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Unwanted Attention

Scene One: Welcome Back

“But!”

“No buts, Spike. I don’t feel comfortable performing that sort of spell, and it’s way too complicated.”

“But you’re the best at magic in all of Ponyville. It’d be such a snap!” The dragon snapped his fingers at his words which prompted Twilight showing him her right hoof. “Oh. Well it’d still be easy for you.”

“Spike, I’ve made up my mind. It’s not going to happen.”

Her tone was unyielding. After some silent moments of reflection, her dragon companion bowed his head and heaved the heaviest sigh he could and answered reluctantly. “Fine...”

Spike kept looking at the book he had presented earlier. *Enchanting Encounters: Improving Your Social Prowess with Magical Enhancement*. All the big words went over his head, but there was one spell that caught his eye. ‘A Little Attention,’ a downgraded version of ‘Want it, Need it’ spell that could bestow notice in a pony or dragon. Spike thought it was a perfect way to get Rarity to notice him. Twilight quickly shut the idea down, and so the dragon reluctantly laid the book down onto a stack on the nearby table.

“Really Spike, magic should be used for things other than winning Rarity’s attention.” With a tone of victory, Twilight returned to her book. Not a second later, there was a knock at the door, and without taking her eyes from her studies, she spoke out to her assistant. “Spike, would you mind?” The dragon slunk his way over to the door, opened it, and then leaped off the ground in excitement.

“Ray!” He shouted and jumped to give the red unicorn a hug.

“Spike!” Just as enthusiastically, Ray returned the hug. “How ya been?”

“Great. Aw you missed out on a bunch of fun stuff! Like when Twilight Sparkle chased off that Ursa Minor.”

“Woah..” Ray took a seat at the door as he imagined the other unicorn facing down a giant bear. “I have to hear how that happened! Oh but uh... first...” He straightened himself out and took a short bow. “May I enter?” He asked in a diplomatic and formal manner.

“Sure, come on in.” Spike raised his brow at the odd behavior “That sounded pretty prince-like.”

“I had to practice. I’ve got to start taking my position as a prince more seriously.” Once inside, he slackened up. “Auntie Celeste has had me practicing magic too, and I found out

something I can do!" As he began to get excited, his body began to give off a soft glow that grew in intensity with his excitement.

Spike took a step back to watch his friend work the magic. He remembered that Ray was the only pony to be able to create a natural glow because he was a fallen star. The colt had with him a satchel and from it he took out a small colorless orb in his mouth. "Ohkh, wahtc gis." Taking a deep breath, the aura around him changed into a greenish glow. His horn began to glimmer with the use of magic. A short sparkle later and the orb began to glow the same color as his body. With a grin, Ray set the ball on the ground and watched as it continued to produce green light.

"Woah..." Spike's eyes were wide. "Can you do other colors?" Ray nodded and presented several other orbs that had already been filled with light: red, yellow, orange, purple.. Spike asked, "Is there a way to turn them off?" Ray clopped his front hooves together once and all the lights dimmed and became colorless orbs again. "That IS neat," Spike complimented.

"That is impressive." Twilight's voice made the two turn and greet her as she trotted up to her guest. "Nice to see you again, Ray." Courteously, she bowed as a sign of respect for his position. After the formalities subsided, she instantly turned her attention to the orbs. "What kind of enchantment is put on these? And why aren't you using magic to carry them instead of--" She hesitated, but then asked anyway. "--your mouth?"

"I can." Ray pouted and clumsily floated an orb in front of him. "Whenever I try to lift more than a few I start to get dizzy..." He set it back down as gently as he could.

"You have to keep practicing, magic is a skill that needs to be fine tuned. I'm sure your teacher has said this."

"Auntie Celeste finds it funny when I carry them in my mouth, and yes she has mentioned that I should work on my magic. I am a unicorn after all." With a shrug, he started picking up the orbs with magic and setting them in his bag. The last he put in front of Spike. "This one is for you guys, it's purple. It looks best at night."

"Thanks, Ray." Spike went to find a place to store it.

Once Spike was gone, Twilight voiced another concern. "It's great to see you, but I thought you were going to stay in Canterlot until your magical abilities were, well..." She grimaced at the memory of him failing to do basic magic the last time he was in Ponyville.

"Oh, well I've been learning as much as I can. Big Sis has been teaching me in the night and Auntie has been teaching me in the day. I've also had to learn to be a prince, which hasn't been easy either. But the arrangements for me to stay in Ponyville are done now."

"Oh? Where are you staying? I'm sure Pinkie Pie will want to throw you a welcoming party, if she already hasn't heard."

"She snuck up on us when we got here, and she already had invitations made!" He pulled out one of the invitations from his side pouch and handed it over to Spike.

"Us? We?" Twilight raised an eyebrow.

"Yeah, Auntie came with me. She didn't want to make too big of a fuss about her arrival, so she just went to the Mayor's to finalize my living arrangements. I came by to say hi and show that I'm improving. Oh, and I've got this invitation."

“She’ll probably be too busy to stop by then, right?”

“Hopefully not, she said she’d stop by here after she finishes. Auntie was also invited to the party. Pinkie was very well prepared.” He rolled the glowing red orb with a free hoof while he spoke. “Oh yeah! I’m staying at the observatory on the other side of Ponyville.” He jumped up in excitement. “It was being renovated since the pony who used to live there got offered a position in Canterlot and I get to live there now.” Ray pulled out another invitation from his bag and floated it over to Spike.

“So you’ll be living by yourself?”

“For now. It’s a test to see if I can handle being a responsible adult.” He proudly posed. “But you guys are always welcome to visit, and I’ll also be by to check out books on magic all the time. Gotta practice.” He rubbed the back of his head sheepishly.

“I’m sure you’ll do great. If the Princess has that much faith in you, then I will too.”

“Speaking of magic books, do you mind if I pick up some while I’m here?” Ray asked.

“Sure.” She motioned towards one of the tables and the stack of books floated over and in front of Ray. “These just got checked back in earlier today, and I think you’ll find these useful for studying and practicing.”

“Thanks.” He attempted to catch them but several fell to the floor with a thump. “I’ll practice, I promise.”

“Spike, would you mind helping Ray carry these?” Twilight gave him a pleading smile.

“Oh, and you can tell me about the Ursa Minor!” Ray chimed in, keeping his eyes on the books he was holding in the air.

“Sure thing.” Spike plucked up the fallen books and followed behind Ray. “You don’t want to come see his house?”

“I will at the welcoming party, but you did say the Princess was coming by here, right?”

“Yep, she said she’d be by the library. Don’t worry, I’ve got these, and Spike is helping. Thanks a bunch, Twilight.” He gave her a bow, and the books moved with his head. “See ya.”

Spike finished telling his tale as the two arrived outside the observatory.

“Wow, I can’t believe Twilight was able to do all that. That’s a hundred times better than what I could do.”

“She can do a lot more too, wait until you see number twenty five. That was great.”

Ray wondered what ‘number twenty five’ meant as he led Spike into his new home. The observatory had been vacated and redecorated recently nearly looking like his room at Canterlot now. Plenty of living space along with the finest decor and furniture had been moved in almost as if by magic. There was even a writing desk already stocked with quills and parchment at the ready for his reports back to his aunt. Ray walked over to the desk and laid the books down on it, and Spike followed to drop off the rest.

“I’m really glad that Auntie was able to get all this together. I hope I’ll be fine living by myself...” Ray gave a sigh, then opened the first book and browsed through it. “Should I start now...?”

“Hey, do you think you could try out a spell?” Spike had a mischievous grin and showed a page written with complicated instructions.

“Um.. I could try. Twilight did say I need to practice.” He gave the spell a look over and tilted his head to the side. “Simple attraction spell, makes a person more noticeable to another.” He read on silently. “Wow, that sounds pretty hard.”

“Twilight couldn’t even do it.” Spike said. “Well, she didn’t even try it.”

“Really? I think she could have easily cast it.”

“I know right?” The dragon agreed with him. “You could totally do it.”

“Sure.” He read over the instructions and then glanced to Spike, “Who did you want to affect?”

“Well...” Spike stroked his chin, pretending to think. “You could, I dunno, make Rarity notice me a little more?” He lowered his head in shame. “She barely notices me at all. Just for a few minutes, please?” The dragon put on his best puppy-dragon face.

“Sure, as thanks for helping me carry those books.” He closed his eyes and focused on the spell he needed to simultaneously think and cast. He also needed to apply the right amount of energy, drawing some from that near endless supply of star light glow.

His horn began to glow as the magic kicked in. Spike leaned in with anticipation.

A loud bang came from Ray’s horn and a shock wave of magic spread outward from the two.

Ray sat himself up in a daze and waited for his vision to come back into focus. “I’m not sure if it worked. Do you feel any different, Spike?” The dragon had to stand up himself too.

“I don’t know, what should I feel like?”

“It didn’t say.” Ray took a glance around the room. The blast had knocked over every book and chair, but the fragile things were perfectly fine. “At least I didn’t color the room like last time.”

“Oh well...” Spike gave a sigh and sat in a slump on the floor in thought.

Ray gave his friend a look over, and his star aura clicked on like a light bulb with the idea he got. “How about you go check it out, though? It could have worked.” Spike perked up at the thought. “Plus, Twilight would be impressed if I managed to pull off a spell she couldn’t.” Ray thought happily about getting praise from Twilight. “And I’ll clean this up, ‘cause I still need to practice moving things.”

“Alright, I’ll be back to let you know how it went.” Spike left with a salute, leaving Ray to practice.