

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
Dragon Dropped
EP 919
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DRAGON DROPPED

Outline by Josh Haber

Logline: *When Spike stops making time for Rarity whenever she asks, she worries she's done something to upset him, but the truth looks even worse when it seems like she's been replaced by a new friend!*

TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – SPIKE'S ROOM – DAY**

RARITY drops by unannounced at Twilight's Castle looking for SPIKE. She's decided on a last minute trip to the gem cave and can't imagine going without her favorite basket holder/body guard. She barges into his room proclaiming as much, only to find the baby dragon busy working on a scroll. After several "Ahem... 's" Rarity finally gets the young dragon's attention. Surprised to see her, Spike asks Rarity what she's up to as he folds up his scroll. Confused as to why he wasn't listening the first time, Rarity restates her plan (and how certain she is that Spike would want to be a part of it) while following the preoccupied dragon out of his room and out of the castle. Finally, when Spike looks to be heading off without her, Rarity asks if he's even been listening. She has half a mind to rescind her offer. Spike apologizes and explains that he's a little distracted. He'd of course like to help out, but he really has to get this scroll into the mail before lunch—he'll have to take a rain check on whatever it is Rarity wanted him to do. With that, he heads off, leaving a stunned Rarity alone to stare after him in shock.

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 2 - INT. GEM CAVE – DAY**

Later, Rarity works in the gem cave, going over her interaction with Spike. It's almost inconceivable that he wouldn't be interested in a trip to the gem cave—with her! All the while she admonishes a pony off screen for not holding the basket the way Spike would, being much louder than Spike would be, etc. She goes on to explain that Spike is much more attentive and that he usually follows her closely with the basket so none of the gems ever have occasion to touch the ground. PAN to reveal APPLEJACK who points out that Spike's been following Rarity around since he got to Ponyville and she doesn't know if Rarity's noticed, but she is not Spike. Unfortunately, AJ's proclamation is a little too loud and the cave bats make a mass exodus, upending all the baskets and leaving both ponies' hair in shambles. Rarity looks to Applejack, perturbed. No, she most certainly is not Spike.

SC. 3 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – LIBRARY – DAY

Determined to get her gem cave buddy back, or at least get some kind of explanation for his behavior, Rarity visits the castle again, but TWILIGHT explains to her that Spike isn't there—he's at the post office again. Confused, Rarity recounts her experience and asks Twilight if she can shed any light on the situation, but Twilight has no idea. She wonders if Rarity might have done something to upset Spike. Struck with the sudden worry that she has somehow unintentionally made Spike mad or hurt his feelings in some way, Rarity rushes off to do whatever she can to fix it!

SC 4 - INT. PONYVILLE – POST OFFICE – DAY

Rarity finds Spike at the post office where he's sending another scroll. In a big display (think the boom-box moment from Say Anything), Rarity gives him a hoof-crocheted apology shawl, a bouquet of balloons, and a box of gems specifically selected for their deliciousness (she consulted with Smolder on it). She apologizes for whatever slight he's endured on her behalf and insists that, whatever it is, he simply must know it was completely unintentional and she begs his forgiveness. Confused, Spike accepts her apology (and takes the gifts), but insists that he isn't mad and that his feelings aren't hurt. Rarity hasn't done anything wrong, but he does need to head home before the mail arrives. Suddenly curious, Rarity asks him why he's bothering with the pony post when he can send messages via dragon breath, but before she's finished asking her question, Spike's already gone. Even more curious than before, Rarity interrogates MUFFINS and discovers that Spike is a downright post office regular these days. Apparently he has a pen pal.

SC. 5 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – DAY

Determined to get some answers, Rarity hunts Spike down once more and confronts him. Why is he giving her the cold shoulder and who is this "pen pal?" Embarrassed, Spike is sorry if Rarity felt snubbed and admits he's been a bit distracted lately. He confesses that he's been sending the letters by post because his new friend isn't just a pen pal, she's kind of a postal worker too. Rarity really doesn't understand. "So you go to the post office to meet somepony who's a pen pal to give them a letter to deliver to... themselves?" Spike, "Not exactly. A) She's not a pony, and B) I send my letters to her from the post office, but she delivers hers right to me. Of course sometimes she's at the post office when I get there, so we hang out then too." More confused than ever, Rarity struggles to understand anything that Spike is saying, but before she can wrap her brain around the puzzle wrapped in a conundrum with which he's presented her, a voice comes from off screen. "I got your last letter, Spike, and I was already on my way to deliver one to you! Crazy, right?" Rarity turns and is shocked to find that Spike's new friend is GABBY the Griffin!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**SC. 6 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – RESUME**

Rarity follows Spike and Gabby inside where they meet Twilight and Spike explains how he and Gabby became friends. Gabby came to Ponyville hoping the CMCs could get her a cutie mark and for a brief time it looked like they had been successful. Of course griffins can't get cutie marks and Gabby was only trying to make the CMCs feel better about that by pretending she got one. Twilight admits that before she found out the cutie mark wasn't real, she got super excited and had Spike write letters to every Griffin she could think of. Later he had to send a bunch of awkward retraction scrolls and Gabby wrote back apologizing for the whole thing. After that, Gabby and Spike started writing back and forth and once Gallus enrolled in the School of Friendship, Gabby started making regular visits to deliver the Griffin post. She and Spike have really hit it off. They have so much in common: They're both from cultures that don't have the friendliest of reputations, despite being completely sweet themselves; they're both involved in the message sending trade; etc.

Rarity is glad to finally have it all sorted, since she has some important fabric shopping to do. "Come along Spike, I know how much you like to help me pick out the colors." But Spike tells her that he already has plans to accompany Gabby on her delivery rounds. It's kinda their thing. Rarity falls over herself apologizing. Of course, how silly of her. "Yes, yes do run around on your..." But again, Spike's gone before she's even done talking. Twilight giggles and points out it must be a bit of an adjustment to not have Spike jumping at the chance to follow Rarity around. But Rarity tells Twilight she's being silly. Spike is allowed to have other friends. It's fine. It's ALLL fine.

SC. 7 - INT./EXT. VARIOUS – MONTAGE

In a series of quick beats we watch as Rarity starts to realize that Spike's friendship with Gabby represents a shift in his relationship with her...

--EXT. PONYVILLE – Rarity makes her way through the streets of Ponyville balancing a HUGE stack of fabric rolls. PINKIE bounces up to her and marvels at how high the stack is and how strange and awkward Rarity looks carrying it. Usually it's Spike who looks strange and awkward carry HUGE stacks of Rarity's things. As Rarity drops the stack and fabric goes rolling every which way, Pinkie compliments her friend on doing things for herself—or at least, trying to. Rarity SIGHS as Spike and Gabby dash around in the background laughing.

--INT. SCHOOL – Rarity tries to pin up a dress in front of the class, but the pin cushion is not where she expects it to be. She complains off screen and we PAN to see Smolder holding her pin cushion with a confused expression. Rarity apologizes, explaining that she's used to a slightly smaller dragon holding her pins. Smolder asks why she needs anyone to hold her pins at all. Flustered and at a loss to explain it, Rarity is rescued as Spike calls to her from off screen. Relieved, she turns only to see him standing in the doorway with Gabby. Spike apologizes for interrupting but Gabby has a letter for Gallus. Gabby delivers the letter and they leave. Despondent, Rarity reaches for another pin and again, it's too high.

--INT. RARITY'S BOUTIQUE – Rarity frets over a new design. If only somepony could compliment it and confirming her suspicion that it's inspired. She sees Spike passing by and calls to him. She knows how busy he is, but she only needs Spikey-wikey's help for a few moments. Spike's happy to help, but when Rarity opens the door, she sees he's with Gabby who's happy to offer her opinion as well. Gabby declares the design to be 100% "scales and feathers." Spike smiles and agrees. As they both laugh, Rarity is confused. Is that good? Spike apologizes. It's an inside joke and it's hard to explain. Gabby insists the design is great, but she has to go finish her deliveries. Spike agrees not finishing her rounds would be pretty scales and feathers. They both laugh and rush out. Rarity calls after them, still unsure if "scales and feathers" means good or bad. Off her frustrated expression we... END MONTAGE

SC. 8 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – SPIKE'S ROOM – NIGHT

Spike sleeps soundly until a shadowy figure rises above him. Spike's eyes pop open and he sits up, pulling the sheets around him, terrified. But the lights are switched on to reveal it's Rarity, staring at him intently. Spike asks what's wrong and Rarity replies, "Everything." She desperately needs his help and apologizes for the late hour, but since most of his days are spent with Gabby, she thought he might be free now. Spike explains that Gabby has the day off tomorrow and has made big plans for them both. He was hoping to get a good night's sleep. Rarity lays on the drama of her desperate situation as she tells Spike she understands if he'd rather not help her recover a lost gem and protect her from Diamond Dogs. Really, it's fine. But, of course, Spike hops out of bed, ready to come to his friend's aide.

SC. 9 - EXT. RARITY'S SHOP – NIGHT

Rarity and Spike stand behind her shop as Rarity explains that she lost a very specific gem—the lynchpin to her new design, in fact—and she desperately needs Spike's help to find it. Spike is confused. She lost it in her backyard? Rarity confesses that her gem locating spell hasn't been able to zero in on it more than that. "And the Diamond Dogs?" Spike asks. Yes, well. She just assumes they'll show up. They haven't yet, but they could. At any time really. The very thought just fills her with dread. Spike stares at her as she passes him a shovel and we TIME CUT TO:

DAWN – as the entire back yard is covered in holes. Rarity frets and apologizes that she's kept poor Spike up all night. She knows her gem is here somewhere, but now that it's light she feels confident that she can carry on the search herself. Off Spike's perturbed look...

SC. 10 - EXT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – DAY

Gabby shows up outside the Castle, excited to start their day. First they're gonna fly to Canterlot to talk to Celestia about Spike's messaging dragon breath magic, then they're gonna visit that city's post office because it is. HUGE. Then they're gonna fly to Griffin Stone and annoy her boss with everything they learned because that's always fun. Unfortunately, Spike comes to the door exhausted, bags under his eyes, etc. He apologizes, but he doesn't think he's up for it, he was out all night helping a friend in Ponyville. Can he take a rain check? Gabby is clearly disappointed—she made all these plans—so Spike suggests that they just move everything a

little later. He'll take a nap and then meet her for lunch. Pleased, Gabby agrees and flies off. But as Spike turns to head back to his room his is surprised to find Rarity standing behind him—looking even more anxious than before.

SC. 11 - INT. RARITY'S BOUTIQUE – DAY

Spike looks out at a PILE OF PALE BLUE GEMS. A distraught Rarity explains that she managed to find her missing gem, but she absentmindedly placed it down in this pile of very similar gems and now she isn't sure which one it is. She was hoping Spike might be able to taste the difference. She points to an empty spot on a gem-studded gown that is meant to be her fall showpiece at the Manehattan shop, but now she's afraid she won't be able to ship it before winter! She looks to Spike, desperate, and as an exhausted Spike starts to lick the gems one at a time we TIME CUT TO:

Spike, face down, asleep in the pile of gems as Rarity walks in with a small package. She apologizes, but Spike looked so tired, she decided to let him sleep through lunch—but she did bring him leftovers. Spike bolts up, “Lunch?!” and races out.

SC. 12 - EXT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Spike catches an upset Gabby who's just decided not to wait around for him anymore, especially since she's wasted her whole day off doing just that. He apologizes, he had to help a friend again. Gabby tells him not to worry about it. He's clearly too busy with his old friends to keep plans with his new ones. Besides, it's late and she has to be getting back to Griffinstone. Maybe she'll send him a letter sometime, you know, if she has time. She's pretty busy too. With that, she leaves in a huff. Off Spike's hurt expression we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 13 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – SPIKE'S ROOM – DAY

Sad and despondent, Spike lays under the covers with the curtains drawn. Rarity knocks on the door and sticks her head inside. She doesn't want to be a bother, but he sort of ran out before finishing and didn't he have plans with Gabby and when is he planning on coming out of his room? A depressed Spike replies that he's not sure if he'll ever come out of his room again. If he can't manage to keep two friends happy, maybe it's better if he doesn't have any. With that, he gets up, walks over and shuts the door, leaving Rarity in the hall.

SC. 14 - INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE - DAY

A confused Rarity goes to Twilight for advice. She explains that she just asked him for his help with a few things and never expected or intended for them to affect his plans with Gabby. Twilight wonders if that's really the case. Is she certain that things she asked Spike to do were as

urgent and important as she made them out to be? OR, could she be concerned about how for the first time Spike was excited to hang out with somepony other than her? Rarity realizes that Twilight is right. She was being selfish. She'd grown so used to Spike immediately doing whatever she wanted that when he stopped, she freaked out instead of accepting that their friendship might change.

SC. 15 - EXT. PONYVILLE – DAY

Resolved to undue the damage she's done, Rarity tracks down Gabby and apologizes. She admits to trying to monopolize Spike's time unnecessarily and confesses what Twilight helped her realize what she was doing. She hopes that Gabby and Spike can renew their friendship. Gabby understands how Rarity feels about missing out on time with Spike. He's pretty great. As they finish talking, Gabby looks up to see that Rarity has lead her back to Twilight's Castle. Gabby rushes up to the door and knocks. When Spike answers she tells him she has a special delivery for him—a new friend! Satisfied, Rarity looks on and smiles.

SC. 16 - INT. GEM CAVE – DAY

Later, back in the gem cave, Rarity musses over how things have changed and that's okay. All relationships change over time and she and Spike will always be friends. She supposes that she'll just have to get used to holding her own basket sometimes. PULL WIDE to reveal Spike is there too. He tells her he's happy to come to the gem cave with her, when he has time. They'll always be friends, just like they'll both always enjoy the gem cave. They each have their own reasons for being there. Rarity needs baubles for her designs and Spike needs to eat. Spike reaches for a gem but it slips. Luckily, Rarity is there to catch it in her basket. She smiles and passes it to him. As they both continue to “shop” for gems as equals we...

END