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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II

"Reading Rainbow"

Episode 216

Outline by
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Teaser

Pinkie Pie and Rarity are looking up at the sky. Twilight Sparkle comes up to them, curious. "What are you ponies looking at?" asks Twilight. "Over there!" explains Pinkie Pie, "We're watching Rainbow Dash. Isn't she the most daring devil...I mean the most devilish darer?" Twilight looks up and sees Rainbow Dash zooming and looping and yes, being a daring devil! From the ponies' POV, they watch Rainbow Dash (whom we never see); their eyes dart left to right, right to left, swirling around as they try to keep track of Rainbow Dash. All of a sudden, Pinkie cries out, "uh oh!...." Twilight exclaims, "oh oh oh oh!" Rarity, "ay yay yay..." Their eyes are frozen watching Rainbow until suddenly they all wince. And there is a huge off screen <CRASH!>! Pinkie Pie opens up an eye. "I bet that one hurt."

Act I

Rainbow Dash sits in a hospital bed, her head, wing, and leg bandaged. She has a thermometer in her mouth. Twilight (with Spike), Pinkie Pie, Rarity, Applejack, and Rarity are there, concerned. Rainbow Dash is annoyed and angry to be there. "You were very lucky, Rainbow Dash. You're going to have to spend a little time in first gear, not like your usual high gear," explains Dr. Hoarse. Rainbow Dash grunts and complains "I could be stuck in here for days, months...even years! You ponies have to get me outta here! I'm going to die of boredom!" It's not so bad, Rainbow Dash," Fluttershy offers, "the birds sing so beautifully outside your window." Rarity tries to help. "And the hospital gowns....they...they match the curtains!" "And look you've already made a new friend!" exclaims Pinkie Pie, referring to the pony next to Rainbow Dash who is completely wrapped in a full body cast and is moaning. Rainbow Dash doesn't buy it.

Just then a nurse comes in rolling a book cart. Twilight eyes a special series of books. She pulls out a book and tosses it on Rainbow Dash's bed. "What is THIS?" Rainbow Dash asks with little interest. "Rainbow Dash, meet Daring Do, Adventurer and Heroine from Corral Cove. This is the first story from the series. I own all of them!" Rainbow Dash looks at the cover. It reads: Daring Do and the Quest for the Sapphire Statue. She scoffs. "I SO don't read. I'm a world class athlete...not....an EGGHEAD! I mean, Twilight, YOU'RE an egghead! Not me! No, no. I'm not reading. Nooooo way." All the ponies chuckle. They can't believe that Rainbow Dash thinks reading is uncool. Who ever heard of that?! Visiting hours are over and the nurse comes in. Rainbow Dash pleads, "Do you all have to go? I'm going to be SO BORED!!" As Twilight leaves, she tells Rainbow Dash, "I think you'd like Daring. She's a lot like you—adventurous, daring, and FIERCE. Give it a try."

Reading is the last thing Rainbow Dash wants to do in the hospital. She continually pushes the nurse's button for snacks, she tries to balance carrots on her nose, makes up flying maneuvers in her head, she even tries to start up a conversation with the full-body casted pony in the next bed over. The clock ticks by loudly as she waits....and waits....and waits....for something, anything, anypony. Finally, she eyes the book again,

and decides to give it a try. She contemptuously begins to read the first chapter in a mocking tone, “As Daring Do trekked through the tropical jungle, she could feel the wet heat on the back of her neck. The mosquitoes buzzed loudly, and macaws cried from the high trees above. Yet through all of these noises, she could still sense the predators following her every step.”

The audience is sucked into the story, where *Daring Do is on a dangerous adventure to reach a top secret destination. All of a sudden, she is attacked by multiple jungle cats! Tigers, panthers, bobcats, and cheetahs all chase Daring in and out of the tall overgrowth of the jungle. She must leap over fallen trees, dive under thick vines, and leap over rapid streams. She stops in her tracks as she comes to a 200 ft. cliff! Grabbing onto a vine with her teeth she sails over the giant gulch. She lands safely, looks up, and discovers herself right at the entrance to the mysterious temple that she’s been seeking for the last 5 days!*

Rainbow Dash looks up from the book, riveted and completely engrossed in the adventures of Daring Do. “OH. MY. GOSH. I AM AN EGGHEAD!”

Act II

Back in the story, *Daring quietly enters the dark, musty temple. It has been uninhabited for centuries. She daringly escapes several ancient traps, including booby trapped arrows and collapsing floors. Maneuvering around walls of snakes and hoof-sized spiders, Daring finally makes her way to the opalesque statuette, embedded with jewels. It is within her grasp!*

<Knock! Knock!> Rainbow Dash quickly looks up to see the door creaking open. She quickly hides the book under her covers and pats down her blanket. Twilight and Fluttershy come in to give Rainbow Dash some company. They bring in a board game that they know Rainbow loves to win at. Rainbow Dash, dying to get back to her book, purposely loses at the game. “Oh shucks! I lost!” “Wow,” Twilight replies, “I don’t think you’ve ever lost at this game!” Rainbow Dash shrugs, “You win some, you lose some.” Fluttershy remarks what a good sport Rainbow Dash is being! With a quick, very fake yawn, Rainbow Dash ushers the ponies out for her “much needed nap.”

Daring Do stands in the dimly lit room, where in the middle, the ancient relic sits. She looks around to inspect her surroundings. The designs on the wall tell a story of the room, and soon Daring discovers this is the “Room of Cobras.” Looking down, she sees that the floor is patterned with similar looking images and patterns. She can tell that it is booby trapped. One false move and the whole floor will cave in! She notices the different animals drawn in on the floor. Hmm...cats, wolves, rats, eagles, lions All of these things are predators...except for the rat! Snakes like to eat rats! Daring decides to only step on the floor tiles with rats on them. With each step, she is safe, and she gets closer to the relic. From behind a wall, a pair of eyes watches. Quietly he disappears. Daring finally gets to the Sapphire Statue, picks it up and drops it into her satchel. She makes

the mistake of relaxing for a moment and accidentally steps on a tile depicting an eagle. The floor sinks down, setting off an intruder alarm! Daring quickly leaps away as part of the floor caves, only to step on another tile which crumbles under her weight. She leaps again, but misses the edge of the floor. She scrambles with her front legs to hold on as a giant cavernous pit opens up into blackness. Suddenly her satchel buckle slips and the statue rolls out. Thinking quickly she kicks it with her hind leg. The statuette sails over and lands directly into her mouth. She scrambles up onto the last bit of floor and dashes out of site.

Out of breath, she gallops out of the temple as it caves in. She collapses outside in a heap at the last possible moment. But before she can celebrate, she sees a pair of monstrous legs in front of her!

<Knock! Knock!> Rainbow Dash is once again disturbed from her adventure and must quickly hide her novel. Pinkie Pie and Rarity have come to keep her company! They felt so guilty the last time when the nurse shooed them out that they just had to come again. Rainbow Dash pretends to be excited to see them. Pinkie Pie dives into a game of charades. Rainbow Dash can't even figure out one of Pinkie Pie's charades. Rarity isn't much better! Luckily, the nurse comes in and asks the ponies to depart, as Rainbow Dash needs to have her dinner now, and once again, visiting hours are over.

After dinner, the nurse turns off the light. Rainbow Dash quickly grabs her fire-fly lamp and heads under the covers to continue the adventure with Daring Do.

"You thought you could evade me and capture the relic for yourself! But you were sadly mistaken, Miss Do! And now you shall meet your doom!" reads Rainbow Dash.

An unseen figure holds the relic in his hand and holds it up high, laughing madly. Daring Do has been...captured!

"OH NO!" cries Rainbow Dash.

There stands Ahuizotl, Daring's nemesis. This supernatural, Aztec-esquel villain is a dog-like creature, with small monkey hands. It has a hand on its tail and pointy ears! Daring has been tied up, and lays struggling on an altar-like table in a cold stone dungeon. "You won't get away with this, Ahuizotl!" Daring yells. "But I already have!" replies Ahuizotl as he waves the relic and escapes out the side of the room.

Daring observes her surroundings. As she looks to the side, she notices that the walls, full of spikes, are pushing towards her! Cobras squeeze out of holes and cracks in the walls and slither towards her. As if it couldn't get any worse, she feels the altar shake. It begins to sink! She looks below. "Quicksand!" she realizes. She struggles to undo the ropes tied around her, without luck. The altar sinks slowly but steadily towards the quicksand...

"Rainbow Dash?" calls out Dr. Hoarse, as he sees a lump under the bed covers. Rainbow Dash quickly climbs out. "Uh, good morning, Doctor!" "Have you been up all night?" Rainbow Dash sees the lamp still on under the covers and knocks on it. The fireflies quickly shut off their lights. "Uh, of course not!" "Well, don't worry, Rainbow Dash. I'll be quick." Rainbow Dash sighs. Now she can finish the book! "You're being checked out!"

Congratulations Rainbow Dash,” exclaims Dr. Hoarse with a smile. “You’re in good enough shape to leave!” The nurses come in, and before she knows it, she’s being escorted out, the book still under the bed sheets! “But I don’t feel better!” lies Rainbow Dash. “Now take it easy, Rainbow Dash! Remember to stay off that wing for a week.” says the Dr. as he waves goodbye.

ACT III

“How am I supposed to take it easy?!” Rainbow Dash complains to herself outside the hospital. “Is Ahuizotl going to get away with the statuette? What’s happened to Daring?! How will I ever find out what happens?!?” Then she remembers. “Wait! Twilight has read the book. Maybe I can trick her into telling me the ending!” She gallops over to the library. Twilight is surprised to see that her friend has been released and enquires about how she’s feeling. Rainbow Dash does her best to play it cool and steer the conversation casually towards Daring but she is too anxious and Twilight grows suspicious. Rainbow realizes that there’s no way she can get the ending without admitting she’s become an egghead. And her pride just won’t allow her to admit she was wrong about reading. Rainbow Dash decides she’ll try to get back into the hospital to retrieve the book from the room. First, she goes to the hospital, feigning injury. She comes up with some ailments, too many in fact. Dr. Hoarse replies, “Rainbow Dash, I think you have a case of feelin-lazy-itus.” “Huh?” Rainbow Dash asks. The Doctor explains that it’s perfectly normal to not want to go straight back to work after having all those days off from the hospital. The nurse kindly kicks her out.

Then Rainbow Dash sneaks in behind a delivery pony bringing in flowers. As she sneaks behind, she hears a stern Dr. Hoarse, “Rainbow DASH?” She looks behind her and Dr. Hoarse is standing there with the same nurse. She’s been caught. She gets booted out again!

Finally, later that night, Rainbow Dash makes one more attempt to get to the book. Adorning a black outfit and mask to minimize her appearance, she quietly climbs through the hospital window and sneaks behind beds, where patients are sleeping. She comes to her old bed, which is now occupied by another pony. She looks under the bed, then the pillow, and then tries to search under the covers of the sheets. Aha!! There is the book! Just as she pulls it out, the patient awakes. Seeing her, the patient freaks out. “Burglar! Burglar! Someone is trying to steal my slippers!” Rainbow Dash is annoyed, “I’m not trying to steal your slippers! I’m trying to steal this book!” All of a sudden, the pony nurses and orderlies burst into the room, looking for the burglar. Rainbow Dash drops the book and quickly jumps out the window. She tries to fly, but her wing still hurts. She’s grounded!

Rainbow Dash runs through town, chased by hospital staff. The ruckus wakes up the ponies, who want to know what’s going on! Finally Rainbow Dash is cornered near Twilight’s house and has no place to go. Dr. Hoarse comes forward and shines a lamp. “Rainbow Dash? What on earth is going on? Are you really stealing slippers?” Twilight

Sparkle and other ponies, including her friends, also approach. “Rainbow Dash? What’s going on?” asks Twilight. “Maybe she still has a head injury,” offers Applejack. Rainbow Dash sighs and explains that all she wanted to do was finish the last chapter in the Daring Do series, that the book was so adventurous and exciting, that Twilight was right....and....that SHE’S an egghead! She didn’t mean to cause such a commotion. Twilight smiles. “I’m just glad that’s all this IS about!” Pinkie Pie interrupts, “I agree. There’s no reason to go around stealing slippers just because you like to read!” At Twilight’s house, Twilight hands her copy of the book to Rainbow Dash. “I never thought I’d enjoy reading so much. I’m sorry I called you an egghead. I just thought reading was for smart people, not jocks like me.” Twilight disagrees, “hold on a second. Just because you’re athletic doesn’t mean you’re not also smart! Reading is for everyone to enjoy!” “You’re right. I shouldn’t knock something until I’ve tried it!” Twilight is impressed. “Well, that is a great lesson you’ve learned Rainbow Dash. That would make a great letter to the princess!” Rainbow Dash, drooling over the book, looks over at Spike. “Did you get all that?” “Yeah, why?” “Great! You write the letter! I’ve gotta finish this book!!!”

Daring, struggling, continues to sink towards the quicksand. No matter how hard she tries, she cannot free herself from the rope. But then, she remembers the words of her Master AtchiKotchi. “Tension is binding. Relax your mind, relax your body.” She goes into a special meditation, relaxing every muscle in her body. She closes her eyes as she sinks below the surface of the quicksand. After a beat, she leaps out of the sand. The spiked walls continue to close in. The snakes and spiders attack her, each from one side. And just as they are about to reach her, she leaps up and out of the way. The spiders and snakes go into battle with each other. As the walls come inwards, Daring bounds from one spike on a wall to another spike on the opposite wall. She swiftly makes her way up, She fits through a tiny air hole in the ceiling. She has escaped the dungeon!

Ahuizotl sits in his compound, surrounded by his predator jungle cats, the ones that were chasing Daring at the beginning of the book. He holds his relic, relishing in his victory. Behind him, an unknown pony with an Indiana Jones type hat and costume on is tied up around a pole. Ahuizotl gloats, “With Daring Do out of the way, the llama tribe will now suffer, and (pointing to the tied up pony) there is nothing, you, Nebraska Ned can do about it! I AM VICTORIOUS!” He holds up the statuette high above his head, just as Daring swings in on a vine, grabbing it out of his hand. She also grabs her “dude in distress” and flies off screen. “NOOOOO!” cries Ahuizotl. From a far away hill, Daring calls back, “Better luck next time, Ahuizotl!” She gallops off. The dude in distress calls out to Ahuizotl, “See ya, wouldn’t want to be ya!” Ahuizotl turns around, to be face to face with the ancient llama spirits of the jungle. They’ve heard that someone in the jungle has been acting very naughty. They drag him off into the darkness of the forest.

At the roof of the temple of the Llama Tribe, Daring pulls out the relic. She is standing in front of a large stone structure, with 4 similar looking relics positioned perfectly around it. In the empty spot, Daring places the relic. All of a sudden, the relic glows and the gems shine, and other other 4 follow. It turns out to be the key to the aquaduct that had been frozen, unable to provide water to the thousands of llamas in the valley. As the aquaduct walls rise, the water rushes down a fall and into the reservoir belonging to the

llamas. They rejoice and cheer for their heroine Daring Do. Nebraska Ned approaches Daring. "You've saved the relic, you've saved the llamas, and you've saved me. Daring, I'd say you saved the day." Daring, "That's what I do. That's what I do."

"AAAAHHHHHHHH.....That was AMAZING!!!" cries Rainbow Dash. She takes a deep sigh. She looks down at the book.

Daring and Ned get closer.

Rainbow Dash looks up from the book. "Yech." She says. But she can't help look again.

Daring and Ned get even closer. They are about to kiss.

Rainbow Dash looks away again. Beat. She turns one eye down and reads the rest of the book. She giggles like a school girl.

THE END.