Distribution:

Production:
Sarah Wall
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
James Wootton
Angela Belyea
Ridd Sorensen
Lesley Crawford

Discovery/Hasbro:
Donna Ebbs
Carin Davis
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Stephen Cramer

Hasbro Studios:
Stephen Davis
Linda Steiner
Kathy Page
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro IP & Brand:
Mark Wiesenhahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

Hasbro Design:
Liz Knight
Dean Carley

MY LITTLE PONY III

"Wonderbolt Academy"

Episode 308

Written by

Merriwether Williams

Polish: Oct 31, 2011

Notes Due: Nov 1, 2011

TEASER

EXT. RAINBOW DASH'S HOUSE - DAY

RAINBOW DASH, surrounded by PINKIE PIE, TWILIGHT, RARITY and FLUTTERSHY, stands by her mailbox, awaiting a delivery. Their HOT AIR BALLOON parked nearby.

1 PINKIE PIE
Oh, I wish the mailpony would just come already. I can't wait another minute to find out if Rainbow Dash got in or not.

2 TWILIGHT
Pinkie Pie, you're more nervous than Rainbow Dash.

3 RAINBOW DASH
I'm not nervous at all. When I get into the Wonderbolt Academy--

4 PINKIE PIE
<u>If</u> you get in...<u>if</u> you get in...don't jinx it!

5 RAINBOW DASH
I'm telling you, it's in the bag.

6 PINKIE PIE
Don't jinx it!

7 APPLEJACK
She is the best flyer in Ponyville.

8 RAINBOW DASH
In Ponyville? I'm probably the best flyer in all of Equestria. Wouldn't be surprised if they just went ahead and made me a Wonderbolt the first day.

Just then, the MAIL PONY pushes his mail cart up to the mailbox. He retrieves a letter.

9 MAILPONY
Got a letter here for Rainbow Dash.

Rainbow Dash rips the letter open. Suddenly her face falls in disappointment.

10 RAINBOW DASH
I didn't get in.

11 PINKIE PIE
(GASP)

Her friends all rally around her.

12 APPLEJACK
What?! That's just plum crazy.

13 RARITY
It's outrageous.

14 TWILIGHT
Don't worry. I'm sure you can reapply next year.

Rainbow Dash's sad expression turns into a mischievous grin.

15 RAINBOW DASH
Gotcha!
(then)
You guys are so gullible. Like I wasn't going to get in.

Pinkie Pie practically tackles Rainbow Dash and hugs her. For a really long time. It starts to get awkward.

16 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Yeah....ummm.....

Rainbow Dash tries to squirm out of the embrace, but it's no use. Pinkie Pie just holds on even tighter.

17 PINKIE PIE
I'm just soooooooo happy for you.

18 RAINBOW DASH
Uh....thanks.

Pinkie Pie continues to hug Rainbow Dash.

19 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Pinkie Pie, could you--?

Pinkie Pie hugs Rainbow Dash for another looooonnng beat, then releases her.

20 PINKIE PIE
Okay. I'm done.

Pinkie Pie smiles.

END TEASER

ACT I

INT. RAINBOW DASH'S HOUSE - MORNING

All of her friends have gathered to see Rainbow Dash off. Rarity eyes Rainbow Dash's tiny suitcase.

21 RARITY
You are going to be gone an entire week, please don't tell me that's all your taking?!

22 RAINBOW DASH
It's Wonderbolt Academy not Wardrobe Academy.

23 RARITY
Still, one should be prepared for anything. Here, just in case you need something a little more formal.

Rarity produces an OVER-THE-TOP BALL GOWN and stuffs it in Rarity's bag. Rainbow Dash watches as Rarity struggles to get the gown into the bag.

24 RARITY (CONT'D)
Little help?

Applejack sits on the bag as Rarity tries to zip it closed with her teeth.

25 RAINBOW DASH
I kinda need to get going. Sooner I get there, sooner I get to show 'em my stuff.

Rainbow Dash does an impressive loop-d-loop as Rarity crams the rest of the dress into the bag. Rainbow Dash grabs her now over-stuffed satchel and puts it onto her back.

26 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
See you guys in a week!

27 APPLEJACK
Good luck!

Rainbow Dash grins.

28 RAINBOW DASH
Won't need it.

EXT. RAINBOW DASH'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rainbow Dash flies out her door, soon followed by a frantic Pinkie Pie who is chasing after her.

29 PINKIE PIE
(at the top of her lungs)
DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!
(then, to the others)
Do you think she heard me?

REVEAL: The other ponies reacting to the volume of Pinkie's voice.

30 APPLEJACK
Sugarcube, I don't think there's anypony who <u>didn't</u> hear you.

EXT. CLOUDSDALE - THE WONDERBOLT ACADEMY - ESTABLISHING

It looks like a typical sleep-away summer camp with cabins, a mess hall and a huge training area, simply called "The FLYING FIELD." Rainbow Dash flies into scene and takes in her surroundings. She notes the other CADETS arriving.

31 RAINBOW DASH
Oh yeah. This is gonna be sweet.

EXT. THE FLYING FIELD - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The cadets, now wearing VESTS emblazoned with a Wonderbolt logo, are all lined up at attention. Rainbow Dash is at the end of the line. The head Wonderbolt Captain, SPITFIRE, paces in front of the of cadets, sizing them up like a drill sergeant.

32 SPITFIRE
Well lookeee what we got here. Bet you all think you're Wonderbolt material, don't you?

33 CADETS
Yes, sir.

34 SPITFIRE
Think you've got what it takes to be an elite flyer?

35 CADETS
Yes, sir.

36 SPITFIRE
Well then, let me be the first to tell you... YOU DON'T. If you had what it took, you'd already be a Wonderbolt. Not just a cadet in a training academy.

Spitfire walks up to CADET #1 and gets in her face.

37 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Still think you're something special?

Cadet #1 is so intimidated that her knees start to knock together.

38 CADET #1
No, sir.

Spitfire moves down the line to CADET #2.

39 SPITFIRE
What about you? Think you're hot stuff?

40 CADET #2
No, sir.

Cadet #2 is so intimidated that she hangs her head with her tail between her legs. Spitfire continues down the line until he reaches Rainbow Dash.

41 SPITFIRE
And what about you? You look like you're the worst flyer in the whole Academy. You'll probably quit after the first day.

42 RAINBOW DASH
No sir! I'd never quit, sir!

Spitfires tries very hard to stare her down. But unlike the previous Cadets, Rainbow Dash stands her ground. He turns his attention to the next cadet. This is LIGHTNING DUST.

43 SPITFIRE
What about you? Bet you couldn't fly past the first flagpole without getting winded.

44 LIGHTNING DUST
Try me, sir.

45 SPITFIRE
What's that?

Spitfire tries to stare her down. But like Rainbow Dash, Lightening Dash also holds his gaze.

46 LIGHTNING DUST
Let me show you what I've got, sir.

47 SPITFIRE
You want a chance to prove yourself, huh?

48 LIGHTNING DUST
Yes, sir!

49 SPITFIRE
Well, now's your chance. Give me five hundred laps...all of you!

The other cadets, with the exception of Rainbow Dash slump.

50 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Now!

Spitfire blows his whistle and the cadets take off flying. Rainbow Dash and Lightning Dust take off, side by side.

WIPE TO:

EXT. THE FLYING FIELD - LATER

Most of the ponies have by now collapsed on the ground from fatigue. There are just a few sputtering along, barely able to flap their wings any more. Suddenly Rainbow Dash and Lightning Dust WHIZ through the frame, literally leaving the other ponies in their dust.

51 CADETS
(COUGHING FROM DUST)

They ZOOM past Spitfire.

52 SPITFIRE
Lap 499!

53 RAINBOW DASH
One more lap to go.

She gives Lightning Dust a “Let’s race!” look.

54 LIGHTNING DUST
You’re on.

They both put out a new bust of speed and cross the finish line simultaneously.

55 SPITFIRE
500!

They land on the ground, side by side, impressed with each other. Spitfire approaches.

56 SPITFIRE (CONT’D)
Not bad.
(then)
For a couple of newbies.

He walks away, leaving Rainbow Dash and Lightning Dust to finally make their introductions.

57 LIGHTNING DUST
Name’s Lightning Dust.

58 RAINBOW DASH
Rainbow Dash.

59 LIGHTNING DUST
Wanna grab some grub in the mess hall?

60 RAINBOW DASH
Definitely.

EXT. PONYVILLE - PINKIE PIE’S HOUSE

Pinkie Pie is standing by her mailbox, tapping her hooves impatiently. Applejack is with her.

61 APPLEJACK
Pinkie Pie, Rainbow Dash hasn’t even been gone 24 hours yet. Give her a chance to settle in first. Unpack her completely unnecessary ball gown.

62 RARITY (O.S.)
I heard that!

63 APPLEJACK
Why don't we just go see what Twilight is up to? I hear Princess Celestia's got her working on some new spells. *

64 PINKIE PIE
(considering) *
New spells, eh? *
(then, excited) *
Okay! *

Pinkie Pie starts to follow Applejack then stops.

65 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Wait. If I'm not here when Rainbow Dash's letter arrives, I won't be able to read it right away. And if I don't read it right away, I won't be able to write her back right away.
(increasingly rapid-fire)
And if I don't write her back right away, she might think I didn't get her letter. And then she might worry it got lost. And if she's worrying about her letter, she'll be distracted. And if she's distracted, then she won't do well at the Academy. And if she doesn't do well at the Academy, then she'll get kicked out. And if she gets kicked out, they'll never let her be a Wonderbolt. And if she doesn't get to be a Wonderbolt, all her dreams will be crushed.
(then, genuine concern)
And it will be all. My. Fault.

66 APPLEJACK
So in other words you're sticking by the mailbox.

67 PINKIE PIE
Yep.

68 APPLEJACK
Suit yourself.

As Applejack departs, Pinkie Pie opens the mailbox, looks inside, and closes it again.

A second later, she opens the mailbox, looks inside, then closes it again.

EXT. THE WONDERBOLT ACADEMY - THE FLYING FIELD

Once again the cadets stand at attention while Spitfire paces before them. There is a large machine behind him, covered with a large cloth.

69 SPITFIRE
The Wonderbolts are the fastest, best precision flyers in the world, but spin outs can still happen. And when they do... a Wonderbolt must be able to recover quickly. This...

Spitfire dramatically pulls off the cloth to reveal the DIZZITRON (a machine that spins ponies around in three different directions at one time then releases them.)

70 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
...is the Dizzitron. It is going to make you very, I repeat, very dizzy and then it is going to release you, simulating a tail spin. Your task is to try to recover and fly straight again...as soon as possible. Once you have recovered you must come in for a smooth landing. Now who's first?

Both Rainbow Dash and Lightning Dust's hooves shoot straight in the air, but Spitfire passes them over for the nervous looking CADET #2.

71 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
You...you're up.

72 CADET #2
Me?

She looks up at the huge Dizzitron and GULPS.

73 SPITFIRE
NOW!

The cadet sheepishly climbs into the Dizzitron and Spitfire's ASSISTANTS strap her in.

74 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Ready?

Cadet #2 tries to put on a brave face.

75 CADET #2
Yes, sir.

76 SPITFIRE
Go!

Spitfire activates the Dizzitron and soon Cadet #2 is spinning in three different directions at top speed.

77 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Now release!

Spitfire's assistants hit the release button and Cadet # 2 comes shooting out of the Dizzitron in a tail spin.

CADET # 2's POV: The world is spinning around her.

Eventually, after flying in crazy circles for a bit, she manages to straighten herself out and makes a very wobbly landing. Her legs shake like Jell-o as she hits the ground comically.

78 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
15 seconds. Decent. But I wouldn't go writing home about it. Who's next?

Once again, Rainbow Dash and Lightening Dust's hooves shoot straight up.

79 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Alright Rainbow Dash, let's see what you got.

80 RAINBOW DASH
Yes, sir!

Rainbow Dash confidently trots up to the Dizzitron and gets strapped in.

81 SPITFIRE
Okay, go!

The Dizzitron starts and soon Rainbow Dash is spinning like crazy.

82 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Release!

Rainbow Dash is released and comes shooting out of the Dizzitron.

HER POV: the world is spinning like crazy.

But unlike her predecessor, Rainbow Dash soon regains her equilibrium, flies straight and comes in for a smooth landing. All the other cadets are very impressed....including Lightning Dust.

83 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
(checking his stopwatch)
Six seconds. That's an Academy record.

Rainbow Dash rejoins the other cadets in line.

84 CADET #1
(whispers to her)
You make it look so easy.

85 RAINBOW DASH
(with a grin)
I make everything look easy.

86 SPITFIRE
Okay, Lightning Dust, you're up.

With a determined look on her face, Lightning Dust trots up to the Dizzitron and gets strapped in.

87 LIGHTNING DUST
Sir, can you put the Dizzitron at maximum speed? I want to push my limits.

88 SPITFIRE
Are you sure about that?

89 LIGHTNING DUST
Yes, sir.

90 SPITFIRE
Okay. You asked for it.

Spitfire moves the machine's levers up a notch to top speed. The Dizzitron starts to hum louder and soon Lightning Dust is spinning like crazy.

91 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Release!

Lightning Dust is released and comes shooting out of the machine. Lightning Dust makes a quick recovery and does a flawless landing.

92 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
(checking stop watch)
6 seconds! Not bad.

Lightning Dust trots over to Rainbow Dash. The two share a hoof bump.

93 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Next!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WONDERBOLT ACADEMY - FLYING FIELD - A LITTLE LATER

A wobbly cadet makes her landing then rejoins her peers. With the exception of Rainbow Dash and Lightning Dust, everyone looks a little dizzy. Rainbow Dash whispers to Lightning Dust.

94 RAINBOW DASH
Nopony else even came close to six seconds.

95 LIGHTNING DUST
They should just make us Wonderbolts right now.

96 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah they should.

The two share a grin, then quickly come to attention at the sound of Spitfire's voice.

97 SPITFIRE
Listen up, everypony! For the rest of camp you'll be working in pairs. Tomorrow morning, I'll post the pony teams, including who will be the lead pony and who will be the wingpony.

The cadets all start to WHISPER amongst each other, excited.

98 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Good luck everypony!

99 LIGHTNING DUST
(to Rainbow)
Like we're going to need it.

They share another "hoof bump".

INT. MESS HALL - THE NEXT MORNING

All the cadets have gathered around the mess hall wall to see what the pony teams are. Rainbow Dash stands casually apart from them with a cocky grin on her face. A group of cadets turn away from the wall and approach Rainbow Dash.

100 RAINBOW DASH
Which of you lucky gals gets to be my wingpony?

The cadets all eye her strangely, not answering. Rainbow Dash notes their expressions.

101 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
What?

102 CADET #1
You might want to check the wall.

Rainbow Dash walks over to the wall and glances at t

103 RAINBOW DASH
(total shock)
A wingpony?

Lightning Dash approaches.

104 LIGHTNING DUST
They made us a team, isn't that awesome?

Judging by the expression on Rainbow Dash's face, she doesn't think it's awesome at all.

END ACT I

ACT II

INT. SPITFIRE'S OFFICE - LATER

Rainbow Dash stands at attention in front of Spitfire who is not happy about this interruption.

105 SPITFIRE
What is it, Rainbow Dash?

106 RAINBOW DASH
I had the best time on the Dizzitron...only 6 seconds!

107 SPITFIRE
And...?

108 RAINBOW DASH
And you made me a wingpony.

109 SPITFIRE
Because I believe you and Lightning Dust will be an unstoppable team.
(then)
Do you not think you'll be an unstoppable team?

110 RAINBOW DASH
Yes, sir. I mean, no, sir. I mean we'll be an unstoppable team, sir.

111 SPITFIRE
Then what's the problem?

112 RAINBOW DASH
I think I should be lead pony.

113 SPITFIRE
And I think Lightning Dust likes to push herself a little harder then you do. That's why I made her lead pony. Got it?

It is clear there is only one answer Spitfire is going to find acceptable.

114 RAINBOW DASH
Yes, sir.

115 SPITFIRE
Good.

Rainbow Dash exits.

EXT. THE FLYING FIELD

The field has been transformed, decorated with all sorts of "fake terrain" - a mountain side, a gulch, a creek, a hollowed out log etc...

A determined Rainbow Dash arrives on the field and takes her place next to Lightning Dust and the other cadets. (NOTE: The Leader ponies are now wearing GOLD PINS. The wingponies wear SILVER PINS.)

116 SPITFIRE
Today you will all be participating in a "Flag Hunt." We'll divide you into two teams, Red and Blue.
Whoever finds the most flags of the opposing team's color, wins.

All the cadets WHISTLE and CHEER. Everypony LOVES this game.

117 CADET #1
(whispers to Cadet #2)
This is going to be so much fun!

Spitfire blows his WHISTLE, silencing the cadets.

118 SPITFIRE
If you think this is going to be fun, you are sadly mistaken. This is for training purposes, this is not recess!

Rainbow Dash and Lightning Dust exchange determined looks.

119 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
We play in pairs. Lead ponies and wingponies must fly together. If any pair splits apart, they will be immediately disqualified. Do you understand?

120 CADETS
Yes, sir.

121 SPITFIRE
Then let's go!

Spitfire BLOWS his whistle and the pony cadets all take off in pairs, each wingpony flying parallel to her lead pony.

122 LIGHTNING DUST
(to Rainbow Dash)
Ready to rock and roll?

123 RAINBOW DASH
Ready.

Lightning Dust takes off and Rainbow Dash follows (both playing for the blue team.)

Cadet teams all ZOOM around the flying field searching for the other team's flag.

Lightning Dust leads Rainbow Dash through a gulch, up a ravine, even inside a water fall, but neither have seen anything yet.

124 LIGHTNING DUST
You spotted any flags yet?

125 RAINBOW DASH
Not yet.

Lightning Dust swoops down low for a ground level look. Still nothing, then after a second, Rainbow Dash spots something.

126 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
There's one!

Through some narrowly spaced fake trees, we can just make out a red flag.

127 LIGHTNING DUST
Where?

128 RAINBOW DASH
Other side of the trees.

129 LIGHTNING DUST
Good eyes, now let's go!

Lightning Dust flies toward the trees. Not missing a beat, Rainbow Dash stays right beside her, but as they get closer and closer to the trees, Rainbow Dash notices how narrowly spaced they are.

130 RAINBOW DASH
Kind of a tight squeeze, huh?

131 LIGHTNING DUST
So?

132 RAINBOW DASH
So I think Spitfire expected us to go around the trees to get the flag, not through them. It doesn't look like we can both make it.

Lightning Dust grins.

133 LIGHTNING DUST
Only one way to find out.

Lightning Dust swoops toward the trees. As her wingpony, Rainbow Dash has no choice but to stay with her. But as they get closer, it turns out Rainbow Dash was correct.

The space separating the trees isn't wide enough for both of them to squeeze through and Rainbow Dash gets her wing slightly clipped going in.

134 RAINBOW DASH
Ow.

The two emerge on the other side of the trees and Lightning Dust grabs the red flag in her mouth.

Lightning Dust waves the flag in her mouth triumphantly before flying down to Spitfire.

She gives the blue flag to Spitfire who waves it in the air.

135 SPITFIRE
Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash have found the first flag!

From up in the air, the other blue teammates CHEER.

Lightning Dust turns to Rainbow Dash.

136 LIGHTNING DUST
C'mon, let's find some more.

137 RAINBOW DASH
Uh sure, just give me a second. Kinda clipped my wing on the side of the tree.

Rainbow Dash winces from the pain.

138 LIGHTNING DUST
(nonchalantly)
You're fine.

Rainbow Dash is actually hurting pretty badly, but sees Spitfire eyeing her and plays it off.

139 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, totally.

Ligtning Dust takes off with Rainbow Dash right beside her. As they fly, Rainbow Dash continues to wince from the pain.

EXT. PONYVILLE - PINKIE PIE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Pinkie Pie is asleep at the foot of the mailbox. Rarity and Fltuttershy approach and gently wake her up.

140 FLUTERSHY
Hey Pinkie Pie, look what arrived for you in the middle of the night. A letter from Rainbow Dash!

141 PINKIE PIE
(groggy)
A letter from Rainbow Dash?
(suddenly wide awake)
A LETTER FROM RAINBOW DASH!

142 RARITY
Here, let me read it to you.
(then, reading)
Dear Pinkie Pie, I am having a simply delightful time at the Wonderbolt Academy.

143 PINKIE PIE
“Simply delightful”?

144 RARITY
Did I say, “delightful”? I meant awesome. Yes, that’s what it says, “simply awesome”.

Pinkie Pie raises an eyebrow.

145 RARITY (CONT’D)
(hopeful)
“Totally awesome”?

146 PINKIE PIE
Yeah. That sounds about right.

Rarity and Fluttershy share a relieved look, then Rarity continues to read from the letter.

147 RARITY
(reading)
Please stop worrying about me and stop sleeping outside. Love, Rainbow Dash.

Pinkie Pie, grins, then looks suspicious

148 PINKIE PIE
Wait a minute. How did Rainbow Dash know I’ve been sleeping outside?

149 FLUTTERSHY
Um...well...actually--

150 RARITY
I think the real question is how did she not know you weren't not sleeping inside.

Fluttershy shoots Rarity a look --"huh"? Rarity shrugs. She's grasping at straws here. Pinkie Pie snatches the letter away.

151 PINKIE PIE
Hey! This is Spike's handwriting.

Rarity and Fluttershy are clearly busted.

152 FLUTTERSHY
We just wish you'd stop watching the mailbox and come inside.

153 PINKIE PIE
Never!

Pinkie Pie plops back down next to her mailbox. Rarity SIGHS.

154 RARITY
You can't say we didn't try.

EXT. FLYING FIELD - THE NEXT DAY

The flying field has been arranged as an AIR OBSTACLE COURSE, including HOOPS TO FLY THROUGH, STREAMERS to zig-zag through without breaking them, an EXTREME WEATHER SECTIONS (other Wonderbolt Captains hover above controlling the weather.) Spitfire addresses his cadets.

155 SPITFIRE
Today we will be doing our famous air obstacle course. The object of this exercise is to work on your precision flying under extreme circumstances. Stay with your partner no matter what. And don't worry about winning...it's not a race. Now everypony get on your marks.

All the cadet "teams" prepare to take off.

156 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
Remember it's not about speed - it's about precision.

Spitfire blows his whistle and all the pony teams take off at the same time and head for the first obstacle - a series of tall moving hoops.

Unfortunately, Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash end up getting stuck flying through the moving hoops behind a slower team.

157 LIGHTNING DUST
(impatient)
Can't they go any faster?

158 RAINBOW DASH
(with a grin)
Not everypony can be as fast as us.

159 LIGHTNING DUST
You got that right.

Lightning Dust takes off and Rainbow Dash has to follow. (NOTE: Throughout the following we should get glimpses of the fact that Rainbow Dash's clipped wing is still bothering her.) Lighting Dust tries to fly ahead and around the team in front of her, but the obstacle course is designed for teams to fly through it one at a time.

160 LIGHTNING DUST (CONT'D)
It's no good. I can't get around them.

161 RAINBOW DASH
Doesn't matter. We can still fly completely in sync and blow Spitfire's mind with our moves.

162 LIGHTNING DUST
I guess.

Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash perform a perfectly synchronized loop de loop. Rainbow Dash smiles, but Lightning Dust still doesn't seem satisfied.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WIND AND RAIN OBSTACLE

The extreme wind and rain forces the team in front of Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash to go even slower.

163 LIGHTNING DUST
What are they, a couple of snails?
It's just a little weather.

UP AHEAD is the ZIG ZAG ZONE...

164 LIGHTNING DUST (CONT'D)
Now's our chance to pass these slowpokes.

Lightning Dust pours on the speed, Rainbow Dash is forced to follow. Lightning Dust flies around the team ahead, attempting to enter the zig-zag zone before they do.

Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash arrive at the entrance to the zig-zag zone just a split second ahead of the other team, cutting them off and causing them to spin out.

The first team's spin out causes a chain reaction - all of the teams behind them smash into them, cartoon style and soon all the cadets are tangled up in mid-air. *

Up ahead Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash zip through the zig zag zone.

When Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash exit the zig-zag zone, Rainbow Dash spots the cluster of tangled cadets behind them. *

165 RAINBOW DASH
Whoa. Did we do that?

166 LIGHTNING DUST
It's an obstacle course, accidents happen. C'mon, let's finish the course.

167 RAINBOW DASH
Maybe we should go check on them.

168 LIGHTNING DUST
Hey, if they're not tough enough to handle a little pile up, maybe they're not tough enough to be Wonderbolts.
(then)
But we are. Now come on. Let's finish showing Spitfire what we're made of.

Rainbow Dash considers this for a moment and then gives Lightning Dust a nod to say she's ready. Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash ZOOM through the rest of the obstacle course in perfect unison and land by Spitfire who is at the far end of the course. (NOTE: It should be clear that from where he is standing, he wouldn't have been able to see LD and RD cut off the other cadets.) * * * *

169 SPITFIRE
Not bad. And in record time, too. *
(then) *
Definitely made the right decision *
making you two a team. *

Lightning Dust grins at Rainbow Dash who gives her a half- *
hearted smile back. Spitfire notes the other cadets who are *
still trying to untangle themselves in mid-air. *

170 SPITFIRE (CONT'D) *
The others seem to have had a *
little trouble with the precision *
part of the exercise. *

Rainbow Dash looks a little uncomfortable, but before she has *
a chance to speak up, Spitfire continues. *

171 SPITFIRE (CONT'D) *
Better go help sort them out. Why *
don't you two go hit the mess hall *
early. *

He takes to the sky. *

172 SPITFIRE (CONT'D) *
(calling down to them) *
You deserve it. *

173 LIGHTNING DUST/RAINBOW DASH
Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

The two start walking toward the mess hall.

174 RAINBOW DASH
Um...Lightening Dust?

175 LIGHTNING DUST
Yeah? *

176 RAINBOW DASH
Next time maybe we don't cut the
other teams off like that.

177 LIGHTNING DUST
Hey, you snooze, you lose. Besides,
Wonderbolts are supposed to be able
to recover from a spin out. You saw
them on the Dizzitron. They could
use the practice. We actually did
them a favor.

178 RAINBOW DASH
I guess.

179 LIGHTNING DUST
It's not our fault we're so much better than those other guys. Not everypony is destined to become a Wonderbolt. Only the best of the best, right?

180 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah.

181 LIGHTNING DUST
So if those other cadets don't want to push themselves to the limit, that's not our problem. It's theirs.

182 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. Guess you're right.

183 LIGHTNING DUST
Course I'm right. Now let's go fuel up. Kicking all that tail has made me hungry.

EXT. PONYVILLE - PINKIE PIE'S MAILBOX

Pinkie Pie is more frantic and possibly sleep deprived than ever. She is still compulsively checking the mailbox. All the other ponies are getting worried..

184 RARITY
She's still at it.

185 FLUTTERSHY
I just wish we could help her.

186 PINKIE PIE
Help me? The only thing that could possibly help me right now is a letter from Rainbow Dash. It's been three days already! By now she probably doesn't even know our names anymore. She probably can't remember our faces.
(imitating Rainbow Dash)
Pinkie Pie? I never heard of a Pinkie Pie? Who's Pinkie Pie?

187 TWILIGHT
Pinkie Pie, Rainbow Dash hasn't forgotten you.

188 RARITY
Nopony could forget about you Pinkie Pie, you're so....

Rarity searches for the right word.

189 APPLEJACK
Memorable. You're so memorable.

190 PINKIE PIE
No, I'm not...if I'm so memorable then why hasn't Rainbow Dash written me a letter, huh?

191 TWILIGHT
If you're so worried, then why don't you send her a letter first?

192 PINKIE PIE
Of course. That's a great idea!

The other ponies look relieved.

193 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Wait! I got an even better idea...how about we send Rainbow Dash a care package? You know, before she forgets all about us, although c'mon, let's face it - it's probably too late for that. But maybe it'll jog her memory somehow. I once read about---

194 TWILIGHT
--Pinkie Pie, I'm sure Rainbow Dash still remembers our faces and who we are, but I think sending her a care package is a great idea.

195 PINKIE PIE
Great! It's settled. A care package it is. We'll send it through the mail. Wait?! That won't work at all!

196 APPLEJACK
Why not?

197 PINKIE PIE
Because what if the package gets lost in the mail? What if she never gets it? What if somepony else gets the package by accident and then she remembers us instead of Rainbow Dash and then she becomes our new friend. Then the real Rainbow Dash won't ever know that she used to have friends only she forgot them.

198 APPLEJACK
I'm lost. Is anypony following this?

Most of the ponies shake their head, no.

199 PINKIE PIE
I've got it! We'll deliver the care package to Rainbow Dash in person! It's the only way!

200 RARITY
I wouldn't mind a little trip to Cloudsdale.

201 TWILIGHT
I'll go.

202 APPLEJACK
Count me in.

203 FLUTTERSHY
Me, too.

204 PINKIE PIE
Me, five! But don't be upset if she doesn't recognize you at first. It may take a while for her to get her memory back.

EXT. WONDERBOLT ACADEMY - FLYING FIELD - LATER

The cadets are circled around Spitfire. He BLOWS his WHISTLE and the teams take to the air. Judging by the way they are breaking apart the clouds, they are participating in some kind of CLOUDBUSTING exercise. As usual Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash are setting the pace.

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM! The duo takes out clouds left and right. The two BURST through a cloud.

205 LIGHTNING DUST
I have an idea about how we can literally blow away our competition.

Rainbow Dash eyes the other cadets who aren't busting nearly as many clouds.

206 RAINBOW DASH
But we're already way ahead.

207 LIGHTNING DUST
Are you in, or not?

ON RAINBOW DASH considering what she should do. We hear Spitfire's words from earlier:

208 SPITFIRE (V.O.)
...Lightning Dust likes to push herself a little harder then you do. That's why I made her lead pony.

Rainbow Dash gets a determined look on her face.

209 RAINBOW DASH
I'm in.

210 LIGHTNING DUST
Then follow my lead.

Rainbow Dash follows Lightning Dust as she starts flying in a circle`...super fast. Soon they are going so fast that they create a TORNADO.

The TORNADO is spins, picking up speed as it bumps into clouds and bustes, left and right. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash are flying as fast as they can to try to keep up with the tornado, but they soon realize it's gotten away from them.

211 LIGHTNING DUST (CONT'D)
I can't control it!

The TORNADO spins away from Lightning Dust and Rainbow Dash like a top. It's now spinning on its own course. Rainbow Dash face registers surprise, then horror as she realizes the tornado is headed right for...

A HOT AIR BALLOON

Inside are the Ponyville Ponies, on their way to visit Rainbow Dash with care package in tow.

They react to the oncoming tornado.

212 APPLEJACK
It's a twister!

213 TWILIGHT
Hold on!

The ponies all huddle together in fear as the tornado continues to head straight toward them.

END ACT II

ACT III

EXT. THE FLYING FIELD - A MOMENT LATER

The Tornado is headed right for the balloon with all the ponies inside it.

214 TWILIGHT
Hold on! Here it comes!

The tornado smashes into the balloon and POPS it. The ponies basket is in free fall.

215 RAINBOW DASH
Noooo!!!

Rainbow Dash realizes that she's got to act fast. She swoops down to the balloon and grabs the end of a dangling rope in her mouth.

Flying faster than she ever has in her life, she ZOOMS around a sky tower and secures the rope to it.

BACK ON PONIES still free falling through the air, the ground is getting closer.

Rainbow Dash ZOOMS back over to the falling basket and grabs the end to another rope and SWOOPS back up to the flying field and secures it to the Wonderbolt Academy flagpole.

The basket is about to hit the ground and the ponies are about to smash into a million pieces when suddenly both ropes go taut.

The basket comes within inches of hitting the ground before springing back up like a yo-yo.

The basket bounces ever more gently, up and down. The ponies all CHEER and HUG one another - they've been saved.

By the time Rainbow Dash flies over, it is practically at a stand still. The ponies are still a bit shaken up. Pinkie Pie looks especially discombobulated.

216 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Are you guys okay?

Tthe Ponyville Ponies, with the exception of Pinkie Pie nod. She still looks a little out of it.

217 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Pinkie Pie? Are you alright?

Pinkie Pie suddenly snaps out of her daze and throws her hooves around Rainbow Dash.

218 PINKIE PIE
You remember me!

219 RAINBOW DASH
Well, yeah, of course I remember you.
(then)
But what are you all doing here?

220 APPLEJACK
Wanted to bring you a care package. Didn't realize you'd be in the middle of some crazy tornado drill.

Rainbow Dash suddenly gets serious.

221 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. I gotta talk to somebody about that.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD - A MOMENT LATER

Rainbow Dash flies over to Lightning Dust who is all smiles.

222 LIGHTNING DUST
That. Was. Awesome.

223 RAINBOW DASH
Awesome?! My friends could've been smashed to pieces.

224 LIGHTNING DUST
Yeah. But they weren't, right?
(then)
Can't say the same for the clouds. We totally wiped them out with that tornado. The other cadets'll have to be up there for days to bust as many as we did.

She puts her hoof up for a hoof bump. Rainbow Dash just glares at her.

225 RAINBOW DASH
A hoof bump. Seriously?
(furious)
You made me clip my wing. You sent half our class into serious tailspins on the obstacle course. You unleashed a tornado that nearly demolished my friends.

226 LIGHTNING DUST
Yeah. And?

227 RAINBOW DASH
And I get that you want to be the best. So do I. But you're going about it in the wrong way.

Lightning Dust glares back at Rainbow Dash.

228 LIGHTNING DUST
Yeah? Well the Wonderbolts don't seem to think so. After all, *
Spitfire did make <u>me</u> the leader and <u>you</u> the wingpony.

Rainbow Dash considers this for a moment...

229 RAINBOW DASH
You're right, he did.

Rainbow Dash storms off, passing the Ponyville Ponies. The exchange confused glances.

INT. SPITFIRE'S OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Spitfire is looking over some diagrams on his desk. A KNOCK. He looks up to see Rainbow Dash standing in his doorway.

230 RAINBOW DASH
Permission to enter, sir.

231 SPITFIRE
This better be important. You're supposed to be up there busting clouds with your partner.

232 RAINBOW DASH
We're done with that, sir.

233 SPITFIRE
Already?

He looks at a clock on the wall.

234 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
That's an Academy record.
(then)
Explain your methods.

235 RAINBOW DASH
That's why I'm here, sir. Lightning Dust decided to use a tornado.

236 SPITFIRE
A bit excessive for cloudbusting. But judging from your time, it was obviously an effective tactic.

237 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, well that "effective tactic" nearly took out my friends.

238 SPITFIRE
There were civilians up there? How? Why?--

239 RAINBOW DASH
Does it really matter? Could've just as easily been our fellow cadets she almost took out.
(then)
No disrespect, sir, but there's a big difference between pushing yourself as hard as you can and just being reckless. And if being reckless is what gets rewarded around here-- If that's what it means to be a Wonderbolt...
Then I don't want any part of it.

240 SPITFIRE
What are you saying, newbie?

Rainbow Dash looks Spitfire dead in the eye.

241 RAINBOW DASH
I'm saying, I quit.

Rainbow Dash pulls off her SILVER WINGPONY PIN and tosses it on Spitfire's desk, then turns and exits. Her back to Spitfire, her resolve turns to sadness as she is hit by the gravity of what she has just done.

EXT. FLYING FIELD - SOON AFTER

Rainbow Dash has rejoined her friends.

242 APPLEJACK
You did what?

243 RARITY
But being a Wonderbolt was your dream.

244 RAINBOW DASH
Not any more.

245 TWILIGHT
I'm sorry, Rainbow Dash. I know how much this meant to you.

Rainbow Dash just shrugs.

246 SPITFIRE (O.S.)
Rainbow Dash!

Rainbow Dash turns to see Spitfire approaching. He has a very serious look on his face.

247 SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
How dare you storm out of my office like that without giving me a chance to respond? I am your commanding officer.

248 PINKIE PIE
Technically you <u>were</u> her commanding officer.

Spitfire shoots Pinkie Pie a look. She nervously backs away. Spitfire turns his attention back to Rainbow Dash. *

249 SPITFIRE
The Wonderbolts are looking for the * best fliers in Equestria. *
(MORE)

SPITFIRE (CONT'D)
But you were right, being the best should never come at the expense of our fellow ponies. It's not just about pushing ourselves, it's about pushing ourselves in the right direction. You've shown you're capable of doing just that. And I believe you are also capable of showing others how to do the same. *

Spitfire retrieves a GOLD LEADER PIN and fastens it to Rainbow Dash's vest. She looks up at Spitfire, confused. *

250 SPITFIRE (CONT'D) *
You're no wingpony, Rainbow Dash. *
You're a leader.

Rainbow Dash smiles.

251 SPITFIRE (CONT'D) *
Now get up there and give me twenty!

252 RAINBOW DASH
Yes, sir.

Rainbow Dash takes to the sky. Pinkie Pie calls after her.

253 PINKIE PIE
Wait! You didn't even get to open your care package.

Pinkie Pie gestures to the care package. The tornado incident has left it completely smashed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FLYING FIELD - LATER

PAN ACROSS the cadets to Rainbow Dash who is now wearing her leader pin.

254 RAINBOW DASH
You sure you're gonna be okay with this? *

REVEAL: She is standing next to Lightning Dust who is now wearing a wingpony pin.

255 LIGHTNING DUST *
This is me we're talking about. You *
put an obstacle in front of me, I'm *
gonna face it, not fly the opposite *
direction. *
(then) *
Spitfire 255 let me know it takes more *
than a need for speed to be a *
Wonderbolt. Gonna spend my time at *
the Academy proving I understand *
that. *
(then) *
And, you know, maybe someday you *
can forgive me for what happened up *
there with your wing. And your *
friends. And your care package. *

She looks straight ahead, not wanting to make eye contact *
with Rainbow Dash. Making apologies isn't easy for her. *

256 RAINBOW DASH *
Yeah. I could probably do that *
someday. *
(then)
How 'bout right now we concentrate *
on showing these other cadets how *
it's done?

Lightning Dust looks back to Rainbow Dash who grins. Her *
apology obviously accepted. Lightning Dust smiles back. *

257 LIGHTNING DUST
Sounds good to me. *

A WHISTLE BLOWS. Rainbow Dash takes off with Lightning Dust *
right beside her. They grin as they blow by the competition
with ease.

EXT. PONYVILLE - RAINBOW DASH - A FEW DAYS LATER

The ponies are hanging up a large "Welcome Home" banner
across Rainbow Dash's door.

258 PINKIE PIE
Hurry up, here she comes!

Rainbow Dash lands in front of the house.

259 PONIES
Welcome home!

260 RAINBOW DASH
Thanks, guys.

261 TWILIGHT
So how was the rest of camp?

262 RAINBOW DASH
Awesome. Look at what I got.

Rainbow Dash shows them her “1st in class” medal that is hanging around her neck.

263 RAINBOW DASH (CONT’D)
Best in my class.

Her friends admire her medal.

264 APPLEJACK
Hoo-weee that’s a good lookin’ medal.

265 RAINBOW DASH
It’s not exactly a spot on the Wonderbolts, but Spitfire says they’ve got their eye on me.

266 PINKIE PIE
I think your award is great and all, but there’s something else I’d rather see.

267 RAINBOW DASH
What’s that?

268 PINKIE PIE
A letter in my mailbox!

The other ponies just shake their heads in disbelief as we...

FADE OUT.

END EPISODE