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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II

"No Tank You"

Or

"The Tortoise and the Mare"

Episode 207

Outline by
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TEASER

RAINBOW DASH is zooming, zigging, and zagging enthusiastically through the skies! She's in her element and having a great time. She hears a HOOT, and suddenly OWLOWICIOUS is there, swooping around with her. Cool! Then she hears a DOG BARK, and is shocked to see Owlowicious's HEAD morph into the head of WINONA the border collie! Another swoop and Winona's HEAD morphs into ANGEL the bunny's, with the BODY of GUMMY the baby alligator and the wings of Owlowicious! When this strange creature opens its mouth the angry yowl of OPAL the cat comes out!

Rainbow startles awake from her nap in a TREE in the PARK, surrounded by the real Opal who is yowling at the rest of her pony pals' PETS at the foot of the tree.

ACT I

TWILIGHT, RARITY, PINKIE, FLUTTERSHY, and APPLEJACK are in the park for a pet playdate. Rainbow, the only member of the gang without an animal buddy, is a little indignant about being left out and, after the dream she just had, decides she wants a pet now too!

Fluttershy excitedly leads Rainbow Dash into her OWN BACKYARD, where there are just oodles of precious potential pets. FS, excited one of her friends wants to share in her interest, is unusually exuberant as she geeks out showing Rainbow all the adorable little animals she has to choose from: KITTIES, BUNNIES, CHIPMUNKS, MICE, & other ground-bound, cutesy wootsey snuggy wuggy critters - the kinds of pets RD is *not* interested in. She doesn't want cute, she wants *coool*. Also, any pet of RD's has to be able to keep up with her. And by up, she means up in the sky! RD is all about flying and doesn't want a pet that's going to ground her. So FS switches gears and eagerly shows Rainbow the wide variety of flying animals she has in her yard: an EAGLE, a DRAGONFLY, a FLAMINGO, a HUMMINGBIRD, a LADYBUG, a TOUCAN, a PELICAN, a MONARCH BUTTERFLY, a BARN OWL, a MALLARD DUCK, a WASP, a FALCON, a BAT. Rainbow's eyes light up with delight at the awesomeness of some of them: "Now we're talking!" But though she is excited and impressed by many of the fliers, she can't help but feel that something is missing. She just can't put her hoof on what it is. But, dude, how cool would it be to have a pet bat? She's psyched! Then immediately changes her mind and chooses the falcon. Then changes her mind again and chooses the wasp. No, the dragonfly! She can't make up her mind! RD: "I want the most awesome pet I can get! I can't settle for less than the best, because *I'm* the best!"

Rainbow decides that she needs to hold auditions/tryouts, and the winner will have the honor of getting to be her pet. Let the games begin! And may the best pet win!

ACT II

Rainbow is now dressed and acting like a COACH (whistle, baseball cap). Twilight, Rarity, Pinkie, and Applejack watch, ready to cheer the contestants on. RD paces back and forth in front of her lineup of assorted flying pet candidates. At the end of the row of fliers, she is taken aback to see... a TORTOISE? What's he doing here? There's no way he can keep up! Look at him! But charitable Fluttershy reveals she brought him along, explaining that this cumbersome creature has always longed to be a pet and really wants a chance to compete. She convinces Rainbow to just let him *try* (like your mom making you let your way-too-little brother play kickball with you and your friends). Rainbow gives the pet contenders a run down of what she's looking for in a pet and therefore what they are going to be tested on: "Speed, agility, guts, style, coolness, awesomeness, and radicalness." TWILIGHT: "Coolness, awesomeness, and radicalness? Aren't those all the same thing?" RD: "You would think that... and that's why you would never qualify!"

And so the games commence. In each riveting, exciting event, one animal competitor comes to the forefront as a winner, and all the while, the tortoise comically proves he has no place in the competition, but is too stubborn to quit. At the end of the round, all the butterflies, ladybugs, and such have bowed out. The only animals left are all the most impressive and awesome competitors, any one of whom would make a great pet for Rainbow Dash... and then there's the tortoise.

The final contest that will break the tie among these remaining competitors and decide the winner once and for all is a race against Rainbow Dash herself! Through GHASTLY GORGE! RD says she will of course easily win the race, but whichever contestant crosses the finish line *with* her will have proven they can keep up and will get to be her pet.

Ready, set, go! All the flying animals take off in a flash with RD in the lead, while the tortoise slowly trudges away from the starting line. The challenges in the Ghastly Gorge require all the traits RD is looking for in a pet. There are TWISTY CANYONS at the beginning that the contestants must speed through, Pod Race style, careful not to disturb the unstable BALANCING BOULDERS. The force of Pegasus pony RD's flight creates WIND STORMS which blow the smaller competitors away. Then there's a forest of prickly CACTUSES as tall as trees that the racers have to navigate through at high speed. And most perilous of all are the QUAR-RAY EELS: flying, serpentine, snapping creatures that pop out of holes in the rock faces of the narrow Gorge and attack anyone who flies by their nests! Right after RD makes it through the eels, she looks back over her shoulder to see who else has gotten through, and, not watching where she's going, runs smack into the side of the ravine! Then <RUMBLE> RD looks up to see rocks falling down towards her! Avalanche! One falling rock flies right at camera filling the frame to black.

ACT III

Rainbow leaps out of the way of the falling boulder and continues the race, which has now been made even more dangerous by the random falling rocks! RD dodges them by the skin of her teeth. She was able to play it cocky with the windstorms of her own creation and the familiar layout of the canyons, but now she's dealing with the unknown. She didn't practice for an avalanche obstacle course! Because she has to slow down to dodge falling boulders, the remaining competitive birds and bat catch up with her, and the speedy falcon even zooms ahead! RD: "Hey! I'm the one who's supposed to win!" Because of this distraction, one of the falling rocks knocks RD out of frame!

On the floor of the Gorge, one of Rainbow's WINGS is pinned under the fallen rock. She struggles but can't get free! Rocks are still raining all around, the competition has taken a very serious turn. RD looks up and sees the racers flying by high in the sky overhead. She calls out to them frantically for help! But they are too far away to see or hear her. They all pass her by! "No! Come back! Don't leave me!" As the last bird disappears, RD, prone to exaggeration when things don't go her way, pathetically wallows in despair. She's certain that she's going to spend the rest of eternity pinned under a rock. Her days of awesomeness are surely over! All hope is lost. That is, until along comes the tortoise! He's lumbering in slowly, on the ground where he can see and hear RD in distress. While RD is melodramatically telling him to go on without her and save himself, the tortoise stubbornly tries to pry the rock off her wing, using his neck like a car jack. He strains and struggles, sweat pouring down his reptilian neck, pushing past Rainbow's cries that it's all for not. Will he succeed?

Cut to the FINISH LINE, where the other Ponies plus SPIKE cheer as the falcon comes in first. But as the rest of the remaining competitors make their way across the finish line, everyone grows concerned: "Where's Rainbow Dash?!" They look over to the exit of the Gorge and realize for the first time that there's been an avalanche! Just as they are starting to rush into the Gorge to find their friend, one gigantic boulder falls and blocks the exit, dust and debris filling the air! Oh, no! But then, slowly through the haze, the shadowy SILHOUETTE of a figure emerges: it's the tortoise! And he's carrying Rainbow Dash on his back! PONIES: "Hooray!"

Loooooong beat as the tortoise moves at the speed of molasses. "Maybe we'd better go meet him half way." They all rush over to the tortoise and RD, cheering him on as he carries RD the final length past the finish line.

The race is over. Fluttershy presents RD with her new pet: the falcon who won the race. But Rainbow reminds everyone of the rule: Whoever crosses the finish line *with* her wins. And in fact, the *only* one who crossed the finish line *with* RD was the tortoise who stopped to help her!

With Spike standing by, RD dictates a LETTER TO THE PRINCESS, reflecting on how she had thought that only physical prowess was important to her in a pet, but it turns out

the most important quality is spirit! That's the certain "something" she just couldn't put her hoof on before: a force of will, stick-to-it-iveness, never-give-up, can-do attitude that's the mark of a real winner. And this tortoise has it, even when she herself didn't! RD: "You just can't stop him! He's like a... Tank!" (And thus, our new recurring pony pet character, TANK the tortoise, gets his name.)

But Fluttershy reminds Rainbow that she didn't want a pet who will 'keep her grounded'. RD seriously considers this...

Cut to the PARK, later, where the ponies are all playing with their respective pets again. In the SKY above the park, Rainbow Dash flies in, calling behind her: "Come on, Tank! We're going to be late for the pony pet play date!" We hear a *pft-pft-pft* fluttering sound... then the tortoise putters in after RD, flying with a PROPELLER BEANIE on his shell!

THE END