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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

Father Knows Beast
Ep 824

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - FIELD - DAY**

*

TWILIGHT SPARKLE and SPIKE stand beside the lake near the School of Friendship. Twilight stands behind Spike, putting a hoof on his shoulder.

1 TWILIGHT
Okay, Spike. Remember, just keep
flapping and don't look down.

2 SPIKE
Got it!

With that, Spike gives his wings a flap and takes off, but immediately goes sideways and falls into the lake with a SPLASH. Off Twilight's look of consternation we see...

A series of QUICK SHOTS of several spectacular takeoff/crashes each with a different pained/upset expression from Twilight.

TIME CUT TO:

SPIKE - Wobbling through the air trying to fly straight -- and not succeeding. Twilight calls out from the ground.

3 TWILIGHT
You're doing great, Spike. Now
let's see the big finish!

Spike tries to come in for a landing, but immediately loses control, flips over several times, then lands with a crash--digging a furrow into the ground right in front of Twilight.
[Note: This should be similar to TS's crash in MLP401]

4 SPIKE
I don't know about big, but I am
definitely finished.

Twilight struggles to help him up.

5 TWILIGHT
I don't understand. I've taught you
everything Rainbow Dash taught me
when I was learning to fly.

6 SPIKE
But none of it seems to help.

Suddenly, a voice calls out from off screen.

7 SMOLDER (O.S.)
Of course not! You're trying to
teach a dragon to fly like a pony.

Twilight and Spike turn to see SMOLDER who's been watching them.

8 SPIKE
What's the difference?

Smolder looks at Spike like he's crazy. She holds up her wing next to Twilight's.

9 SMOLDER
Well, we don't have feathers for
starters...

Off Spike's look of realization...

TIME CUT TO:

SPIKE - soaring through the air at high speed, then stopping on a dime as he flips and touches down for a soft, three point (feet & tail, obvs.) landing.

Spike rushes over to Twilight and Smolder, ecstatic.

10 SPIKE
Smolder, wow! Thank you so much.
How do you know so much about
flying?

11 SMOLDER
Honestly, this is Dragon 101.
(with a look to Twilight)
Usually dragon parents teach this
stuff.

Off Twilight's look of concern...

SC. 2 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - SPIKE'S ROOM - LATER

*

CLOSE ON Twilight as she knocks on the door and sticks her head in.

12 TWILIGHT
Spike? I've been thinking about our
flying lesson. I can't believe I
overlooked something as simple as
feathers. It's no wonder you were
having trouble.

We hear Spike from off screen as Twilight steps further into the room.

13 SPIKE (O.S.)
(absently)
Uh-huh.

14 TWILIGHT
I wish I had more dragon-ish
knowledge to give you. Do you think
being raised by ponies has affected
you in other ways?

Twilight looks over, but there's no response.

15 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Spike?

PAN OVER TO REVEAL Spike who looks up from the THROW PILLOW
he's embroidering.

16 SPIKE
Did you say something, Twilight?
Sorry. I'm just finishing up this
"Thank You" throw pillow for
Smolder and you know how I get when
I'm in the embroidery zone.

Off Twilight's sheepish look...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

*

Spike leads Smolder through the streets of Ponyville, Smolder
turning the small EMBROIDERED PILLOW over in her claws.

17 SMOLDER
I'm not used to getting "thank
yous," especially in pillow form.

18 SPIKE
Well, I had to give you something
for helping me learn to fly.

19 SMOLDER
You really didn't.

Smolder looks down at the small pillow, confused.

20 SPIKE
It's not for your head. Although it
could be. It's a throw pillow.
They're more casual. You can use
them anywhere.
(off Smolder's look)
You don't like it.

21 SMOLDER
It's not that. It's just, outside
of a fight, dragons don't really
use pillows. At all.

22 SPIKE
Whaaat?

Spike's eyes go wide as we DOLLY-COUNTER-ZOOM into his face--
his whole understanding of the world upended as he struggles
to grapple with this information, then...

23 SMOLDER
Hey, what's that?

Spike shakes himself out of it and looks up to see a SMOKING
BALL OF FIRE careening through the sky like a meteor.

24 SPIKE
I don't know, but it's...

Both Spike and Smolder go bug-eyed with terror as they
realize the ball of fire is...

25 SPIKE (CONT'D)
...HEADING RIGHT FOR US!!!

Smolder leaps out of the way, but Spike stares, paralyzed
with fear, as the fireball continues toward him. Smolder
shouts at him from cover.

26 SMOLDER
Spike!

At the last possible second, Spike comes to and with a great
flap of his wings lifts into the air and flips over the
speeding object, which crashes to the ground and forms a
crater directly where Spike was just standing.

Smolder steps out from her hiding place and Spike lands next
to her. The two of them stare over at the smoking crater.

27 SPIKE
Okay. Now I REALLY owe you for the
flying lessons.

The two dragons tip-toe up to the edge of the crater and look down to see...

Another, slightly over-weight dragon (SHALE) slowly drags himself out of the rubble. He <WINCES> in pain, then looks up at Spike and Smolder. He gives a weak <LAUGH> then <COUGHS>.

28 SHALE
Hey there, young dragons. <COUGH>
Name's Shale. How are your tails
shaking? <COUGH>

Shale wobbles to his feet with a few more <WINCES> and <COUGHS>.

29 SPIKE
What happened?

30 SHALE
To what? (then, with a look back to
the crater) Oh, right. Just an
unfortunate combination of banking
turn and <FIRE BELCH> indigestion.

31 SMOLDER
How's that end with you falling out
of the sky in a flaming heap?

32 SHALE
Hey, I don't need to explain myself
to a couple of baby dragons.

With that, Shale tries to walk off, but he takes one step, <WINCES> in pain, and collapses.

33 SPIKE
Maybe not, but you're hurt and I'm
going to take you to the castle and
get some help.

Shale struggles to stand back up, stops at the mention of the word "castle."

34 SHALE
Castle, eh?

Off Shale intrigued...

SC. 4 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

*

Shale inspects the throne as Spike climbs onto it. Twilight and the rest of the MANE SIX look on.

35 TWILIGHT
I'm glad Spike brought you here,
Shale. I understand you made quite
an impression in town.

36 PINKIE PIE
Literally. There's a hole and
everything!

Shale stops inspecting Spike's throne and stands up quickly.

37 SHALE
Well, I hope you're not expecting
me to fix it. I already explained
how it was an accident to shorty,
here.

Shale tries to point at Spike, but <WINCES> in pain again.

38 APPLEJACK
It doesn't look like you're in much
shape to do anything.

39 SHALE
I'll manage. Dragons take care of
themselves. I don't need help from
a bunch of castle-living ponies.

Wit that, Shale turns and tries to leave, but has to stifle
<YELPS> of obvious pain with every step.

40 RARITY
Darling, do be careful.

41 SHALE
I'm <PAINED EFFORT> fine.

To avoid walking, Shale tries to spread his wings, but
quickly discovers with a <SHRIEK> that hurts even more and
collapses to the floor. Fluttershy covers her eyes.

42 FLUTTERSHY
I can't watch.

Dash rolls her eyes and flies over to Shale to help him up.

43 RAINBOW DASH
You're not the first stubborn,
dragon we've met.

Spike flies over and lands beside Dash.

44 SPIKE
But sometimes even dragons need
help.

Shale tries to roll his eyes, but even that hurts.

45 TWILIGHT
I promise, my friends and I will
only do enough to get you back on
your claws.

Off Shale's look of resignation...

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

In a quick series of shots we watch as each of the Mane Six chip in with Shale's recovery:

RARITY - hard at work sewing while Shale looks on, skeptical. With a flourish, Rarity finishes and we QUICK CUT TO a close up of an intricate FLAME DESIGN. PULL OUT to reveal the flame design is on a new sling Shale is wearing. Rarity snips away a loose thread as she and Spike look on, satisfied.

APPLEJACK - looks down pleased at Shale laying in Spike's bed while GRANNY SMITH, in an old-time nurse's outfit, tries to feed him a spoonful of APPLE MASH. Like a finicky toddler, Shale doesn't want to eat it until Spike takes the spoon and literally flies it into his mouth. *

FLUTTERSHY - places a SUPER CUTE FUZZY ANIMAL next to Shale - still laid up in Spike's bed. Shale looks over to Spike, confused. Spike nods to Fluttershy and she sets another CUTE FUZZY-WUZZY on Shale's other side. Shale just looks worried. As Fluttershy and Spike exchange a look we TIME CUT TO Shale, surrounded by CUTIE ANIMALS. Spike gives him a thumbs up and Shale smiles weakly. Fluttershy nods, satisfied.

RAINBOW DASH - dressed in workout gear, checks her stopwatch then looks over at Shale, who's suspended by a system of elastic exercise bands that provide resistance as he tries to flap his wings. Spike looks on and makes a mark on a clip board as he and Dash nod, pleased.

PINKIE - watches as Shale tries to use his injured arm to grab a cupcake, but can't manage it. Pinkie screws up her face, thinking. CUT TO a giant tray overloaded with gem-covered baked goods which Pinkie slides onto the table in front of Shale. His eyes go wide and he shovels the treats into his mouth - using both arms with no problem. Looking on, Pinkie and Spike high-five.

END MONTAGE

SC. 5 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

*

Shale stands before Twilight and the others, looking more or less recovered. Spike climbs into his throne beside Twilight.

46 TWILIGHT
I know you had your reservations,
but it's good to see you feeling
better.

47 SHALE
Yeah, well...
(like he's trying the word
for the first time)
Thanks? I guess?

48 RARITY
That's what friends are for,
darling!

49 SHALE
Right. Well, I should get going.

50 FLUTTERSHY
Come back and visit any time.

Shale starts to leave, then turns back to Spike.

51 SHALE
You're pretty lucky to have friends
like these, kid.

Spike hops down from his chair and walks over.

52 SPIKE
Actually I was orphaned as an egg
and Twilight raised me, so these
ponies are more than my friends.
They're my family.

He smiles meekly at Twilight who <SIGHS>.

53 TWILIGHT
We try our best, but sometimes I do
worry maybe Spike is--

54 SPIKE
--missing something deep down and
dragonish.

Shale brightens at this.

55 SHALE
Really? Wow. I can't tell you how
glad I am to hear that.

56 APPLEJACK
Why in Equestria would you be glad
to hear that?

Shale looks to Spike, excited.

57 SHALE
I wasn't going to say anything,
since your life seems so perfect,
but I have a confession to make.

58 SPIKE
What kind of confession?

59 SHALE
Coming to Ponyville wasn't an
accident. I was looking for you.
 (takes a breath)
Spike, I'm your father.

Spike's mouth falls open and an <UNEARTHLY, EXTENDED GASP>
comes out, but when Spike closes his mouth the GASP keeps
going.

WHIP PAN to Pinkie - the one actually making the <GASP>
sound. They all turn to her and she stops.

60 PINKIE PIE
Sorry.

Back to Spike who stares up at Shale in shock.

61 SPIKE
My... father?

Off everypony's surprised expressions we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 6 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME

*

Spike and the Mane Six continue to stare at Shale in shock.
Twilight steps forward.

62 TWILIGHT
You're Spike's father?

63 SPIKE
So, you crashed in Ponyville on purpose?

64 SHALE
Well, the crash part wasn't on purpose, but heading here was. I came to find you.

Emotional, Shale sits down in the throne Twilight just vacated and takes a deep breath.

65 SHALE (CONT'D)
Sorry. This is a lot. You don't know how long I've been looking.

66 SPIKE
Did you ask in the Crystal Empire? I'm kind of well known there.

67 PINKIE PIE
Actually, Spike's well known everywhere. Not a lot of dragons were hatched by the Princess of Friendship.

They all look at Shale who starts to get emotional again.

68 SHALE
Y'all make it sound so easy. I wish you'd been there to help me search.

Shale gets up and takes a step toward Spike, putting a claw on his shoulder.

69 SHALE (CONT'D)
But none of that matters now that we're together.

70 SPIKE
I can't believe it. I have so many questions.

Shale looks down at him with a broad smile.

71 SHALE
Well, ask away! Answering questions is what dads are for!

Spike thinks for a second.

72 SPIKE
I guess my biggest question is simple. Why was I an orphan egg?

Shale's smile drops and he turns away. Emotional again, he sits in a different throne.

73 SHALE
You sure you don't wanna ask me
something else? (then) It's a lot
of painful memories, but you
deserve the truth...

After a dramatic pause, Shale starts his story as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE - FLASHBACK - VARIOUS LOCALS

In a series of stylized shots (maybe the hand-painted look of the "Mare in the Moon" story from the pilot), we listen as Shale talks in V.O.

74 SHALE (V.O.)
Your mother was the most dragonish
dragon I'd ever met.

As Shale continues to talk we see an image of a FORMIDABLE DRAGON standing before the DRAGON LORD.

75 SHALE (V.O.)
So much so, the Dragon Lord picked
her to scout for the Great
Migration and though she just laid
your egg, we knew she'd have to go.

Another image of Spike's mother taking off, leaving Shale and SPIKE'S EGG behind.

76 SHALE (V.O.)
But finding the route for the
Migration could take a lifetime and
I thought you deserved a chance to
know your mom.

Images of Shale carrying Spike's egg in a bindle in various locations...

77 SHALE (V.O.)
I carried your egg to places no
dragon, or pony, has ever been.
Past the abandoned home of the
Hippogriffs, Mount Aris. Through
the seedy back allies of Klugetown,
stowed away on Pirate Ships helmed
by ferocious birds--

78 PINKIE PIE (V.O.)
Actually we've been to all of
those.

<RECORD SCRATCH> as we CUT BACK TO:

SC. 7 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME

*

Shale looks over at Spike and the others.

79 SHALE
You have?

80 SPIKE
Klugetown is a lot less seedy once
you get to know it.

81 FLUTTERSHY
And those pirate parrots weren't
really ferocious.

82 TWILIGHT
Also, the Hypogriffs returned to
their Kingdom after we helped them
defeat the Storm King. There's even
one at my school.

83 SHALE
Well, have you heard of the Land of
the Scale Collectors...?

The all shake their heads no. Satisfied, Shale turns to
Spike.

84 SHALE (CONT'D)
Because, that's where your mom's
trail finally lead...

CUT BACK TO THE:

STYLIZED MONTAGE

With a foreboding image of FLOATING ROCK ISLANDS set among a
sky of dark storm clouds.

85 SHALE
...to a prison world of dragon
hunters...

An image of Shale, guarding Spike's egg against a group of
SHADOWY SHAPES looming over him.

86 SHALE (CONT'D)
...where I was forced to choose
between surrendering myself, or
surrendering your egg.

Finally we see an image of Shale, locked behind the bars of a deep, dark prison as we...

END MONTAGE

SC. 8 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - RESUME

*

We cut back from the stylized rendering of Shale's story to Spike who stares up with rapt attention as Shale finishes.

87 SHALE
Of course there's no way I was
gonna give up my boy, so that's
where I've been. Locked up
somewhere not even the Princess of
Friendship has heard of.

88 SPIKE
Whoa! (then) How did you know I was
a boy?

89 FLUTTERSHY
What ever happened to Spike's mom?

90 RAINBOW DASH
How did his egg make it all the way
back to Equestria?

91 SHALE
I wish I had all the answers!

Emotional again, Shale collapses onto yet another throne. The ponies all exchange looks of concern.

Spike steps up and puts on claw on Shale's shoulder.

*

92 SPIKE
Well, that's all in the past. The
only thing that matters now is that
we're together, and I'm gonna make
up for lost time.

*

Shale looks back at Spike, encouraged. Off Spike's reassuring smile...

SC. 9 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

*

Spike and Shale walk through town, Spike looking over a scroll that's so long it drags on the ground behind them.

93 SPIKE
I hope you don't mind, but I have a
list of all the things I always
wanted to do with my dad.

94 SHALE
Mind? Spike, my boy, with you by my
side, I feel like we can do
anything. What do you wanna do
first?

95 SPIKE
Well, that's the thing, I've kind
of been working on the list for a
long time...

Shale takes the list and his eyes go wide as he looks down it
and over at the paper extending off screen.

96 SHALE
You sure you wanna do ALL of this?

Disappointed, Spike looks down and starts to roll it up.

97 SPIKE
(disappointed)
Oh, I mean, we don't have to...

Shale immediately stops Spike and takes the list back.

98 SHALE
If you think doing everything on
this incredibly long list is gonna
fill the hole where your
dragonishness should be, then that
is exactly what we're gonna do!

Off Spike's excited expression...

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

In a quick series of shots we watch as Spike and Shale do
everything together:

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING - Spike, dressed in old-timey, Austrian
alpine gear, clings to the side of a cliff face just below a
CAVE. Using a pick axe to make his ascent, he struggles
against the weight from the rope tied to his waist.

He looks down and we follow his gaze to Shale, who relaxes in a HAMMOCK tied to the end of the rope. Shale smiles and gives Spike a thumbs-up. Spike eagerly waves back, then loses his grip and both of them fall out of frame. After a beat, Spike flies back into view, struggling to flap his wings against Shale's weight. *

LAVA HIGH-DIVING - Spike stands at the rim of a volcano in a swim cap and a pair of water wings. With a wave off screen, Spike takes three steps and leaps into a jack-knife-style dive, landing in a pool of lava at the bottom with a great SPLASH. The spray erupts out of the pool and over the side, splattering Shale, who suns himself nearby. As the lava burns away Shale's face reflector, he gives a look to Spike, bobbing in the pool.

GEM EATING CONTEST - Spike and Shale sit side by side at a table wearing bibs like at a county fair pie-eating contest. As Pinkie fires her PARTY CANNON, Rarity and Applejack slide tins full of GEMS in front of the dragons who dive their faces in and start eating. As the ponies looks on, a little grossed out, we CUT BACK to the dragons who've gone through stacks of tins. Spike finally pushes a tin away, full, but Shale immediately takes it - continuing to eat both his and Spike's gem. As Spike looks on with admiration we...

END MONTAGE

SC. 10 - EXT. PONYVILLE - LATER *

Spike struggles to roll Shale through town in a wheelbarrow. Spike stops to take a break and pulls out his list.

99 SPIKE
<WHEW> I can't believe we did so much today.

Shale brushes a few bits of gem off of himself and stretches - still in the wheelbarrow.

100 SHALE
Hardly feels like I did anything at all. Guess that's the benefit of spending time with family.

Spike pulls out a quill and starts checking things off.

101 SPIKE
But we've only done my stuff. Isn't there anything you always wanted to do with me?

102 SHALE
What? Oh. Well, I'm not really much
of a list maker.

103 SPIKE
Oh. I was just thinking if there
was anything, we could do that
next.

Shale tries to push himself up in the wheelbarrow, with
limited success. He leans over to look at Spike.

104 SHALE
Don't get me wrong, Spike, I'm
proud of you. But I can't believe
you came up with a whole day's
worth of stuff...

105 SPIKE.
Oh, that's just the start. I've got
tons more day's worth.

106 SHALE
<LAUGHS> That's what I mean. If I
lived in a big castle I'd probably
lay around all day doing nothing
like a real dragon.

107 SPIKE
Like a real dragon?

108 SHALE
Yep. Twilight and her friends
rubbed off on you good. I'm
impressed. You're barely
recognizable as a dragon at all.

109 SPIKE
Thanks?

Off Spike, confused...

SC. 11 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

*

Spike walks in on Twilight going through a stack of books
next to her throne. She looks up at him.

110 TWILIGHT
Hey, Spike. How are things going
with Shale?

111 SPIKE
Honestly, I thought having him
around would make me feel more
dragonish, but I kinda feel less.

112 TWILIGHT
I'm sorry, Spike. I wish I could
help.

113 SHALE (O.S.)
I probably shouldn't have said
anything about you being more pony
than dragon.

WHIP PAN to reveal Shale standing in the doorway, snacking
from another pie tin of gems.

114 SHALE (CONT'D)
I'm not judging - it's my own fault
for going and sacrificing myself
and getting imprisoned. I just wish
we had more in common.

115 TWILIGHT
Maybe you two can come up with ways
to turn up Spike's dragonishness.

116 SPIKE
Do you think that's something we
can do?

Shale tosses the gem tin aside.

117 SHALE
You know what, son. I think it
is...

<MUSIC UP> as Shale leads Spike out. Twilight watches them
leave, unsure.

SONG - CASTLE - VARIOUS

Shale and Spike run into the GRAND HALL...

118 SHALE
(spoken)
Spike, I'm gonna teach you a thing
or two about being a dragon...
(sung)
Look at this castle where you live!

119 SPIKE
(spoken)
It's pretty sweet, right?

120 SHALE
(nods)
But you can't be a dragon here!

121 SPIKE
(spoken)
I can't?

Off Shale shaking his head we CUT TO:

THE LIBRARY - Shale rolls back and forth on a wheeled ladder pulling out books and tossing them into a pile.

122 SHALE
Look at these books up on the wall.

123 SPIKE
(spoken)
Hey, I just finished organizing those...

Shale flies over and lands on the pile like it's a dragon horde.

124 SHALE
This horde just isn't right, I fear.

OUTSIDE - Shale points up at the castle towering over them.

125 SHALE (CONT'D)
*This place is grandiose,
To ponies you're too close...*

BALCONY - Shale and Spike stand on the high balcony looking out at Ponyville and the distant landscape as the camera pans around them a la The Hills Are Alive With the Sound of Music.

126 SHALE (CONT'D)
You just can't be a dragon here!

QUICK SHOTS of various spots: Spike sitting in a plush, cushioned chair, Spike in his tux from the wedding episode in front of a full length mirror, Spike laying in his bed as Shale jumps up and down on it.

127 SHALE (CONT'D)
Your life is soft, your scales are coiffed, There's pillows beds and sheets.

SPIKE - at the head of a large banquet table overflowing with food. Shale sings as he flies past gobbling up everything in sight.

128 SHALE (CONT'D)
It's a delight but just not right,

SHALE - opens a door to reveal Spike at a sink, towel around his waist, brushing his teeth.

129 SHALE (CONT'D)
Dragons don't brush their teeth!

130 SPIKE
(spoken)
But what do I do?

Shale grabs Spike's towel, spinning Spike as CUT TO:

SHALE - walks through a hallway, Spike's towel around his neck. Spike ducks in and out of every door they pass grabbing stuff and giving it to Shale: food, clothes, pillows, etc.

131 SHALE
The fix is simple don't you fret.

Spike offers him a terrycloth bathrobe, Shale looks at it and frowns.

132 SHALE (CONT'D)
(spoken)
Do you have anything in a silk?

Spike disappears through another door.

133 SHALE (CONT'D)
You're very lucky that I'm here.

Spike returns with a red, silk robe and Shale nods.

134 SHALE (CONT'D)
Better.

Shale drops everything and puts on the robe. He does a twirl and we CUT TO:

SPIKE'S ROOM - as Shale gathers his haul around Spike's bed. *

135 SHALE (CONT'D)
*Just give your stuff to me,
And I will help you see,
Just how a dragon would live here!*

<MUSIC OUT> as Shale falls back into Spike's bed.

136 SHALE (CONT'D)
There's a dragon in you Spike. I
know it. You just need to cut back
on the soft pony stuff. Give it to
your old man, and I'll show what a
real dragon would do with it.

137 SPIKE
 (excited)
You got it... dad.

Spike smiles up at Shale who smile back. Delighted, Spike
rushes off.

Shale lays back in Spike's bed, popping a few gems into his
mouth.

138 SHALE
Thanks... "son."

As Shale <LAUGHS> to himself we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 12 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - SPIKE'S ROOM - MORNING

*

As before, CLOSE ON Twilight as she knocks on the door and
sticks her head in.

139 TWILIGHT
Spike? I just thought I'd check to
see if you and Shale had any luck
turning up your dragonishness.

REVERSE on the darkened room where a lump lays in Spike's
bed. Twilight enters and heads over to the window.

140 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
It's hard not to feel like I've
somehow let you down all these
years...

As she magically pulls open the curtains, Twilight turns to
see the lump isn't Spike at all, it's Shale. Shale pops open
one eye and <YAWNS>.

141 SHALE
Hey there, Princess.

142 TWILIGHT
Oh! I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to
barge in on you.

Shale stands and starts to stretch and scratch in various
uncomfortable ways.

143 SHALE
Don't even worry about it. Mi casa
es su casa!

Twilight stares at Shale's morning routine, embarrassed.

144 TWILIGHT
Right. Well, I'll just get out of
your way--

With that, Twilight hurries back into the...

SC. 13 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

*

Where she immediately runs into Spike - who drops the armful
of breakfast items he's bringing to Shale.

145 TWILIGHT
Oh! Spike. I am so sorry. My
morning is not going well.

146 SPIKE
No problem, Twilight.

Spike bends down and starts picking everything up. Twilight
uses her magic to help.

147 TWILIGHT
What is all this? Why'd you leave
the Castle so early?

148 SPIKE
Actually, I spent the night
outdoors to get in touch with my
dragon side.

149 TWILIGHT
Outdoors?

150 SPIKE
And now I'm bringing my dad the
best breakfast Ponyville has to
offer so he can show me how a real
dragon would eat it. See you later!

Excited, Spike heads in leaving Twilight to stare after, curious.

SC. 14 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER

*

Twilight leads the rest of the Mane Six into the throne room.

151 TWILIGHT
I know Shale is helping Spike with
his dragon-ness, but his story got
me wondering if we could use the
map to look even further beyond
Equestria than we already have.

*

The others all stop short. As Twilight stops to see why we...

REVEAL - Shale sprawled atop a small horde of random pony stuff that's spread out over the map area. He extends one of his feet to Spike who sits in his throne clipping and filing his dad's claws.

Spike looks up at his friends who just gawk.

152 SPIKE
Hey gang. Dad was just showing me
how a real dragon would act in the
throne room.

Shale lolls his head toward them.

153 SHALE
Dragons like to sprawl over a horde
when they get their claws done.

154 RAINBOW DASH
Spike's never had his "claws done"
in his whole life.

155 SHALE
Well, then it's a good thing I'm
here to show him how.

Shale sits up and blows on his freshly filed claws.

156 SHALE (CONT'D)
Now, if y'all will excuse me, it's
time for my bath.

With that, Shale stands and exits. Spike looks over at his friends, pleased.

157 SPIKE
Isn't he the best?

158 RARITY
I'm not exactly sure that's the
word I would use.

159 SPIKE
It's been so great to finally learn
some honest to goodness dragon
behavior first hand.

Just then, Shale sticks his head back in.

160 SHALE
Um... Spike? The bath ain't gonna
fill itself, son.

Shale ducks back out and with a gleeful look to his friends,
Spike hurries to follow. The others turn to Twilight.

161 FLUTTERSHY
If that's being more dragon, I'd
rather have Spike stay the way he
is.

Off Twilight's look of concern...

SC. 15 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

*

Twilight finds Spike searching through the big pile of books
that are still on the floor.

162 TWILIGHT
Hi Spike. I'm glad you're not
spending the night outside again.

163 SPIKE
Oh, I am. I'm just looking for a
good bedtime story to read to my
dad first.

Twilight magics some of the books back onto the shelves.

164 TWILIGHT
It's nice that you have somepony to
show you dragon culture, but are
you sure that's what Shale is
doing?

165 SPIKE
What do you mean?

166 TWILIGHT
Well, taking over your room, making
a mess of things...

167 SPIKE
That's just how a dragon would live
here.

168 TWILIGHT
You never did.

169 SPIKE
Exactly. And now I finally have a
chance to see how I'm supposed to
be.

170 TWILIGHT
I'm not sure you're supposed to be
different from who you are.

171 SPIKE
Well, maybe you just don't like
that I have a real parent now.

172 TWILIGHT
(hurt)
That's not true. I'm glad Shale is
here. I just wish he wasn't such a--

173 SPIKE
Dragon? Of all ponies, I can't
believe you would have a problem
with that.

With that, Spike grabs a book and storms out. Off Twilight,
hurt...

SC. 16 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - FIELD - MORNING

*

Spike stumbles out of the trees, picking leaves and sticks
out of his scales. He looks up to see Smolder sitting by the
lake. She stares at him, curious.

174 SMOLDER
What happened to you?

175 SPIKE
Just sleeping outside like we're
meant to. It's not like dragons are
supposed to live in castles.

176 SMOLDER
I guess not. But I live in the
school. Nothing says we have to
live outside.

Spike slumps down beside her.

177 SPIKE
I'm so confused. It's been great
having Shale around to show me what
it means to be a dragon, but
Twilight just doesn't get it.

178 SMOLDER
What do you mean?

179 SPIKE
She can't handle how good at being
a dragon Shale is. Maybe someday
I'll be able to lay around doing
nothing as well as he does.

180 SMOLDER
What?

181 SPIKE
Not now, of course. I'm too busy
bringing him food and gems and pony
stuff so he can show me what a
dragon would do with it.

182 SMOLDER
So, Shale just lays around while
you wait on him claw and tail? (off
Spike's nod) Um... Dragons are rude
and rebellious, but they aren't
lazy jerks who take advantage of
their kids.

183 SPIKE
Now I'm really confused.

184 SMOLDER
Me too. Why don't you tell me
everything Shale said about being a
dragon.

Off Spike considering...

SC. 17 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - SPIKE'S ROOM - DAY

*

Shale, wearing his silk bathrobe and eating a gem-covered-cup
cake, walks into Spike's room to see Spike packing the place
up.

185 SHALE
Hey... what's going on, son?

186 SPIKE
Well, Twilight doesn't like having
a couple of real dragons in the
castle so I told her we're moving
out.

Shale <CHOKES> a little on a gem.

187 SHALE
You what?

188 SPIKE
We should get our own place anyway.
Someplace more fitting of dragons.
This castle is way too ponified.

Just then Smolder comes flying in through the window.

189 SMOLDER
Spike! I found a great spot.
Remember the cave you were climbing
to? There aren't even any
comfortable rocks inside. It's
perfect.

190 SPIKE
That does sound perfect.

191 SHALE
(panicked) No it doesn't! (then,
recovering) I mean, I'm not sure
I've fully demonstrated all the
ways a dragon would live here.

192 SPIKE
But we're not gonna live here
anymore, so it doesn't matter.

193 SHALE
It matters to me! I--, I want to
make sure you have all the
knowledge you need.

194 SPIKE
But I do! Dad, you've already
shared so much...

Spike sings a <QUICK REPISE> of the earlier song as Smolder
strips the bed, then takes away Shale's cupcake and robe.

195 SPIKE (CONT'D)
This bed is much too soft.
Just take that silk robe off.
We can't be dragons living here!

Spike and Smolder continue packing up, until the only thing left is a pillow that Shale refuses to let go of. They tug of war with it for a moment until Shale finally loses it.

196 SHALE
ARGH! Stop! I'm not your father!

Spike and Smolder stop, dropping the pillow.

197 SPIKE
What?

198 SHALE
I just said that to get in on this
sweet castle life.

Spike stares at Shale, stunned.

199 SPIKE
Why would you do that?

200 SHALE
I saw an opportunity and I took it.
That's what dragons do.

201 SMOLDER
No it isn't.

202 SHALE
What are you, four? What do you
know? Forget this. I'm out of here.
Enjoy life in pony town.

With that, Shale exits. Smolder walks up to Spike and puts a claw on his shoulder.

203 SMOLDER
Looks like our plan worked too
well. I'm sorry, Spike. I know you
really wanted him to be your
father.

204 SPIKE
It's okay. I'd rather know the
truth. Besides, I have a family.

Off them sharing a smile...

SC. 18 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - SOON AFTER

*

Spike walks in to find Twilight who's re-organizing the books that were taken down.

205 TWILIGHT
(hesitant)
Oh. Hi, Spike. Where's Shale?

206 SPIKE
He's gone. It turns out he wasn't a
real dragon after all. Or my real
dad.

207 TWILIGHT
Oh, Spike I'm so sorry.

Twilight flies over and gives him a hug.

208 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
I have to say I'm not surprised.
There's no way somepony like that
could be related to you.

209 SPIKE
I'm sorry I lost my temper before.
I know you were just worried about
me.

210 TWILIGHT
It must be hard not to know where
you came from. If you still feel
like you're missing something, I'd
understand if you wanted to spend
more time in the Dragonlands.

Spike shakes his head.

211 SPIKE
I don't think so. I do know where I
came from and who my real family
is.

He smiles up at her and they embrace. Then...

212 TWILIGHT
It's me right?

Spike nods, then climbs up onto a chair with a fluffy, pillow
cushion.

213 SPIKE
Besides. There's no way I'm living
without pillows.

As they share a smile we...

END