spike looks at her, panicked and itching.

149 SPIKE
Rarity, you have to get out of
here, there's a giant Roc trying to
eat me. It's got Zecora!

*

Rarity looks at him - still unable to hear.

150 RARITY
YES. I WAS JUST AT ZECORA'S FOR MY
EARS. BUT I CAN'T READ THESE
INSTRUCTIONS. DOES THIS SAY TWO
DROPS ONCE A DAY, OR ONE DROP TWICE
A DAY?

She gives Spike the parchment that came with her ear drops and catches a whiff of him.

151 RARITY (CONT'D)
OH, DEAR. SPIKE, YOU SMELL LIKE YOU
WERE AT ZECORA'S TOO. SHE REALLY
NEEDS TO MIX UP AN AIR FRESHENER.

Spike continues to scratch frantically and looks to Rarity, pleading.

152 SPIKE
Rarity, there's no time, we have to
get help!

153 RARITY
(re his scratching)
GOODNESS SPIKE, YOUR STONE SCALES
LOOK WORSE! HERE, I PICKED UP JUST
THE THING.

She starts rummaging through her bag for the cream when the tree next to them is ripped out of the ground. Spike looks up terrified to see the Roc flapping in the air above them, Zecora in one claw and the tree in the other. *

154 SPIKE
Rarity! Come on! Run!

He takes off toward cover, but glances back to see Rarity is still looking through her bag - oblivious due to her inability to hear.

155 RARITY
NOW WHERE DID I PUT THAT CREAM?

Spike rushes back to grab her just as the Roc tosses the tree and lands on its free claw. Spike stares up at the huge bird, towering over Rarity. Still unaware, she finally finds the cream. *

156 RARITY (CONT'D)
AH, HERE IT IIIIIEEEEEEEEAAAAAAHHHH!

In mid-sentence the giant bird grabs Rarity with the same claw it uses to hold Zecora. Shocked, Rarity looks over to see Zecora.

157 ZECORA
*I know you can't hear, but this is
absurd,
the both us stuck in the claws of a
bird!*

158 RARITY
WHAT!?

Spike looks up at the Roc, still on the ground, and leaps onto the claw holding his friends. He wraps his arms around a talon and yanks on it desperately. *

159 SPIKE
Let my ponies go!

The Roc tilts its head and lifts the claw, SNAPPING at Spike with its giant beak. *

160 SPIKE (CONT'D)
<WHOOA>!

Spike manages to dodge the snapping beak and belches a BLAST of flame that drives the bird back and causes Spike to fall from its claw as the Roc soars into the sky once more. *

Spike lands on the ground with a <THUD>. He stands with a <MOAN> and immediately starts scratching his back against a tree.

161 SPIKE (CONT'D)
<PAINED ITCHING SOUNDS>

Suddenly, Twilight emerges from the brush. She looks at him rubbing his back against the tree bark.

162 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike? What are you doing?

Spike rolls his eyes.

163 SPIKE
If my stone scales didn't itch so much and we weren't in immediate danger, this would be really embarrassing.

164 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Danger?

Spike points skyward at the Roc circling above as it starts another dive. Twilight jumps behind the tree that Spike is using as a scratching post. *

165 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Spike! I was just headed to Zecora's to get some cream for your scales. I had no idea you were...

166 SPIKE
About to be eaten by a giant predator attracted to my molt smell?

167 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Molt smell?

Before Spike can explain, they're both forced to leap out of the way as the Roc soars by, chopping the tree down with one claw while Zecora and Rarity yell in the other. *

168 RARITY
(Doppler effect as she
soars by)
Twiiiiiiiliiiiiiigggggghhhhttttt!

Twilight turns to Spike who immediately starts scratching again.

169 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Was that Rarity?

170 SPIKE
(nods)
And Zecora. I tried to save them,
but it's all I can do to stop
scratching long enough to dive out
of the way when that bird attacks!

Twilight looks up at the Roc and immediately takes to the sky *
after it.

IN THE AIR - Twilight flies circles around the massive bird
of prey, blasting it with BEAMS of magical energy that barely
miss...

RARITY AND ZECORA - Who both cling to the Roc's talons for *
dear life.

171 RARITY
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN
IN THE CLUTCHES OF A GIANT FLYING
CREATURE, BUT IT DOESN'T GET ANY
EASIER!

Twilight swoops around the creature and tries a frontal
attack, but the giant bird bats at her with its wing, sending
her spiralling through the air. While...

ON THE GROUND - Spike stares into the sky, concerned as he
itches at the red bumps all over his body.

Suddenly, his scales shift from pulsing red to dark brown.
Relief washes over Spike's face as he stops scratching.

172 SPIKE
<SIGH> Finally! I didn't think that
itching would ever stop.

Spike looks down and sees that the brown scales are
multiplying rapidly. Spike watches as they spread over his
feet.

173 SPIKE (CONT'D)
What is happenin--

Before he can even finish the spreading scales cover his
face, continue over his head, and surround his entire body -
encasing him in an egg-shaped mosaic of scales.

The scale egg sits on the ground for a moment, then shakes
back and forth (think a Pokémon trapped in a Pokeball).

After a few shakes the top of the "egg" cracks slightly, then in a BURST OF FIRE the entire scale "egg" flies apart to reveal...

SPIKE - standing over the remains of his scale chrysalis, his scales glowing and clear, with TWO LARGE DRAGON WINGS spreading out from his back!

174 SPIKE (CONT'D)
What just happened?

He shakes his head, trying to recover and smacks himself with one of his new wings. He stares at it in disbelief.

175 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Did I just sprout wings? (with sudden realization) I JUST SPROUTED WINGS!

Before he can even appreciate it, Spike looks up to see Twilight swooping around the Roc, blasting magic everywhere as she tries to free Rarity and Zecora, who shouts at her. *

176 ZECORA
*You magic's not causing this bird any fuss,
But I feel there's a chance that you might just hit us!*

Spike looks from the situation in the sky to his wings and comes to a decision.

177 SPIKE
I've got to help them!

Determined he flaps his wings as hard as he can, and shoots into the sky - much faster than he's prepared for.

178 SPIKE (CONT'D)
<WHOOOAAAA>!

Spike zooms into the fray, tumbling end over end as he struggles to acclimate to his new ability. Twilight stares in shock.

179 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike! You have wings!

180 SPIKE
I know!

Both Spike and Twilight scatter as the Roc takes a swipe at them with its free claw. *

181 SPIKE (CONT'D)
But I'm not the only one!

Twilight nods and assesses the situation.

182 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You fly up and distract him. I'll
work on freeing Zecora and Rarity!

Spike nods and flies up in front of the Roc's face. *

183 SPIKE
Hey, giant chicken! If you like
dragons so much come and get me!

The Roc lunges for Spike with its beak just as Spike belches
a giant BLAST of flame right at it. *

As the bird rears back from the heat, Twilight hits its talon
with a BLAST of magic that forces open the claws and frees
Zecora and Rarity - who immediately plunge toward the ground.

184 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
SPIKE!

Spike sees them falling and immediately dives, following
Twilight as they chase after and catch their friends, inches
from the ground.

Rarity and Zecora wobble to their hooves as Spike and
Twilight set them on the ground. The whole group looks up as
the giant Roc <SCREECHES> in frustration and flies off. *

The others turn to Spike in amazement.

185 ZECORA
*I know that the molt produced
surprising things,
but I'm glad that the last was a
new pair of wings.*

Rarity looks to Spike - no idea what Zecora just said.

186 RARITY
YES, AND ALSO I'M GLAD YOU GOT
WINGS.

187 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Spike, your wings are amazing. But
what's going on. What's the molt?

188 SPIKE
<SIGHS> It's what's been going on
with me.
(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

The break out, the fire burps. The molt is when dragons change and start to grow up, but there could be more dangerous side effects. I should go.

189 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Go? What are you talking about?

190 SPIKE
In the Dragonlands, families make molters leave home. It's the molt-effect.

191 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well, this isn't the Dragonlands and molt-effect or no, I don't want you going anywhere. Whatever happens, we'll get through it together.

Off Spike's smile...

SC. 14 - INT. RARITY'S BOUTIQUE - DAY

*

CLOSE on Rarity as she takes pins from a cushion tied to her hoof and pins up a large piece of fabric. She talks a little louder than normal, but not as bad as before.

192 RARITY
I can't believe you thought any of us would send you away because of some silly molt-effect.

She finishes pinning and looks at her work.

193 RARITY (CONT'D)
Even if the symptoms were slightly unsettling - and let's face it, the odor wasn't pleasant - nopony would stop caring for you just because you're getting older.

She adjusts one of the pins.

194 RARITY (CONT'D)
Everypony goes through changes, but sometimes change can be wonderful-- Like being able to model for any dress length. (looks, then) 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.

195 SPIKE
I'm glad to help, Rarity, but I'm
pretty sure there's wonderful
things about flying that don't
involve dresses.

Rarity, pulls at her ears - still not hearing properly.

196 RARITY
YES. THERE'S NOTHING MORE WONDERFUL
THAN DRESSES.

Off Spike's SIGH...

END.