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MY LITTLE PONY II

"Read It and Weep"

EP 216

Written by

Cindy Morrow

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TEASER

SC 1 - <u>EXT. GRASSY FIELD IN PONYVILLE - DAY</u>

Twilight Sparkle is returning from the marketplace with a satchel of groceries. As she strolls along the path, she sees Pinkie Pie and Rarity looking up at the sky. She approaches them with curiosity.

1 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (LOOKING UP)
Hey Rarity. Hey Pinkie Pie. What are you looking at?

Pinkie pie points up a hoof.

2 PINKIE PIE
Rainbow Dash!

Twilight's head starts to follow along with Pinkie Pie and Rarity as they track their swiftly moving friend. (*** Please Note: We never see RD in the teaser. We stay on her friends as they watch her off screen.***)

3 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Isn't she the most daring devil...I mean the most devilish darer? I mean...

4 RARITY
She's...DAZZLING!

5 PINKIE PIE
Oooh--yeah that's a good word. She's...DAZZLING!

Rainbow Dash does incredible loops, spins, and leaps, and the other ponies' eyes and heads follow in the same pattern. Their remarks are in unison.

6 PINKIE PIE, RARITY, TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Ooohhh. Aaaaaahh.

Their eyes continue to look up and down, side to side, the heads move right, then left.

Then, all of a sudden, their smiles turn to frowns.

7 RARITY
Uh oh!...

8 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Oh no, oh no,...

9 PINKIE PIE
Ay yay yay yay yay!...

The viewer watches all three ponies eyes and head travel from the sky... to the ground. Then there's a giant offscreen:

10 SFX (RAINBOW DASH O.S.)
<<<CRASH!!!>>>

The ponies wince. They slowly open their eyes.

11 PINKIE PIE
So much for dazzling.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

SC 2 - <u>INT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - DAY</u>

As the camera fades in, so do the ponies' voices. The ponies are huddled around a bed.

12 APPLEJACK
So she's going to be okay?

13 FLUTTERSHY
I'm so worried!

14 PINKIE PIE
Is her face going to stay that way?

As the camera trucks in, the ponies divide, revealing a Rainbow Dash, dressed in a hospital gown, sitting grumpily in a hospital bed, her wing and shoulder bandaged, and a bandaid on her head. (Design Note: Rainbow Dash should look silly in her bandages, not like she is in pain.)

15 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
How is she, Doctor?

The DOCTOR enters.

16 DOCTOR
She's going to be FINE. Luckily she has friends like you who got her over here in a jiffy.

17 RAINBOW DASH (GRUMPY)
How long do I need to lie here? I've got things I need to do.

18 DOCTOR
Well, that all depends on your recovery. But I'd say a few days minimum.

Rainbow Dash can't believe her ears.

19 RAINBOW DASH
A few days!! I thought we were talking another hour or two, tops. Are you joshin' me?! I feel FINE!

On "fine" she throws out her arms. Then quickly she winces and bends one in close to her chest.

20 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
..mostly... (earnestly) You guys have to get me outta here. I'm gonna climb the walls!

21 PINKIE PIE
Oh! Just like a spider! Did the crash somehow give her super duper spider powers?

The Doctor walks away as he responds.

22 DOCTOR
No, nor did it give her amazing healing powers. She <u>needs</u> to stay in bed for a few days.

23 RAINBOW DASH
(under her breath)
A few days... Might as well be a few months! Or a few years!

24 FLUTTERSHY
It's not so bad, Rainbow Dash.

25 APPLEJACK
I bet the chow here is hoof lickin' good!

26 RARITY
And the hospital gowns ...they ...they match the curtains!

27 PINKIE PIE
And look! You have a roommate!

Pinkie Pie pulls away the curtain divider, revealing a pony in a full body cast. Hold for a long beat as the roommate stays still and says nothing.

Rainbow Dash pouts and looks away from her friends, outside the window.

28 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I guess her face IS going to stay that way.

The ponies look at each other, worried. Twilight spots a rolling book cart nearby. She recognizes a book and excitedly pulls it out, tossing it onto Rainbow Dash's bed.

29 RAINBOW DASH (UNINTERESTED)
What's THIS.

30 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rainbow Dash, meet Daring Do, the Heroine from Corral Cove.

Rainbow Dash's POV of the book. The cover is heavily illustrated in a dramatic fashion akin to a romance novel.

31 RAINBOW DASH (V.O.)
(reading)
"Daring Do and the Quest for the Sapphire Stone"

32 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
This is the first story in the series. I own all of them!

Rainbow Dash scoffs and crosses her hooves.

33 RAINBOW DASH
NO THANKS. I SO don't read. I'm a world class athlete. Readings for Eggheads like you, Twilight. No offense. But I am not reading. Nooooo way. It's UNdeniably, UNquestionably, UNcool.

Rainbow Dash is taken aback by the chuckles from the others.

34 PONIES
Ha ha! Uncool? Hee hee!

35 APPLEJACK
Is she serious? Who doesn't like to read a bang-up tale from time to time?

36 RARITY
Why a good book is almost as magnificent as silk pajamas on a Sunday morning!

37 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Reading is for everypony, Rainbow Dash!

38 PINKIE PIE
Yeah, I love reading, and my head isn't even close to the shape of an egg. It's more the shape of an apple, or maybe a orange. But a big orange! More like a grapefr---

PONY NURSE #1 comes in and cuts Pinkie Pie off.

39 PONY NURSE #1
Alright, my little ponies. Rainbow Dash needs her rest. You'll have to come back tomorrow!

The ponies are ushered out.

40 APPLEJACK
Don't fret, Rainbow Dash. You'll be in apple pie order in no time!

Twilight leans into Rainbow Dash.

41 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I think you'd like Daring. She's a lot like you --- adventurous, fierce, and "UNdeniably, UNquestionably" UNSTOPPABLE.

Twilight exits, leaving Rainbow Dash alone with the book on her night stand. She willfully looks away from it and out her window. We see what she sees - The hospital is next to a park, where various ponies are enjoying themselves, having picnics, flying kites, throwing a ball around. Cut around to see Rainbow's face plastered up against the glass, longing to be outside.

She turns away from the window and looks at the wall clock, which reads 1:00. The second hand moves slowly, and the clock tick tocks slowly and loudly.

In a MONTAGE, Rainbow Dash tries to speed time along. The tick tock of the clock continues in the background.

1) Rainbow Dash pushes the nurse's button. Pony Nurse #1 walks in.

42 RAINBOW DASH
Um, my pillow needs fluffing.

2) Rainbow Dash draws out flying maneuvers (like a football play chart) on a small blackboard with her chalk.

3) Rainbow Dash tries to pick up a conversation with her roommate, the pony in the full body cast.

43 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
"*To get to the other side.*" (pause)
Get it? Get it?

The pony does not move.

44 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
See, ... the chicken.. get it?
...he crossed the road?...

Still nothing.

45 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Nevermind.

4) Rainbow Dash tries to balance a carrot on her nose.

5) Rainbow Dash pushes the nurse's button again. Nurse #1 walks in.

46 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Um, my pillow needs fluffing...
again.

6) Rainbow Dash plays a game of Tic-Tac-Toe with herself on the blackboard. She fills in the final square. Somehow neither 'X' nor 'O' has managed to win.

7) Rainbow Dash talks to the pony in the cast.

47 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
"*You can tune a piano but you can't tune a fish?*" Get it? Tun-a fish?

The pony does not move.

48 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Heard that one before, huh?

8) Rainbow Dash tries to balance a carrot, apple, celery stalk and head of lettuce on her nose.

9) Rainbow Dash calls the nurse in again.

49 PONY NURSE #1 (UNAMUSED)
Your pillow needs fluffing?

50 RAINBOW DASH
No. My back is itchy.

10) Rainbow Dash plays a game of Hangman (or Hangpony?) with herself on the blackboard.

She's managed to guess only one letter and the hangman is complete. She erases the board angrily.

51 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
AAAAAAAHHHHHH!!!!!!

She looks over at the wall clock which reads 1:15.

Her jaw drops and holds for a beat. Slowly, reluctantly, she moves her eyes towards the book on the night stand, almost as if she doesn't want it to see her looking at it.

52 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
<SIGH>

She opens it up to the first page, and begins reading contemptuously and with an uninterested tone.

53 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
As Daring Do trekked through the tropical jungle, the wet heat sapped her energy and slowed her every step.

The viewer is swept into the book (shown in italics throughout the script).

SC 3 - <u>EXT. TROPICAL JUNGLE - DAY</u>

Daring Do moves through the jungle. She looks exactly like Rainbow Dash but her coloring is different. Her body is a golden brown and her 'rainbow' mane is all shades of yellow and brown. She is dressed in khaki button-up shirt and shorts.

54 RAINBOW DASH (V.O.)
If only she could escape this oppressive atmosphere and fly up into the cool blue sky! But her 'crash' landing in the jungle had injured her wings and she was grounded for a few days.

SC 4 - <u>INT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - DAY</u>

55 RAINBOW DASH
(still reading)
A few days! It might as well be a few months! Or a few years!

Rainbow looks at her surroundings with disdain.

56 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
I'm right there with ya, sister!
(reading again)
The mosquitoes buzzed loudly; the macaws cried from the high trees canopies.

SC 5 - <u>EXT. TROPICAL JUNGLE - DAY</u>

Daring Do still moves through the jungle. The mosquitoes buzz loudly and the macaws cry from the canopies.

57 *RAINBOW DASH (V.O.)*
(a little more interested tone)
Yet all of these distracting noises were not enough to cover the sound of the predators following her every step.

She stops in her tracks as a tiger leaps out of the bush, blocking her path! Daring turns to go in a different direction but a panther leaps out! She turns again and a cheetah appears! Then a bobcat!

Daring Do leaps over fallen trees, dives under thick vines, and darts back and forth over the tall grasses, narrowly escaping the slashing claws of the pursuing jungle cats.

Coming to a clearing, she gallops through a rapid stream, the cats close behind. Water sprays everywhere as she gains a little distance. She continues back into the jungle.

Again she is darting through thick brush, over branches, under leaves, gaining a little distance from her enemies.

All of a sudden, she stops dead in her tracks, as the dirt at her hooves crumbles and tumbles over a 200 ft. cliff! She looks behind her and the cats are swiftly approaching. She looks everywhere for a way out.

Then she sees a vine. Just as the cats leap to attack, she grabs the vine in her teeth and sails over a giant gulch. She lands safely on the other side. She is splayed on the ground with her hair tussled and out of breath. But as she looks up at something, she smiles. Widen to reveal an ancient temple in the middle of the jungle.

Rainbow Dash narrates this last passage.

58 RAINBOW DASH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(breathless)
Safely landing on the other side, Daring finally allowed herself a moment to breath. She turned around and found herself face to face --

SC 6 - <u>INT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL</u>

Rainbow Dash is splayed on bed with her hair tussled just like Daring Do. She GULPS and regains her breath as she finishes the chapter.

59 RAINBOW DASH
--<GULP>--with the long lost temple that she had sought tirelessly for over 60 days and nights!

Rainbow Dash quickly looks up from her book.

60 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
O. M. G. I hate to admit it to myself, and would *really* hate to admit it to my friends, but I love this story. I...I... I love reading.

Dramatic music sting as we cut close on Rainbow's face.

61 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
I'M AN EGGHEAD!!!

END OF ACT I

ACT II

Act two opens up already in the book.

SC 7 - <u>EXT. TEMPLE IN TROPICAL JUNGLE - DAY</u>

62 RAINBOW DASH (V.O.)
The smell of decay and danger hit Daring Do as she peered into the dimly lit entrance of the ancient temple.

Daring Do carefully and quietly enters the dark, musty temple.

SC 8 - <u>INT. TEMPLE IN TROPICAL JUNGLE - DAY</u>

It is dimly lit by flaming torches on the walls. She begins to travel down a hall. Suddenly she hears a <CLICK> and ducks off screen. A battle axe flies in and plants itslef in the wall right where Draing's head was. She comes back on screen.

63 *DARING DO*
Whew!

She continues to walk down the hall. Again she senses something and quickly jumps up, with all four hooves planted against the walls in the narrow corridor. A section of floor collapses beneath her. She looks down and sees dark waters below with alligators chomping their jaws! She leaps to over the hole and continues her journey.

She enters a wider hallway, and notices a room at the end that is brighter. She smiles and begins to speed up. She inadvertently steps on a tile, triggering a series of boobytraps. Arrows, swords, and darts fly out of the walls as she leaps, jumps, and dives around them. Then spikes begin to pop out of the floor, one at a time, and she swiftly maneuvers around them. As hatches swing out from the ceiling on a pendulum, she rolls away from them. She finally rolls into the open room, and quickly gets to her feet. And there, in the middle of the open room, Daring Do sees the sapphire statue, glowing in an almost mystical light!

SC 9 - <u>INT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - DAY - CONTINUOUS</u>

<KNOCK KNOCK!>

Rainbow Dash quickly looks up just in time to see the door opening. She shoves the book under her covers and pats down her blanket. She throws a quirky smile on her face.

Twilight Sparkle and Fluttershy come in.

64 TWILIGHT SPARKLE AND FLUTTERSHY
Hi Rainbow Dash!

65 RAINBOW DASH
Uh, hey.. guys!

66 FLUTTERSHY
We thought we'd come and cheer you up.

Twilight places a board game box "Sky High" on the bed.

67 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We brought your favorite board game-
"Sky High"!

68 FLUTTERSHY
We know how much you like to win.

Rainbow Dash looks at the bump under her covers where the book is hiding as Twilight sets up the game. The gameboard looks like a Battleship Game, where there is a wall in between the two sides. Rainbow Dash is on one side and Twilight and Fluttershy are on the other. Instead of the battleships, the pieces are clouds, ponies, & birds.

In this scene, Rainbow Dash is faking her emotions so they are exaggerated and change quickly. She is trying to push the game along so she can get back to her book.

69 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You go first, Rainbow Dash.

70 RAINBOW DASH
(smiling)
No, no, you first!

Twilight Sparkle raises an eyebrow then shrugs.

71 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Alright, um, Cloud 3.

Rainbow Dash fakes disappointment.

72 RAINBOW DASH
Oh shucks! You rained on my
cumulus! (smiling) Go again!

73 FLUTTERSHY
Um, Sky 5?

74 RAINBOW DASH
Whoah, you got me again! You found
my seagull!

75 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Cloud 2?

76 RAINBOW DASH
Oh no! You zapped my weather pony!

77 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Ooh, you stung my bumblebee!

78 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
My Thunderbolt!

79 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
And that's my last cloud. You found it! I guess you guys win! I lose!

Twilight Sparkle and Fluttershy just sit there, dumbfounded.

80 FLUTTERSHY
But Rainbow Dash, you..you..didn't even get a turn.

Rainbow Dash smiles.

81 RAINBOW DASH
You win some, you lose some!

82 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But you don't 'lose some.' I don't think you've ever lost a game of "Sky High!"

Rainbow Dash looks up at the clock.

83 RAINBOW DASH
Well look at that! It's already time for my nap!

Rainbow Dash fakes a big <YAWN>.

She shoves the badly put away game into Twilight's arms.

84 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Thanks for coming!

Rainbow Dash can't help but glance down at the book bump under the covers. She's not paying attention to her friends.

85 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
A nap? But yesterday your were desperate for things to do.

86 RAINBOW DASH
(snapping out of it)
Do? Who said anything about Daring Do? I told you, I'm not interested in reading. It's naptime for me. I'm zonked.

Rainbow Dash lets out another big <YAWN> and points to her mouth while looking at Twilight.

Twilight is a little confused and suspicious but begins to walk out the door.

87 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Alright then...

88 FLUTTERSHY
Glad we could cheer you up.

89 RAINBOW DASH
And that you did. Look at me! All cheered up!

Rainbow Dash holds her hooves to her cheeks and makes a wide grin. The ponies walk out the door, and Rainbow Dash removes the fake grin and lets out a huge <SIGH> of relief. Rainbow Dash pulls the book from under her covers and eagerly opens it up.

90 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Daring Do stood at the entrance to the central temple chamber. At last she was face to face with the legendary Sapphire Statue.

SC 10 - <u>INT. MAIN TEMPLE CHAMBER - DAY</u>

Daring Do sees the statue in the middle of the chamber. It's a good 25 feet from her. She looks at her surroundings, knowing it isn't as easy as walking across and grabbing the statue.

She inspects the walls of the chamber. They are filled with intricate patterns. She also notices small holes in the walls.

91 *DARING DO*
Booby traps...

Looking around she sees slits in the walls and the floors.

92 *DARING DO (CONT'D)*
More booby traps...

There is a painted border continuing around all the walls. As she looks closer, she notices that it is a repeating pattern of animals: Lions, Wolves, Cats, Eagles.

93 *DARING DO (CONT'D)*
There must be a pattern here....
What do all these animals have in common?

Daring Do looks around the floor, and sees a dark square border about a foot in front of her, wrapping around the entire floor. Inside the border is a series of tiles, and in each tile, she sees each animal. Then she notices that in addition to the lions, wolves, cats, and eagles, there are rats. She figures it out.

94 *DARING DO (CONT'D)*
Aha! Those animals are all predators. Except...

Camera zooms in on a rat tile as her hoof comes down on it.

95 *DARING DO (CONT'D)*
...rats!

Pause. Nothing happens. So Daring Do carefully places another hoof on a rat tile. Safe again. She grins confidently.

Daring finally reaches the Sapphire Statue, picks it up and drops it in her satchel. She sighs in relief and relaxes for a moment.

96 *DARING DO (CONT'D)*
<sigh>

But in her relaxation, she accidentally steps backwards, and her hoof lands on a wrong tile. It begins to sink down. The chamber begins to shake. Part of the ceiling begin to fall in.

She quickly leaps away to avoid some celing debris, only to land on another non-rat tile. Desperately trying to reach the border of the floor (where the tiles stop), she jumps from sinking tile to sinking tile. She leaps for the border, but falls short. She scrambles with her front legs to hold on to the edge, as a giant cavernous pit which was once the floor, opens up into blackness.

Suddenly her satchel buckle slips and the statue rolls out. Thinking quickly, she kicks the statue with her hind leg. The statue sails over and lands directly into her mouth. She scrambles up onto the border of the floor that remains and dashes off screen.

SC 11 - <u>EXT. TROPICAL JUNGLE - DAY</u>

Out of breath, she gallops out of the temple just as the roof caves in. She collapses outside in a heap. But before she can celebrate, she sees a pair of monstrous boots in front of her!

SC 12 - <u>INT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - DAY - CONTINUOUS</u>

<KNOCK KNOCK!>

Rainbow Dash snaps out of the story. She all tangled up in her sheets. She gets herself untangled with some effort and once again shoves the book under her covers, just as Pinkie Pie, Apple Jack, and Rarity come in.

97 PINKIE PIE
Helloooo Rainbow Dash!

98 RARITY
How's our patient doing today?

Apple Jack pushes open the window.

99 APPLEJACK
We need to get some fresh air in here! You're looking sweatier than a pig wrangler on a summer's day!

Rainbow Dash quickly wipes her brow.

100 RAINBOW DASH
Well, guys, thanks for visiting, but--

Pinkie Pie hold her hoof up in a 'stop' gesture. She then starts making other strange movements.

101 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Uh, Pinkie. Why are you acting like a mime?

102 PINKIE PIE
I'm not acting like a mime. It's Charades, silly!

Pinkie Pie hops over to the other end of the room.

103 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I act something out without talking and you guess who I am! Ok, here we go!

Pinkie Pie begins to make a scooping motion with her hooves.

104 APPLEJACK
Uh, yer pulling up veggies--you're a crop picker!

Rainbow Dash is trying to be a good sport but eyes the book bulging under her cover.

105 RAINBOW DASH
Um, you're separating the clouds; you're a...a... weather pony!

106 RARITY
You're selecting exquisite gems for your next smashing fashion line. ...You're ...me!

Pinkie Pie shakes her head “no” then tries a different maneuver, making a diving motion with her front hooves.

107 APPLEJACK
Uh..uh... yer uh..shoveling dirt! You’re a troweler!

108 RAINBOW DASH
Uh...you’re diving through clouds-- you’re a... a Wonder Bolt!

109 RARITY
You’re sending fabulous fabrics and shiny zippers through the sewing machine..... You’re me!

Pinkie Pie shakes her head feverishly “no.” She tries one more motion, and does a disco motion like “stayin’ alive,” taking hoof, pointing it downwards and then up into the sky.

110 APPLEJACK
Oh gosh, you’re uh... throwin’ fertilizer plant food into the crops. You’re... you’re a farmer!

111 RAINBOW DASH
You’re uh... giving directions to a lost pegasus?

112 RARITY
I know! You’re unraveling bolts of fabric and taking measurements. ...You’re me!!

Pinkie Pie rolls her eyes and stops dead in her tracks.

113 PINKIE PIE
Gee whiz ponies! I mean, what does it take? I’m practically screaming it out to you!

114 APPLEJACK
Well, obviously we haven’t got a clue Pinkie Pie.

115 RARITY
So why don’t you enlighten us?

Pinkie does all her different pantomimes again. First she scoops.

116 PINKIE PIE
I’m a ditch digger who’s digging a pool.

She starts the diving motion.

117 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
That I then dive into for a swim.

She starts making the disco motion.

118 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Before I go out dancing! DUH!

The other ponies look at each other.

119 RAINBOW DASH
(deadpan)
Gee. I don't know we didn't get that.

120 PINKIE PIE
No kidding!

Just then, PONY NURSE #2 walks in with a food tray. Tonight's food is pretty yucky looking.

121 PONY NURSE # 2
Ok, now, dinner time for Rainbow Dash.

Rainbow Dash is so thankful.

122 RAINBOW DASH (FEIGNING SINCERITY)
Oh just in time! I am SO HUNGRY!

123 RARITY
Well, don't mind us, Rainbow Dash.

124 APPLEJACK
Yeah, go ahead and eat up!

Rarity, Apple Jack, and Pinkie Pie stand there, smiling. Rainbow Dash takes a big scoop of food and shoves it in her mouth. She makes a big deal about eating it as grossly as possible. Mouth open. Lips smacking.

125 RAINBOW DASH
<Obnoxious eating sounds>

Rarity, Apple Jack, and Pinkie Pie recoil from flying food bits and quickly leave.

126 RARITY
Uh, on second thought--

127 PINKIE PIE
We'll see you tomorrow, Rainbow Dash!

128 APPLEJACK
Sometime *between* meals.

As soon as the ponies leave, Rainbow Dash spits out the food into a nearby potted flower which instantly sags.

129 RAINBOW DASH
<YECH!!>

Rainbow Dash pushes the dinner away and grabs her book. She begins reading out loud, in a dramatic and serious tone.

130 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
You thought you could evade me and capture the relic for yourself! But you were sadly mistaken, Miss Do!

SC 13 - <u>INT. TEMPLE DUNGEON - DAY</u>

131 *AHUIZOTL*
And now you shall meet your doom!

An unseen figure holds the relic that Daring Do had just acquired. "Ha ha ha ha ha!" he laughs maniacally.

SC 14 - <u>INT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - EVENING</u>

Rainbow Dash stops and looks up from her book.

132 RAINBOW DASH
Whoah! Who's this dude?

SC 15 - <u>INT. TEMPLE DUNGEON - DAY</u>

There stands, Ahuizotl, Daring's nemesis. This supernatural, Aztec-esque villain is a doglike creature, with small monkey hands. A hand is also connected to its tail, and it boasts very pointy ears. (Character can be found in mythology literature).

Daring Do has been tied up, and lays struggling on an altar-like table in a cold stone dungeon in the temple.

133 *DARING DO*
You won't get away with this, Ahuizotl!

134 *AHUIZOTL*
But I already have!

Ahuizotl waves the relic at Daring Do and makes a quick exit from the dungeon.

Daring Do observes her surroundings. Again, that ominous rumbling noise occurs.

135 *DARING DO*
Not again!

Daring quickly looks to the side walls as they start moving towards her! Spikes poke out of the walls. Cobras squeeze out of other holes and cracks in one of the walls and slither towards her. Spiders crawl out of the cracks on the opposite wall.

Daring Do feels the altar shake. It begins to sink! She tries her best to look below her.

136 *DARING DO (CONT'D)*
Quicksand!

She struggles with all her might to loosen the ropes, but they will not budge. The altar sinks slowly but steadily into the quicksand.

137 *DOCTOR (V.O.)*
Rainbow Dash? Rainbow Dash?

SC 16 - <u>INT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - DAY</u>

Sitting up under her covers, next to a firefly lamp, Rainbow Dash realizes somepony is calling for her.

138 DOCTOR (V.O.)
(sing songy)
Rainbow Dash...

Rainbow Dash quickly appears from under the covers, her mane tussled, darkish circles under her eyes.

139 RAINBOW DASH
Oh, good even---

140 DOCTOR
--morni--

141 RAINBOW DASH
--morning, Doc!

Rainbow Dash looks out the window and realizes the sun is shining. The Doctor notices the lamp still glowing under the covers.

142 DOCTOR
Have you been up all night?

143 RAINBOW DASH
Uh --- Of course not!

Rainbow Dash taps the lamp and it goes out.

144 DOCTOR
Well, I'll be quick.

Rainbow Dash smiles, looking at the book lump under the covers.

145 RAINBOW DASH
Yes. Quick would be best.

146 DOCTOR
Congratulations, Rainbow Dash! We're checking you out of the hospital!

147 RAINBOW DASH
(worried)
What? Checking me out? Later today?

148 DOCTOR
No.

Rainbow Dash is relieved.

149 RAINBOW DASH
<sigh>

150 DOCTOR
Right now!

151 RAINBOW DASH
Right now?! What? Right now, right now?

152 DOCTOR
Right now, right now!

A group of nurses come in, and swarm Rainbow Dash. A nightgown comes off, a comb and brush come in. The audience's view is obscured by the nurses.

153 RAINBOW DASH (OBSCURED)
Oof! Hey! Wait! Ow! Oh! I'm not ready!

Before she knows it, she's being escorted out, the book still under the sheets!

154 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
But-- but...

She is shoved out the front door. The doctor and nurses wave to her.

155 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
But I don't feel better!

156 DOCTOR
Now take it easy, Rainbow Dash! Remember to stay off that wing for a week!

The hospital door closes between her and the staff.

157 RAINBOW DASH (TO HERSELF)
How am I supposed to take it easy?! HOW WILL I EVER FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO DARING DO????

END OF ACT II

ACT III

SC 17 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

Rainbow Dash is pacing back and forth in front of the hospital, upset.

158 RAINBOW DASH
Is Ahuizotl going to get away with the statuette? What's going to happen to Daring?

Rainbow thinks for a beat.

159 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Aha! Twilight has a copy of the book! But I can't ask her after I called her an EGGHEAD n' all! ....OH! This is making me sick all over again!

And that gives Rainbow Dash an idea.

SC 18 - INT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - DAY

Rainbow Dash sits in a small room on a patient bed, very casually waiting. This is not a hospital room but a room in the clinic area.

As soon as the Doctor walks in, Rainbow Dash immediately changes her attitude, pretending to be in severe pain.

160 RAINBOW DASH
<Over-the-top fake pain noises>

161 DOCTOR
Rainbow Dash, what are you doing here? Anything wrong?

Rainbow Dash rubs her head.

162 RAINBOW DASH
Well, I think I need to come back to the hospital pronto.

163 DOCTOR
Oh? Well let's take a lookie then, shall we?

The Doctor examines the little scrape on Rainbow Dash's forehead.

164 DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Doesn't look like there's anything wrong there...

165 RAINBOW DASH
(thinking quickly)
Well, um, my wing! It's still hurting, Doc.

The Doctor goes to examine her wing but touches the other one first. Rainbow Dash fakes pain.

166 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Oh, ouch! Right there.

167 DOCTOR
I was touching your good wing.

Rainbow Dash tries to fix her mistake.

168 RAINBOW DASH
Well, uh, right, well, I think that one's hurting now, too.

Dr. Doctor raises an eyebrow at her, suspicious.

169 DOCTOR
I think I know what the trouble is-
A severe case of Lazy-itus.

170 RAINBOW DASH
Lazy-itus? Oh no, is that bad? Do you need to admit me right away? Can I have my old room?

Dr. Doctor smiles.

171 DR. DOCTOR
After spending some days off in the hospital, it's normal to resist returning to work.

SC 19 - <u>EXT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER</u>

The door opens and the Doctor and the nurses push Rainbow Dash out.

172 RAINBOW DASH
But you got me all wrong, doc! I'm not being lazy--

173 DOCTOR
You're fine Rainbow Dash. Give it some time and you'll be right back in the swing of things!

174 PONY NURSE #1
Good day, Rainbow Dash.

175 PONY NURSE #2
Take care!

Rainbow Dash is back to square one. She stands there, frustrated.

Just then, a wagon from the local florist pulls up. He saunters out and grabs a large bouquet of flowers. He walks past Rainbow Dash but then stops.

176 FLORIST
Oh, I almost forgot!

He puts the bouquet down next to Rainbow Dash and turns back to go to the wagon. He looks for another floral arrangement. Rainbow Dash looks down at the bouquet.

SC 20 - <u>INT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - FRONT DESK</u>

Rainbow Dash comes down the hall hiding behind the giant bouquet of flowers. Placing it on the counter, she clears her throat. The audience should not know this is Rainbow Dash.

177 RAINBOW DASH
(low voice just like the florist)
Ahem.

The front desk pony doesn't look up.

178 FRONT DESK PONY
Yes?

179 RAINBOW DASH
Um, floral delivery for, uh, Room 12.

180 FRONT DESK PONY
Down that way.

The front desk pony points down the hallway.

181 RAINBOW DASH
Thanks.

Rainbow Dash turns, and still hiding from view, begins to walk down the corridor.

182 DOCTOR (O.S.)
Rainbow Dash?

Rainbow Dash keeps on walking, picking up the pace.

183 DOCTOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Rainbow Dash!

Rainbow Dash picks up even more speed. She knows she's been caught!

184 DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Rainbow Dash!

Rainbow Dash runs towards room l2. Just as she approaches the room, Nurse #2 walks out and Rainbow Dash plows into her. Flowers fly everywhere, and the ponies are thrown onto their rears. When Rainbow Dash looks up, there stands a stern looking Doctor and Nurse #1. Rainbow Dash smiles meekly.

185 RAINBOW DASH
Flowers anyone?

The Nurses boot her out again! She's left there in front of the hospital. The sun is going down.

186 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
This is bogus! What am I going to do? I'll never get to sleep without knowing what happens to Daring Do!

This gives Rainbow Dash and idea.

187 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
....which may not be such a bad thing...

SC 21 - <u>EXT. PONYVILLE HOSPITAL - NIGHT</u>

It is midnight, and everything is quiet and dark outside of the hospital. Some window lights are turned off. Some nurses leave by the front entrance.

Watching 10 ft away behind bushes, is Rainbow Dash. When the nurses are safely gone, Rainbow Dash creeps out of the bushes. She is wearing all black, with a hoodie. She pulls the hoodie over her head and eyes and begins to look for an open window.

She quietly climbs through the hospital window, without making a peep. She sneaks behind beds, where patients are sleeping. She creeps down the hallway. (Where ever possible, her actions should mimic Daring Do's as she entered the temple.) When she gets to room 12, she smiles.

She quietly opens the door, and moves away the curtains, where a new pony patient is sleeping. But she doesn't see the book anywhere. She looks on the nightstand, carefully under the pillow, and finally under the bed. Aha! There's the book, resting right under the bed!

Just as she pulls out the book, the patient awakens. Upon seeing Rainbow Dash, the patient freaks out.

188 PONY PATIENT
Help! Burglar! Burglar! Someone is trying to steal my slippers!

189 RAINBOW DASH
I'm not trying to steal your slippers! I'm TRYING to steal this book!

Rainbow runs for the door. But (just like Daring Do) she stops in her tracks as Nurse# 1 leaps out, blocking her path! Rainbow turns to go out a different doorway but Nurse # 2 leaps out! She turns again and the patient leaps out of bed in one corner of the room! Then the Doctor appears (out of nowhere) in the other corner!

Suddenly, Nurse #1 darts forward.

190 PONY NURSE #1
STOP THIEF!

Rainbow Dash swerves out of her way, drops the book and dashes through the newly clear doorway. But as she is doing so she knocks over a serving cart full of plates and cutlery which scatters along the floor in front of her. She attempts to fly over it, but realizes that her wing is still injured.

191 RAINBOW DASH
Ow!

She is grounded! And the nurses and doctor are right behind her.

Desperately trying to reach the end of the hallway (like Daring Do trying to escape from the animal tile room in the temple) Rainbow jumps from open area to open area around the spilled cutlery. She's almost there when a security guard appears in front of the exit. She leaps over him (like Daring Do leaping to escape the pit) and runs out of the hospital.

Rainbow Dash gallops through town, being chased by the nurses and security from the hospital, all shining flashlights at her. All of the ruckus wakes up ponies.

As Rainbow Dash gallops by, Pinkie Pie sticks her head out of the window, wearing a pink sleeping cap.

192 PINKIE PIE
Hey! No one invited me!

Rainbow Dash gallops past Rarity's house, waking her up. Rarity comes out clutching her silk kimono.

193 RARITY
Hasn't anyone heard of beauty sleep?

Every time Rainbow Dash turns a corner, she seems to have more flashlights shined on her, and she must go the other way.

Finally, near the Library, Rainbow Dash comes to a screeching halt as Twilight opens the door in front of her. All of the hospital staff surround her. The Doctor shines a flashlight in her face.

194 DOCTOR
Rainbow Dash? What in the world is going on? Why are you stealing slippers?

Pinkie Pie joins the group.

195 PINKIE PIE
Yeah, if you put on slippers you won't be able to climb the walls with your sticky spider feet!

Rarity, Fluttershy and Applejack show up.

196 APPLEJACK
What's all the ruckus?

197 PINKIE PIE
Hmm, I'd say it's more of a fracas than a ruckus.

198 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What's going on, Rainbow Dash?

Slow truck in on Rainbow Dash as she squirms.. She takes a deep breath. She knows she must come clean.

199 RAINBOW DASH
<sigh> I snuck into the hospital...because...well, I'm an egghead!

200 RARITY
Pardon?

201 FLUTTERSHY
What?

202 PINKIE PIE
Whatchoo talkin' about Rainbow Dash?!

203 RAINBOW DASH
There, I said it. I'm an egghead. See, I was trying to get back into the hospital to finish the last chapter of--

Twilight interrupts.

204 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Daring Do and the Quest for the Sapphire Statue!

Rainbow Dash nods.

205 RAINBOW DASH
You got me.

206 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wow. I knew the book was good but I didn't know it could drive a pony to petty theft!

Rainbow Dash explains.

207 RAINBOW DASH
Good? Try awesomely amazing! That book is UNdeniably, UNquestionably, UN-put-down-able. But then I *had* to put it down! I was sent home before I could finish it.
(MORE)

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
So I snuck back into the hospital, and, well, you know the rest.

Everyone nods, understanding.

208 PONY NURSE #1 (TO DOCTOR)
It is a pretty good book.

209 DOCTOR (TO NURSE #1)
I couldn't put it down!

Her ponies friends comfort her.

210 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well, I'm glad that's all this is about!

211 APPLEJACK
There's no reason to go around causing a ruckus-

212 PINKIE PIE
Fracas.

213 APPLEJACK
Causing a <u>fracas</u> just because you like to read!

SC 22 - <u>INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT</u>

Twilight Sparkle levitates the book from its bookcase down to the her, Rainbow Dash, and Spike.

214 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Like I said, I have every book in the series, and you can borrow them all! Any time you like.

215 RAINBOW DASH
Thanks Twilight. I'm sorry I made such a big deal about all this. I was just too embarrassed to admit I liked reading after I gave you such a hard time. I thought reading was just for smart ponies like you.

216 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rainbow Dash! Just because you're athletic doesn't mean you aren't smart!

Spike strikes a muscley pose.

217 SPIKE
Yeah. Just look at me.

The ponies ignore him.

218 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Reading is something everypony can enjoy! If they just give it a try.

219 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, I get it. I shouldn't knock something until I've tried it.

220 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
That's a great lesson. And it would make a great letter to the princess.

Rainbow Dash looks over at Spike.

221 RAINBOW DASH
Did you get all that?

222 SPIKE
Yeah?

223 RAINBOW DASH
Great! You write the letter. I gotta finish this book!!

Rainbow Dash grabs the levitating book in her mouth and hightails it out of there.

CUT TO:

SC 23 - <u>INT. TEMPLE DUNGEON - DAY</u>

Daring Do, tightly wound in ropes, struggles unsuccessfully, all the while continually sinking towards the quicksand. The walls, snakes and spiders are all closing in. No matter how hard she tries, she cannot free herself from the rope.

224 *DARING DO*
It feels like the harder I struggle, the tighter the ropes get!

Daring Do struggles more as she is only inches away from the quicksand. Then she hears a voice.

225 *MASTER ICHI (V.O.)*
Student, remember the teachings of your Sensei.

Master Ichi appears floating transparently in the room.

226 *DARING DO*
Master Ichi!

227 *MASTER ICHI*
Tension is binding. Relax your mind, relax your body.

As quickly as Master Itchey appears, he is gone.

228 *DARING DO*
Relax my mind, relax my body.

Daring Do closes her eyes and goes into a special meditation, relaxing instead of struggling. She sinks under the sand until there is no movement. After a beat, she leaps out of the sand, freed from the ropes.

She is safe, but only for a moment! The spiked walls continue to close in. She looks up an notices that there is a small air hole. She looks around but there is no way to get up there. The snakes and spiders are all crawling towards her from opposite sides. As the walls come towards each other, Daring realizes she can use the spikes like rungs of a step ladder. Just as the snakes and spiders are about to reach her, she leaps up and out of the way onto a spike. The spiders and snakes go into battle with each other!

She leaps onto a higher spike on the opposite wall, and then to an even higher spike on the first wall. She does this swiftly all the way up to the ceiling, and just as the spikes close in on her, she wriggles through the air hole. She has escaped the dungeon!

SC 24 - <u>EXT. TEMPLE ROOF - DAY - CONTINUOUS</u>

Daring Do brushes herself off.

229 *DARING DO*
Another day, another dungeon!

She runs off looking for a way to climb down from the temple.

SC 25 - <u>EXT. JUNGLE HIDEOUT - DAY - CONTINUOUS</u>

Ahuizotl sits in his outdoor compound, surrounded by his resting jungle cats. He admires the sapphire statue in his hands. Its eyes glisten.

Behind him near the ground, an unknown pony dressed in worn out khakis, a button up shirt, and a leather hat, is hogtied and hanging from a horizontal pole.

230 *AHUIZOTL*
With Daring Do out of the way, the world will suffer mightily at my hands, and there is nothing YOU, Nebraska Ned, can do about it!

Ahuizotl stands and raises the statue high in the air.

231 *AHUIZOTL (CONT'D)*
I AM VICTORIOUS!! Ha ha ha!

Just then Daring Do swings on a vine and snatches the statue out of his hands.

232 *DARING DO*
I'll take that!

She swings off screen, calling out for Nebraska Ned.

233 *AHUIZOTL*
What?!!????

As she swings back in, she ducks her head under the pole and lifts Nebraska Ned. She hoists him up over her shoulder and swings off screen again.

234 *AHUIZOTL (CONT'D)*
NOOOOOO!!!!!!

From a far away hill, Daring Do calls out.

235 *DARING DO*
Better luck next time, Ahuizotl!

236 *NEBRASKA NED*
If there <u>is</u> a next time!

Ahuizotl turns around, and is suddenly face to face with the ancient sapphire spirits of the jungle.

237 *SAPPHIRE SPIRIT #1*
We've been looking for you, Ahuizotl.

238 *SAPPHIRE SPIRIT #2*
You must pay for your evil deeds!

They pull Ahuizotl away into the darkness of the jungle.

239 *AHUIZOTL*
Wait! I'm not the one you want! There's some misunderstanding! Daring Do has your statue! Wait! Who's going to feed my cats?!

SC 26 - <u>EXT. FAR AWAY HILL - DUSK - CONTINUOUS</u>

Daring pulls out the relic from her satchel as she looks back at the jungle. Nebraska Ned is just finishing untying the ropes from his hind legs.

240 *AHUIZOTL (O.S.)*
Curse you Nebraska Ned! Curse you, Daring Do!!!

241 *RAINBOW DASH*
And so with Ahuizotl defeated and the Sapphire Statue secured,...

SC 27 - <u>INT. RAINBOW DASH'S ROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT</u>

242 RAINBOW DASH
(reading)
...the world was safe and sound once again. Thanks to Daring Do.

Rainbow Dash takes a deep breath and looks away from the book.

243 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
AAAHHHHHHH! THAT WAS AMAZING!!!

SC 28 - <u>INT. LIBRARY - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT</u>

Twilight and Spike are fast asleep when there is a loud <knocking> from downstairs. Twilight reluctantly gets up.

244 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(sleepily)
What's all the ruckus?

245 SPIKE
(eyes still closed)
Fracas.

SC 29 - <u>EXT. LIBRARY DOOR</u>

Twilight opens the door. Rainbow Dash is standing there with the book.

246 RAINBOW DASH
(trying to be casual)
Hey Twilight. Just wanted to return this to you asap.
(MORE)

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
And since you said I could borrow the others *anytime*, I was hoping I could snag the second book from you, like, right now.

Twilight looks at her for a beat before disappearing with the book behind the open door. After a beat she returns with a different book. Rainbow takes it from her quickly.

247 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(reading)
"Daring Do and the Griffon's Goblet"
(giddy whisper)
Awesome!!!!

She dashes off. Twilight watches her go with a knowing smile.

248 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
<gently laughing> Wait 'til she gets to the *third* one!

End of Act III - The End