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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 8

Father Knows Beast
Ep 824

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FATHER KNOWS BEAST

Premise by Josh Haber

Spike asks Twilight for a flying lesson – his new wings are great, but his flying is still a little erratic. Like a parent teaching a kid how to ride a bike, Twilight does her best, but her advice doesn't help. Smolder points out that she's trying to teach him to fly like a pony because she doesn't know how to fly like a dragon. With a few pointers, Smolder has Spike doing aerial acrobatics. Smolder confesses that usually Dragon parents teach this kind of thing. Later, Twilight wonders if being raised by a pony has affected Spike in any other ways. Spike looks up from the "Thank You Smolder!" throw pillow he's crocheting: "I don't think so."

An adult dragon, ASH HEAP, careens out of the sky and crash lands in Ponyville right in front of Spike causing quite a ruckus. Trying to walk off the ambiguous injury that brought him down, Ash doesn't want any help, but Spike is hearing none of it. He takes Ash to the castle where he and the Mane Six help the older dragon get back on his feet. Ash is surprised at the kindness of the ponies – "These folks sure ain't dragons." During his convalescence, Ash and Spike get to know each other. Spike reveals that Twilight and her friends are the only family he's ever known and Ash reveals he never knew his family either. Spike feels very lucky to have his pony family and Ash understands – but wouldn't it be nice to know your real family? Ash admits that sometimes he doesn't feel complete because he doesn't know his and asks Spike if he ever feels the same. Ponies are nice, for sure, but is Spike sure he isn't missing something deep down and dragonish? Spike hadn't ever thought of it before but the more he and Ash talk it over, the more he comes to believe that something is missing. Ash tells him he's glad to hear it – because he reveals that HE IS SPIKE'S DAD!

Spike is stunned. Ash tells him that he didn't just happen to crash in Ponyville. He came looking for his son. Ash describes the unfortunate events that lead him to leave Spike's egg. It's a thrilling story of action and pathos and Spike is impressed – even though the story ends with him being abandoned. Despite the series of brave and selfless acts that pretty much required he do it, Ash will never forgive himself for leaving. Spike tells him that's all in the past. The only thing that matters now is that they are reunited. To make up for lost time Spike comes up with a plethora of father/son activities which he tries to do all at once. Ash can't get over how non-dragon Spike is. If Ash had a castle and all the gems he could eat, he'd probably just lay around all day instead of coming up with activities – clearly Princess Twilight has rubbed off on Spike. Spike takes his dad's words to heart and worries he's not being a good dragon, so when Ash suggests that a more comfortable bed or an extra helping of gems would help him better demonstrate true dragonishness, Spike is more than happy to oblige. While Spike busies himself collecting all the things that Ash says he needs to show him the true meaning of dragonness, Ash sings a song (a la "Easy Street" from Annie) about how he's finally got it made, thanks to his "son." The Mane Six overhear and wonder if Ash is telling Spike the truth about being his dad.

The girls find Spike and express their concerns, but Spike's not having it. He has something he's never had and he's not going to let it go. Maybe his friends just don't understand what being a

dragon is all about. Spike tells them he and Ash do all the things he'd always imagined he and his dad would do: play sports, tell gross jokes, come up with cool nicknames for each other etc. Of course he admits, Ash doesn't *really* do all that stuff because it's more dragonish to just lay around and talk about doing stuff. Eventually, the girls trick Ash into outing himself and Ash admits that he saw how easy Spike had it and thought he could get in on it. He's not related to Spike at all and being lazy isn't really a dragon thing so much as an Ash thing. The girls make Ash apologize and he flies off. Spike is disappointed, but grateful to his friends for helping him to see the truth. Spike realizes he's a great dragon just the way he is and his friends are the only family he needs to be that.