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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Rainbow Falls"
Episode 410
Written by: Meghan McCarthy

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RAINBOW FALLS

Premise by Meghan McCarthy

The Equestria Games are coming up and the Ponyville Aerial Relay Team is headed to Rainbow Falls to train and compete in the preliminary trials. Even with their star athlete, Rainbow Dash, as the anchor of the team, they are a long shot to even make it to the games, let alone medal. The competitive Rainbow Dash is having a hard time coming to terms with the fact that she's on a team that is destined to lose, but at the same time appreciates the opportunity to represent the town that has given her so much. She's especially excited that her friends are going to travel with the team to cheer them on and provide moral support.

When Rainbow Dash gets to Rainbow Falls, she meets up with some old friends from Cloudsdale who are competing in the same event. Unlike the Ponyville team, the Cloudsdale team is deemed the favorites to ace the preliminary trials and eventually win gold at the Equestria Games. That is until one of their members gets an injury during practice and is told she'll need to rehab her wing right up until the actual event. Much to Rainbow Dash's surprise, the Cloudsdale team turns to her to fill the injured Pegasus' slot during their practices. Without a full squad they wouldn't be able to rehearse the synchronized elements of the relay.

Rainbow Dash is more than happy to help out her old hometown. It's not like she'll have to compete against Ponyville in the big event. All she has to do is balance practicing with the Cloudsdale team with practicing with the Ponyville team. It's not quite as easy as Rainbow Dash thought it would be, but she ultimately proves herself to be up to the challenge. The morning of the big event arrives and Rainbow Dash is all ready to relinquish her spot on the Cloudsdale team. That is until the Cloudsdale team asks her to compete with them in the actual relay. They inform her that their teammate isn't going to be ready to fly after all.

Now Rainbow Dash is faced with a choice – fly for Cloudsdale (and guarantee herself a spot in the Equestria Games) or fly for Ponyville (and potentially help her less athletic teammates get to the Games.) But Rainbow Dash just can't bring herself to make a decision. Thus, Rainbow Dash chooses not to choose. She feigns an injury that makes it look like she can't compete for either team. While faking her injury in the Rainbow Falls infirmary, she runs into the Pegasus whose place she took on the Cloudsdale team. As it turns out, the Pegasus was going to make a full recovery in time to compete in the trials, but her teammates decided to replace her anyway.

Rainbow Dash realizes that not choosing was not the way to handle this situation. She tells her friends and Ponyville and Cloudsdale teammates about her predicament. Her Ponyville friends and teammates know how much she wants to get a medal at the Equestria Games and encourage her to ensure this happens by flying for the Cloudsdale team in the Rainbow Falls Trials (even if it will mean their team probably won't even get to go to the Equestria Games at all.)

Ultimately, Rainbow Dash decides she is going to fly for Ponyville. As much as she wants to win at the games, her loyalties lie with the Ponies who truly need her. Moved by Rainbow Dash's display of loyalty to a team whose chances of winning are slim, the Cloudsdale team realizes that they shouldn't have abandoned their original teammate, and they bring her back on the squad.

In the end, Rainbow Dash helps the Ponyville team qualify for the Equestria Games. Upon their return to Ponyville, Rainbow Dash and Twilight are surprised to discover that Dash's qualifying medal has turned into a key.