

Twilight's horn glowed softly, casting a dim purple light which barely illuminated the pillows around her. She felt a familiar weight on her back shift as Spike leant forward.

"Should I take a look topside?" he whispered. Twilight twisted her neck so she could see her passenger.

"Not yet Spike, they could be right above us," she replied in a similarly hushed tone.

"Wouldn't we have heard something if they were that close?"

"Maybe, but we can't take that risk. The Motherland cannot afford for us to fail."

Spike broke into a salute, knocking his ushanka askew. The hat was several sizes too big for him, and he was wearing it more with his spikes than his head, but it *did* go very well with his moustache.

They both looked up as the faint sound of 'Toot toot' came from somewhere ahead of them. It sounded like Fluttershy.

"Sonar's getting something," Spike said quietly.

Twilight nodded and they both strained their ears as another voice came wafting down from above. The meaning of the words were lost in the pillows but Applejack's accent was unmistakable. Twilight grinned.

"Spike, get the periscope ready," she said, lowering her neck so the dragon could climb onto her head. Twilight looked down at the pink tail that poked out from between the pillows in front of her and gave it a tug. The head of Pinkie Pie emerged.

"Orders, Cap'n?" said Pinkie, in an accent Twilight couldn't quite place.

"Flood tube one and prepare to fire."

"Aye aye!" Pinkie gave a quick salute and sank back into the pillows, leaving a single ear protruding.

Twilight didn't ask about the eye patch. Or the plastic hook.

"Up periscope."

Spike kept his balance as Twilight raised her head, allowing him to just barely breach the surface.

"Applecarrier at 7 o'clock, 6 meters ahead. Not moving. Fluttership at 1 o'clock, 7 meters ahead. Also not moving."

"Did you get that, Pinkie?" Twilight asked the pink ear, which wiggled in response.

"Target the Applecarrier. Get ready... fire!"

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A short time earlier, on the surface.

"Toot toot!" Fluttershy cried out, enthusiastically.

"Fluttershy! You're supposed to be the battleship," said Applejack.

"Oh... um... I thought I was a tug boat..."

"Sorry sugercube, but a tugboat has no place in a combat area." Fluttershy's face fell. Fleet Admiral Angel, resplendent in his bicorn hat, gave Applejack a reproachful look. "Err... I guess you can still go 'toot toot' if you like." Angel's flagship brightened up immediately.

"Yay!" Fluttershy cheered, shortly before adding: "toot toot!" The white rabbit sitting on her head nodded approvingly.

Smiling, Applejack turned back to survey the sea of pillows before her, searching for any signs of disturbance.

"RainbowHawk," she called out. "You see anything?"

"Nothing yet..." Dash trailed off. Something had caught her eye. "There!" she said, pointing ahead. "Periscope spotted!"

Applejack turned to relay the news, but was interrupted by Pinkie Pie, who erupted out of the pillows beside her and tackled her to the ground.

"Consarn it! I've been hit," said Applejack, fighting back laughter as she attempted to ward off the giggling pink pony and her relentless tickling. It was a losing battle. "Fluttership, I need help!"

"Oh dear, oh dear," said Fluttershy, moving to help her stricken ally. As she approached, Pinkie leapt off of Applejack and dove back into the pillows, quickly becoming submerged once again.

Above them, Rainbow Dash had zeroed in on the periscope sighting and went into a rapid dive as it began sinking below the surface. Dash completely disappeared beneath the pillows, emerging a short time later with a dragon's tail in her mouth. The rest of the dragon, now dangling upside down, seemed to have something to say about this arrangement and was squirming rapidly, trying to break free.

"Dag itf!" Rainbow said, with a mouth full of dragon. "I waf hoping tu cafch Twfiligh!"

"Release me you capitalist pig-dog!" cursed Spike in a terrible Russian accent. With one hand keeping his hat from falling off, the other joined his legs in their wild flailing.

Rainbow Dash transferred her hold on Spike's tail to her hooves so she could speak clearly.

"You're our prisoner of war now and you had better start giving us information!"

"I know nothing of which you speak, I am but a simple fisherman," Spike replied defiantly.

"Then what were you doing under the water?" Rainbow inquired.

"That is where the fish live."

Rainbow scowled, this wasn't getting anywhere.

"I'm takin' you back to the fleet. Maybe you'll be in a more helpful mood there."

Spike said nothing, and tried to look dignified as he was flown to Applejack and Fluttershy.

"Well what do we have here?" said Applejack, who had one front leg around Fluttershy's neck to keep herself 'afloat'.

"I caught Twilight's periscope," said Rainbow, "but he's insisting that he's just a..." she trailed off.

"Simple underseas fisherman," finished Spike.

"Simple underseas fisherman," repeated Rainbow Dash, rolling her eyes.

"Oh my, that sounds awfully dangerous," said Fluttershy, moving towards their captive.

"Umm..." the dragon began.

"Must get pretty cold," Applejack chimed in.

"Well..."

"Wouldn't it be nice to have a warm snugly bed to go to?" said Fluttershy, sweetly.

"I guess..."

"And all the apples you could eat," said Applejack.

"Hmm..." Spike said and glanced towards the basket of apples that Applejack had brought for them to eat. They had been playing for a while and he was getting hungry...

"You could travel from place to place without needing any papers," said Rainbow.

"No papers?" Their offer was a tempting one, but he had his pride.

"Ha!" Spike cried out, accent in full swing. "I see through your feeble attempts to make me defect! I will never follow your decadent Equestrian ways! I will never betray the Motherland!"

"Fine!" said Applejack. "But I've got a quick question. What do I do now I've been sunk?"

"Oh," Spike replied, dropping his accent. "Well now you're a little recon boat. So you can still help find Twilight, but you're not allowed to catch her yourself."

"Got it," said Applejack who grinned as she turned towards Fluttershy. "There's only one thing left to do with the prisoner now."

"We tried to be nice Spike, but you've left us no choice," said Fluttershy, sadly.

"Wait, you can't possibly mean to—" Spike was abruptly cut off by Rainbow Dash's yell.

"Special Agent Rarity!"

"What do you need RainbowHawk?" came the voice of the unicorn on the balcony above them.

"Got a prisoner that needs interrogating," said Dash. "He's being real uncooperative."

"Oh I found just the thing! A lovely set of long-feathered quills," said Rarity as she trotted down the stairs. Spike dropped his hat.

"You can't do this! Tickling a POW breaks international treaties!" Spike cried out, struggling anew.

"But Spike, you said it yourself. You're just a fisherman," said Applejack, moving towards him with a rope to tie the captive.

"Oh," was all he could manage as a reply.

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Behind the Equestrian fleet, unseen and unnoticed, the Twilight October and Torpedo No2 had breached the surface. Together they saluted as they watched Spike being led away.

"Today we mourn the loss of comrade Spike," Twilight began. "We shall remember his bravery and devotion to the cause. His strength of will in the face of certain temptation will inspire generations to come. And today we shall honour him by emerging triumphant over the Motherland's enemies!" Pinkie nodded in agreement.

"They are complacent in their minor victory. Distracted. Take note of the Fluttership's position, she is their only major vessel remaining."

"Aye aye," replied Pinkie Pie.

"Submerge and prepare to fire," ordered Twilight. Both ponies sank down into pillows until no sign of them remained.

"Toot toot!"