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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

Sweet and Smoky
Ep 909

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. TWILIGHT SPARKLE'S SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - DAY**

*

A BIRD wings past blue skies, the sun shining.

1 SPIKE (O.S.)
Another delivery of homework to be
graded!

SC. 2 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - TEACHERS' LOUNGE - CONT.

*

TWILIGHT SPARKLE is working on grading a huge stack of papers
as SPIKE enters with a new tower of them.

2 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Put them over here, Spike.

FLUTTERSHY, sipping tea nearby, looks surprised.

3 FLUTTERSHY
Oh my. Don't you ever use the
teacher's lounge for... Lounging?

4 SPIKE
When you assign as much homework as
she does, that's not really an
option.

There's a <KNOCK> on the door and SMOLDER enters, looking
unusually hesitant.

*

5 SMOLDER
Uh, Headmare Twilight? Sorry to
interrupt, but can I get permission
to miss class?

6 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(reading/preoccupied)
Mm hm. You can make up the lesson
tomorrow.

7 SMOLDER
Actually, I'll be gone for a week.

Finally, this gets Twilight's attention. Shocked:

8 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A week? In the middle of the
semester?

9 FLUTTERSHY

Is everything alright, Smolder?

Smolder looks down, kicks the ground.

10 SMOLDER

Not exactly.

(sighs, admits)

My brother's been having a hard time since I left for school. I want to go home and check on him. He's a really sweet guy, and the other dragons can be kinda rough.

11 SPIKE

(surprised)

Did you say sweet, guy, and dragon in the same sentence?

Smolder smiles and elbows Spike, friendly.

12 SMOLDER

Yeah. He's sorta like you, Spike.

Spike BLUSHES with pleasure.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I'm sorry to hear about your brother, Smolder. But I'm not sure about you missing so much class...

Smolder brightens with an idea--

14 SMOLDER

What if I got school credit for cheering him up? Kind of like a... Kindness field trip!

15 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

(waffling)

That *is* a good idea... But the Dragonlands are an awfully long way to go by yourself.

16 SPIKE

I'll go with her!

(to Smolder, cool)

After all, when you live with the Princess of Friendship, you pick up a thing or two about kindness.

17 SMOLDER
Great! I could use the help. The
Dragonlord is way too busy to break
up fights when it's baby dragon
hatching season.

Fluttershy pops into FRAME, eyes big and hopeful.

18 FLUTTERSHY
Did you say baby dragon hatching
season?

19 SPIKE
(less excited)
Did you say fights?

But Fluttershy is imagining the sheer cuteness of it all. *

20 FLUTTERSHY
All those cute little snouts poking
out of those adorable little
shells? Teeny tiny twitchy tails...
And adorable itsy bitsy claws!
(sighs, dreamily)
I've **always** wanted to see that...

21 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(smiles, giving in)
Well, Smolder, looks like there's
THREE of you on this field trip.

And on Smolder's grin, Fluttershy's joy and Spike's forced
smile, we--

END TEASER

ACT ONE

SC. 3 - EXT. THE DRAGONLANDS - DAY

Spike excitedly checks a long scroll, as he, Fluttershy, and
Smolder march along. Spike has a ROLLING SUITCASE. *

22 SPIKE
I can't decide - should we start
operation Cheer Up with the "smile"
song, the sharing circle, or
friendship bracelet weaving?

23 SMOLDER
I'm not sure those are the kind of
things my brother's gonna be into.

24 FLUTTERSHY
What *would* make your brother happy?

25 SMOLDER
Just having Spike and me accept him
for who he is will make a huge
difference. Dragons who appreciate
his more *sensitive* side...

26 SPIKE
(eureka)
I got it! Showtunes!

27 SMOLDER
Yeah, no. But good try.

Lava pools bubble in the ground nearby, with NOXIOUS FUMES
coming off of them. Fluttershy <SNIFFS> the air, then turns
green and puts a hoof over her nose.

28 FLUTTERSHY
That's an... Interesting smell...

Smolder inhales deeply and happily.

29 SMOLDER
Aaaah...The stink of sulfur, sharp
rocks under my claws... It's good
to be home.

30 SPIKE
I can't wait to meet your brother,
Smolder. We're gonna be best
buddies, I just know it.

31 SMOLDER
He usually hangs out near here.
I'll go try find him.

Smolder flies into the air and flaps off. As she does, Spike
calls after her--

32 SPIKE
Don't rush -- I'll be here putting
some finishing touches on the
comfort blanket!

Spike pulls a half-crocheted blanket out of his rolling
suitcase and gets to work with knitting needles.

33 FLUTTERSHY
Spike, do you mind if I take a peek
at the cute little baby eggs?

Spike holds up his blanket - with cute hearts on it.

34 SPIKE
No problem! I'll stay here and finish this. It'll be like a hug from a friend every time Smolder's brother wraps it around himself.

35 FLUTTERSHY
Aw, I'm sure he'll love it, Spike.

Spike grins proudly and gets back to knitting.

SC. 4 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - HATCHING GROUND - DAY

Fluttershy trots toward a sunken plane, then peers over the edge. Her eyes grow wide and misty.

36 FLUTTERSHY
Oh my goodness...

FLUTTERSHY'S POV - the Dragonland nesting ground, filled with various clutches of dragon eggs... but no other dragons.

Fluttershy moves among the eggs and bends sweetly down to one-

37 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Good morning, little one. I've come a long way to meet you. Did you know there's a whole wide world out here waiting to say hello?

38 DRAGONLORD EMBER (O.S.)
It can't answer you. It's an egg.

Fluttershy turns to see DRAGONLORD EMBER, watching her, arms crossed and skeptical/amused.

39 FLUTTERSHY
Oh! Dragonlord Ember, how nice to see you.

40 DRAGONLORD EMBER
Nice to see you to, ah... which one are you again? The party one? Apple Dash? Or was that the country one?

Fluttershy picks up an egg and snuggles it.

41 FLUTTERSHY
Fluttershy. The one who loves creatures. Are all these eggs yours?

Dragonlord Ember TAKES in mortified surprise.

42 DRAGONLORD EMBER
WHAT? No! None of them are.
Watching over them is just part of
the glamorous life of a Dragonlord.

43 FLUTTERSHY
I think it sounds wonderful.

44 DRAGONLORD EMBER
Yeah? Then maybe you can help.

Fluttershy smiles eagerly.

45 FLUTTERSHY
I'd love to! Just tell me what to
do.

46 DRAGONLORD EMBER
That's the problem, I don't know.
It's my first time being in charge
of all this.

47 FLUTTERSHY
And I'm sure you're doing a great
job.

Ember leans down to examine the eggs, tapping one with her
claw and frowning.

48 DRAGONLORD EMBER
Not really. The eggs should have
hatched by now... But none of them
have even cracked.

49 FLUTTERSHY
Oh dear... Maybe they're lonely.

Fluttershy curls her wings around the nearest eggs and leans
down to them.

50 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Don't you worry. Aunt Fluttershy's
here. And the Dragonlord and I **are**
going to do everything we can to
welcome you into this world!

*

51 DRAGONLORD EMBER
Really? How?

52 FLUTTERSHY
(smile drains, then)
I have no idea...

SC. 5 - THE DRAGONLANDS - DAY

Spike finishes the blanket, slides it off his knitting needles, and admires it.

53 SPIKE
Now *that's* a thing of beauty.

Suddenly, a DRAGON (GARBLE) SWOOPS down next to him, startling him.

54 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Whoa!

Spike is spun around as one dragon after another SWOOP down on him, their wings buffeting him in circles. Spike dizzily topples and looks up to see GARBLE, CLUMP, WHIP, FUME, AND VEX circle and land, staring down at him.

55 GARBLE
Well if it isn't our little pony-friend, Spike...

56 SPIKE
Who says I'm little? I've gone through the molt, see?

Spike stands tall and proud, flaring out his wings. Garble mocks him and the other dragons <LAUGH>.

57 GARBLE
Ooh, runt has wings now! I'm soooo impressed.
(he spots the blanket)
Whatcha got there?

Spike quickly whips the blanket behind his back.

58 SPIKE
Nothing.

Garble snatches away Spike's blanket and holds it up.

59 GARBLE
Looks like a... *baby blanket* to me.

60 SPIKE
It's not a baby blanket! It's a... comfort blanket.

The dragons erupt in <LAUGHTER>.

61 GARBLE

Aww... Did your pony pals make it
for you with friendship and
gumdrops?

62 SPIKE

No... *I* made it. And by the way,
crocheting is a lot harder than it
looks!

63 GARBLE

Check out the baby blanket, guys!
It's a lot harder than it looks!

Garble tosses the blanket above Spike's head and the others
play keep-away with it as Spike leaps up and flaps in vain to
try to grab it.

64 FUME

Bet he broke a claw and everything!

65 CLUMP

Probably bruised his scales making
it!

66 SPIKE

Give it back! That's for my friend.

67 GARBLE

Gee, you should've said that in the
first place. Why don't I warm it up
for him!

Garble breathes a BLAST OF FIRE at the blanket, charring it.

68 SMOLDER (O.S.)

Garble!

Garble quickly hands the blanket back to Spike, looking
surprised.

69 GARBLE

Smolder?

REVEAL SMOLDER who looks at Garble. They both stare for a
beat, then --

70 GARBLE (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

They fist bump each other. The other dragons <MUTTER HELLOS>
and exchange high fives with Smolder as well.

71 FUME / CLUMP
Hey. / Whassup.

Spike sidles over to Smolder and sotto-asides

72 SPIKE
Hate to break up the reunion, but
we better get out of here before
your brother shows up.

Smolder turns to him in surprise.

73 SMOLDER
What do you mean?

Spike whispers behind a cupped hand.

74 SPIKE
I mean, your brother's probably a
little too sensitive to be around
these kind of dragons -- especially
Garble.

75 SMOLDER
But... Garble IS my brother.

76 SPIKE
Your *brother*?

Spike gapes at Garble, who narrows his eyes menacingly.

77 GARBLE
Got a problem with that, ponyboy?

Spike grips the comfort blanket to his chest.

78 SPIKE
Oh, brother...

END ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

SC. 6 - DRAGONLANDS - DAY

RESUME as Spike watches Smolder and Garble - she smacks him
on the back, cheerful/friendly.

79 SMOLDER
Well, now that I'm back, I say...
We start having some fun!

Clump nods and grins.

80 CLUMP
Yeah! Maybe you can tell your
brother that too!

81 FUME
He's been so weird since you left.
Hiding, and moping around...

Garble turns on his friends, flame snorting from his
nostrils.

82 GARBLE
I have not!

83 CLUMP/FUME
Have so!

Smolder looks worried, then diverts the other dragons with
forced enthusiasm.

84 SMOLDER
Hey guys! I got an idea. How 'bout
we go lava diving!

Spike, who has been hanging back, supports his friend.

85 SPIKE
(trying to get into it)
Yeah! Lava diving! Love it!

Garble and his friends shoot Spike a look.

86 FUME
Better stay here, shrimp. Lava
might ruin your blankie-wankie.

87 GARBLE
(taking their lead)
Nah, let the wimp tag along. Then
we'll have somedragon to dunk!

Smolder steps between the dragons and Spike, defensive.

88 SMOLDER
Cut it out, guys. Spike's my
friend. And he planned a bunch of
things he thought you'd like,
Garble.

Garble looks momentarily panicked to be singled out in front
of his mocking friends... Who turn on him.

89 CLUMP

Ooo, I can't wait to see what the
pipsqueak's got up his wing for
you, Garble-

*

90 FUME

- probably lots of snuggle time
with the widdle baby blankie.

Clump mimes sucking his thumb.

91 CLUMP

And some claw sucking too.

92 FUME

C'mon guys. Let's go do some *real*
dragon stuff! Garble can have fun
with his new *friend*.

They bro-punch each other, <BELCH> fire, and <LAUGH> as they
fly off, leaving Garble, Smolder and Spike. Garble
desperately calls after them.

93 GARBLE

But I'm not having fun! And he's
not my friend!

Garble levels a burning look at Spike, then turns to Smolder.

94 GARBLE (CONT'D)

Why'd you have to bring him along
anyway?

95 SMOLDER

Don't let your friends get to you,
Garble. Just ignore them.

Garble leans in to Smolder - and we see that he's hurt.

96 GARBLE

(sotto)

But I thought it would be just me
and you.

97 SMOLDER

It'll be okay, GarGar. If you get
to know Spike better, you'll see
how much you have in common.

Garble shoots Spike another nasty look, before he takes off
into the air --

98 GARBLE
(not happy)
Meet you at the Lava Pit.

Spike watches him go and turns to Smolder, concerned.

99 SPIKE
I thought you said your brother was
sweet.

100 SMOLDER
All the tough guy stuff is just an
act. He's just a big marshmallow.

101 SPIKE
Yeah...Not seeing it.

102 SMOLDER
Well, maybe a burned marshmallow.
Smoky on the outside, but sweet and
squishy on the inside.
(then, worried)
You're not changing **your** mind about
helping me cheer him up, are you?

*

103 SPIKE
Me? 'Course not...

Not as sure as he sounds, Spike rubs his blanket on his
cheek, but the incinerated blanket crumbles to pieces...

SC. 7 - DRAGONLANDS - LAVA PIT - SOON

Garble looks half-annoyed and half-bummed as he stands with
Spike and Smolder on the edge of the lava pit.

104 SMOLDER
Okay! Lava jumping, just like old
times, huh GarGar?

Garble looks directly at Spike as he answers, deadpan.

105 GARBLE
Yeah. Just like old times. Except
for one little, annoying thing.

106 SMOLDER
(making the best of it)
Scales away!

Smolder JUMPS! Spike and Garble watch --

DOWN BELOW, Smolder <SPLASHES> into the fiery drink.

107 SMOLDER (CONT'D)
Come on in! The lava's fine!

GARBLE sighs, off his game. Spike gathers his courage.

108 SPIKE
Ya know, whenever I'm feeling a
little down, it always helps if I
do something with a friend.
(offers his claw)
How about we jump together?

Garble looks at Spike's hand for a beat, then perfunctorily
PUSHES Spike off the edge.

109 GARBLE
(deadpan)
Scales away.

110 SPIKE
(as he drops)
Whooooaaa!

DOWN BELOW Smolder looks up, wincing as... Spike HITS with a
ginormous belly flop and <SPLAT!>

111 SMOLDER
Ooh. Spike...? You okay?

Spike surfaces, eyes SPINNING.

112 SPIKE
Don't worry about me... I'm good...

<SPLAT!> A diving Garble SLAMS into Spike, sinking him.

113 GARBLE
(to Smolder)
Ooops. My bad.

Smolder glares at her brother and dives to bring up Spike.
His eyes spin, dizzy. Garble makes a show of being sorry.

114 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Sorry, shrimp... I mean, Spike.
Didn't see you.

Garble turns an innocent look from Smolder and fixes Spike
with an evil glare - as Spike sinks back into the lava...

SC. 8 - VARIOUS PARTS OF THE DRAGONLANDS - SOON

QUICK BEATS:

-- Garble looks dubious as he sits at a rock with a table cloth on it. Spike, complete with his frilly apron, hosts a tea party. He hands a cupcake to Smolder, then one to Garble.

115 SPIKE

Try this. Red velvet. Guaranteed to
brighten anycreature's spirits!

*

Garble checks to see if Smolder is still preoccupied... Then knocks the cupcake out of Spike's paw and stomps on it.

116 GARBLE

Feeling better already.

-- Spike, Smolder, and Garble fly through the clouds above the Dragonlands.

117 SPIKE

I don't know about you, but a
change of scenery always turns my
frown upside down.

Smolder grins at Spike, then flies ahead. Spike offers Garble a hopeful smile, and Garble grins back... Before body-checking Spike into a cloud.

Spike <SPLUTTERS> as he surfaces from the cloud, upside-down indeed, wearing a comical wig and moustache of cloud.

118 SPIKE (CONT'D)

(mutters to himself)

I will be the bigger dragon. I will
be the bigger dragon.

-- Spike, Garble, and Smolder sit on rocks, facing each other. Garble glares, but Smolder listens as Spike says--

119 SPIKE (CONT'D)

Sometimes just hearing what someone
appreciates about you can make you
feel better about yourself.

120 SMOLDER

I'll go first. Spike, I think it's
really nice that you're trying to
cheer up GarGar.

Garble crosses his arms and rolls his eyes.

121 SPIKE

Thanks, Smolder. My turn. I like
how you always let everycreature
know how you're feeling, GarGar.

122 GARBLE
What did you call me?

123 SPIKE
Uh...GarGar? Your...Nickname?

Garble rages at Spike, flames coming out as roars:

124 GARBLE
ONLY SMOLDER GETS TO CALL ME THAT!

At the same time, Spike ducks behind the rock. He peeks out, his head sooty/comically charred.

125 SPIKE
(wheeze)
Thank you for speaking your truth.

SC. 9 - DRAGONLANDS - HATCHING GROUND - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON Fluttershy, who is cuddled with several dragon eggs. She reads them a book.

126 FLUTTERSHY
And then they all lived happily
ever after! *The end!*
(looks at the silent egg)
Time to come out, little ones.
(starts to tickle an egg)
Tickle, tickle, tickle...
(then)
Maybe you'd like a song?
(sings)
*Lullabye, time to hatch, come on
out little babies...*

REVEAL Ember who watches with a raised eyebrow.

127 DRAGONLORD EMBER
I think you might be encouraging
them to stay in. Dragons aren't
much for touchy-feely stuff.

Fluttershy wilts and lets go of the eggs she's cuddling.

128 FLUTTERSHY
(wilts)
Oh. I'm sorry.

But as she steps away from the eggs, they start TREMBLING.

129 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Goodness. Why are the eggs shaking?
(brightens)
Are they finally hatching?

130 EMBER
I wish. They've been doing that for
days. I'm sure it means *something*.
But it's probably not good.

OFF Fluttershy's worried look...

SC. 10 - DRAGONLANDS - LAVA DAM - DAY

Clump, Vex, Whip and Fume are working together to PRY a BOULDER from a DAM of boulders. As they do, a GUSH OF STEAMING LAVA pours from the dam, making a river of heat.

Spike determinedly leads Smolder and Garble ahead--

131 SPIKE
Okay, NEW activity. Who wants to
make vision boards?

132 CLUMP
Hey, Garble! Smolder! Surf's up!

The dragons pry flat rocks up and toss them on the flow of lava, surfing it with their "boards".

133 GARBLE
Let me show you how it's done!

Garble rips a chunk of flat rock up and runs for the flow, spinning Spike in a circle as he races past. Spike sits down hard. Smolder grins as her brother surfs the lava. She turns to Spike and beckons--

134 SMOLDER
You coming?

135 SPIKE
I'll...Catch up with you.

Smolder shrugs and heads off. Spike sighs, watching the dragons enjoying themselves. Fluttershy hurries up to him.

136 FLUTTERSHY
Spike! There you are! For a land
that's all rocks, this place is
surprisingly easy to get lost in.

*

137 SPIKE

Hey, Fluttershy. How are the baby dragons doing?

138 FLUTTERSHY

The eggs won't hatch! They just keep shaking. I'm starting to think the dragons are too scared to come out. I was hoping you could help... If you're not too busy cheering up Garble?

139 SPIKE

The only thing that cheers Garble up is to make me feel miserable.

Garble and his pals, (no Smolder) amble back up, "boards" under their arms.

140 GARBLE

Hey, Spike! Don't you wanna play with us?

141 SPIKE

(a little suspicious)
Uh, yeah, sure.

142 GARBLE

DRAGON SHOVE! SPIKE'S IT!

Garble shoves Spike. The other dragons <LAUGH> and join in, pushing Spike from dragon to dragon.

Fluttershy watches this, appalled. She tries to stop it--

143 FLUTTERSHY

Excuse me... Ahem... Hello?

The dragons continue, ignoring Fluttershy's mild protests. And then, her eyes narrow, and she bellows forcefully:

144 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

THAT'S ENOUGH!

The dragons stop, startled.

145 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

(her usual self)
I mean, leave my friend alone, please. Spike came all this way to cheer up Garble, which was a very kind thing to do.

Fume smiles mockingly to Garble.

146 FUME

Awww, do you need cheering up?

147 CLUMP

What's wrong, Garble? Did
somedragon hurt your wittle
feewings?

Garble is flustered and defensive.

148 GARBLE

No! I don't know what she's talking
about.

(to Spike)

And since when did you need a pony
for a bodyguard? You're even softer
than I thought!

Successfully redirected by Garble, the dragon teens turn
their mocking back on Spike, <LAUGHING>.

149 GARBLE (CONT'D)

This is lame. Let's go find
Smolder.

Garble flaps off with his friends.

150 SPIKE

See? It's no use. <sigh> Why
don't I see what I can do about the
eggs, and you cheer up Garble. At
least he listens to you...

Fluttershy watches the dejected Spike head off for a beat,
before turning in Garble's direction. Determined:

151 FLUTTERSHY

Just you wait, Garble. You're
dealing with Fluttershy now. And
she's packing a whole lifetime of
kindness.

As she starts off...

SC. 11 - DRAGONLANDS - HATCHING GROUND - DAY

Ember holds a shivering egg. Somewhat desperate, she tries:

152 EMBER

Tickle, tickle, tickle -

153 SPIKE

Ember? What are you doing?

Ember startles and nearly drops the egg. She hides it behind her back. Feigned nonchalance:

154 EMBER
Nothing. Why?

But Spike has crouched to look at the eggs, still shaking.

155 SPIKE
Wow. They really do look scared.

Then Spike notices something. He puts his hands on the ground, then lays his cheek against it.

156 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Wait - aren't the hatching grounds supposed to be hot?

157 EMBER
Of course! There's a lake of molten lava under them. That's why the eggs are laid here - the heat makes them hatch!

158 SPIKE
Then something's wrong. I don't think the eggs are shaking 'cause they're afraid - they're cold.

Ember lays down next to Spike, feeling the ground. Shocked.

159 EMBER
You're right! But what happened to the lava?

160 SPIKE
(realizes)
I might have an idea...

SC. 12 - DRAGONLANDS - ROCK PILE - DAY

Fluttershy searches the Dragonlands.

161 FLUTTERSHY
Gaaaaarble? Smolder? Is any dragon there?

She turns in surprise as she hears <BONGO DRUMS> coming from behind a large rockpile nearby.

162 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Oh my. Are those... *bongo drums*?

Fluttershy starts to weave her way through the rock pile as --

163 GARBLE (O.S.)
Fire, dragon, wig and wagon...
Feelin' like I be saggin'...

Fluttershy hears the <BONGOS> again. She steps around a rock pile, pulls up short, gaping.

It's Garble, wearing a beret, drums on his lap. Smolder proudly listens nearby. She <SNAPS> her fingers, grooving.

164 SMOLDER
Oh yeah, I dig!

165 GARBLE
Ragin' lava, **balaclava**...

166 FLUTTERSHY
Garble?!

Garble whirls to see Fluttershy, and he quickly tears off his beret and **tosses** his drums aside. Smolder turns to Fluttershy, beaming. *

167 SMOLDER
Isn't he *the coolest*?!

Off Fluttershy's shock...

SC. 13 - DRAGONLANDS - LAVA DAM - DAY *

CLOSE ON Clump as he removes another boulder, releasing a gush of lava that pours out in a river. The dragons hop on their "surfboards" and skim along it.

168 SPIKE (O.S.)
See?

REVEAL SPIKE AND EMBER who stand at the river's edge.

169 SPIKE (CONT'D)
I wondered where that lava was coming from. They must be draining it from the underground lake!

Ember <SNARLS> and flies over to the teen dragons.

170 EMBER
Put that rock back! Immediately!

The dragons cower, but all quickly obey.

171 CLUMP
Yes, Dragonlord Ember!

172 EMBER
How long have you been removing
those boulders?

They look at each other, guilty.

173 CLUMP
A while?

174 FUME
It made our lava pools so nice and
warm-like.

Ember fumes, barely controlling her temper.

175 EMBER
It's supposed to be heating the
eggs! Now they'll never hatch!

And on this horrible realization...

END ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

SC. 14 - DRAGONLANDS - LAVA DAM - RESUME

*

The young dragons share a worried look.

176 CLUMP
Sorry, Dragonlord Ember!

177 FLUME
We'll put the lava back!

The dragons comically try to push the flowing lava back into
the rock, to no avail.

178 SPIKE
I don't think it works that way.

Ember snarls to the young dragons.

179 EMBER
ENOUGH. Go and bring all the
dragons to the hatching grounds.
We'll have to make the heat
ourselves.

The Dragons look chagrined, but they nod and fly off.

SC. 15 - EXT. DRAGONLANDS - ROCKPILE - DAY

*

Garble steps menacingly toward a still-stunned Fluttershy.

180 GARBLE
What do you think you're doing
sneaking around here, Pony?

181 FLUTTERSHY
Sneaking? It looks to me like the
only one sneaking around is you,
Garble. Why didn't you tell me you
were a poet?

182 GARBLE
I'm not!

Fluttershy picks up the bongos and beats out her own poem -

183 FLUTTERSHY
Words, rhythm, sometimes rhyme..
Weird punctuA--tion.. Bongos
keeping time... Sure sounds like
poetry to me.

Garble looks horrified/angry. Smolder puts a calming claw on his shoulder.

184 SMOLDER
It's okay, GarGar. Fluttershy won't
think you're soft for being a poet.

185 GARBLE
(hesitates, then)
Okay, fine... but I'm not a flowery
namby pamby poet.
(snatches back the drums)
I'm a beat poet...dig?

He beats a <COOL RHYTHM> on the drums.

186 FLUTTERSHY
I totally feel you.

187 GARBLE
And you better not tell my friends
about it.

Fluttershy looks surprised by this.

188 FLUTTERSHY
But...Why? If I was a poet, I'd
want to share my creations with
everypony.

189 GARBLE

Are you kidding? If the other dragons ever found out I like this junk, they'd make fun of me. Forever.

190 SMOLDER

I'm the only one Garble will perform for. That's why he's been so sad since I left. If he tried this with his friends, they'd tease him for being soft.

A realization dawns for Fluttershy, and she turns to Garble--

191 FLUTTERSHY

Is that why you pick on Spike - to make your friends think you're tough?

Smolder frowns at Garble.

192 SMOLDER

Wait. You've been picking on Spike?

Garble shifts from foot to foot, guilty.

193 GARBLE

Only when you're not looking.
(then, defensive)
But if I didn't pick on Spike they'd just pick on me... And he is kind of a weakling.

194 FLUTTERSHY

Hmmph! I'll have you know Spike is STRONGER than you are. Any day!

Garble is amused by this.

195 GARBLE

Yeah, right. That little cupcake making, blanket-cuddling pony-dragon? Gimmie a break.

Fluttershy stands her ground and schools Garble.

196 FLUTTERSHY

First of all, there's nothing WRONG with being a pony. Second, Spike isn't afraid to be who he is, no matter WHAT you... or anycreature thinks. That's REAL strength... Not like somedragons I know.

Smolder nods, reluctantly impressed.

197 SMOLDER
For a pony without a horn, she's
sure got a point.

Garble hangs his head -- their words sinking in. Just then Spike rushes up.

198 SPIKE
I've been looking all over for you
guys. We need your help! Hurry!

Before he can explain, Spike rushes off. As they follow -

SC. 16 - DRAGONLANDS - HATCHING GROUND - DAY

*

A LARGE GROUP OF DRAGONS blast fiery breath toward the eggs.

Smolder, Spike, Garble, and Fluttershy (carrying the bongos) hurry up to Ember. She frowns and shakes her head.

199 EMBER
I've ordered everydragon to warm up
the eggs, but they still won't
hatch. I don't know what else we
can try.

Fluttershy gets an idea. Pointedly to Garble--

200 FLUTTERSHY
Well, sometimes all a creature
needs to accept who they're meant
to be is encouragement. With a
cool beat.

Fluttershy holds out the bongos. Garble shakes his head.

201 GARBLE
Uh uh. No way.

202 SMOLDER
C'mon, Garble. It's worth a shot.

Dragonlord Ember turns to Garble.

203 EMBER
If there's anything you can do to
help these eggs, we could use it
right now.

Garble looks to Fluttershy, Spike, and Ember... Then resolved, he whips out his beret and grabs the bongos. He drums a <VIGOROUS, POETIC BEAT>.

The other dragons turn in surprise as--

204 GARBLE
Eggs. Come. Burst into that light.
Break through shells that... bind!

At first, Spike is stunned, but quickly begins to <SNAP> out the rhythm, lost in this unexpectedly cool-cat Garble poem.

205 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Break free. Explore! Stuck...
between... rock... and harrrrrrd place!

A pregnant pause. Then... the dragons burst into <HUGE FIREY GUFFAWS>. Garble shrinks back, but Spike comes alongside him.

206 SPIKE
Let 'em laugh. I think it's
awesome. You do you. Dig?

207 GARBLE
(steels himself, then)
Freedom. Come. Don't be shy. Look
those others in the eye.

The Dragon <LAUGH> even louder. Their laughing pushes more flame from their bellies, and it spews from their mouths to surround the eggs. Encouraged, Garble continues, even louder.

208 GARBLE (CONT'D)
Stake your claim. Don't stop, just
do! Be the one and only you!

209 FLUTTERSHY
Garble, look --

Eggs are beginning to <CRACK> in the extra heat!

210 SPIKE
You're doing it! Keep going, buddy!

211 GARBLE
Come to light. Proud to be. Open
up! Bam! Be... **FREE!**

Suddenly, one by one, dozens of baby dragons break free of their shells! The dragons stop laughing to stare in awe.

212 SMOLDER
You did it, GarGar! You made them
hatch!

213 FLUTTERSHY

Or at least your poetry did! The
more they laughed, the hotter their
firebreath got!

214 FUME

Duh! We laughed cuz it was *stupid*.

The dragons <LAUGH> once more. Garble wilts, and Spike moves
to his side protectively.

215 SPIKE

Hey, cut it out! Garble's a hero!

The dragons <LAUGH> even harder --

216 CLUMP

You mean a softie! What kind of
weakling writes *poetry*?

Suddenly, Ember flies up to hover above them. LOUDLY--

217 DRAGONLORD EMBER

The HERO of the Dragonlands, that's
who.

The dragons instantly quiet.

218 DRAGONLORD EMBER (CONT'D)

Garble saved our eggs *because* he
was strong enough to embrace who he
truly is.

(to the dragons)

I will have it known that in *my*
kingdom, we don't mock differences,
we *celebrate* them.

(to Garble)

And if you don't mind, can you
teach me how to write poetry like
that? It's pretty cool.

219 GARBLE

(stunned, but thrilled)

Uh, yeah... sure, no problem.

220 FUME / CLUMP

Yeah, me too! / I wanna learn!

Smolder blocks them, like a bouncer.

221 SMOLDER

Take a number, guys.

Spike turns to Garble with a big grin, arms open for a hug.

*

222 SPIKE
I'm so proud of you, Garble.
Victory hug!

Garble backs away. It's a bridge too far. Wry smile:

223 GARBLE
Thanks, but don't push it, Pony-
dragon. C'mon guys, let's hit the
lava pools!

Garble takes off with his buds. Spike shrugs to Smolder.

224 SPIKE
Baby steps, right...?

Fluttershy leans down to see the cute, toddling hatchlings...

225 FLUTTERSHY
Oh yes! Aren't they adorable!

FADE OUT

END.

*

*