

MY LITTLE PONY
Episode 404 / 403-404
"Daring Don't"
Story by
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EXT. SKY - DAY

Rainbow Dash ZOOMS around, full of anticipation.

RAINBOW DASH
Four more months.
(more excited)
Four more months.
(still more excited)
Four more months.

She happens to see FLUTTERSHY flying by.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Bet you're excited, huh?

FLUTTERSHY
Oh, my, I uh... I could be excited. I
don't really know. I wasn't really
thinking...

RAINBOW DASH
Come on. You gotta be excited.

FLUTTERSHY
Oh, well, I guess maybe I'm a little,
kind of sort of excited...

RAINBOW DASH
I thought so.

FLUTTERSHY
Yeah. So, um... why am I excited?

RAINBOW DASH
Because the next Daring Do book is
coming out exactly four months from
today.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
THAT'S how exciting it is!
(then)
So what amazing, incredible, awesome
adventure do you think Daring Do will
have in her next book, huh?

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - FANTASY

... and emerges from thick RAINFOREST BRUSH to spy a huge PYRAMID SHAPED TEMPLE on the horizon. She looks EXACTLY LIKE DARING DO (NOTE: she is same color as Daring Do but has her rainbow cutie mark on her flank); complete with PITH HELMET and WHIP coiled on shoulder.

RAINBOW DASH

Will she at long last stalk the
Fortress of Talocan, only to be forced
to contend with its dreaded and
impenetrable arrow defense?

ANGLE ON a ROW OF HENCHPONIES standing atop the fortress' outer
wall, all drawing their BOWS and LETTING ARROWS FLY.

ANGLE ON DASH-AS-DARING-DO facing down the WALL OF ARROWS about
to RAIN DOWN ON HER...

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
And if so, could her skill, quick wits
and courage possibly carry the day?

Dash-as-Daring-Do YANKS the whip from her shoulder with her
teeth, SPINNING IT INTO A CYCLONE that cuts a VORTEX-SHAPED PATH
through the PHLANX OF ARROWS as she FLIES THROUGH IT.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - BACK TO SCENE

ANGLE ON Fluttershy looking on, alarmed.

ANGLE ON Dash flying into a FLOCK OF GEESE, sending them HONKING
and FLEEING. Dash, in her reverie, pays no mind.

RAINBOW DASH
Or will her next adventure bring her
face to face with the vast, and
horrible Ahuizotl himself?

Dash spins defiantly to face...

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - FANTASY

... AHUIZOTL, a towering and terrifying monster.

AHUIZOTL
<HORRIBLE ROAR>

ANGLE BACK ON Dash-as-Daring-Do, unfazed by the blowback.

RAINBOW DASH
Would she cower? Turn to tail and
run?

Then, ZOOMING right toward the monster.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Or would she fly at him full bore,
knowing full well against all odds
that the greatest challenge she'd
ever faced was still sure to be no
match for -

Then, ll as Dash-as-Daring-Do closes in at BLAZING SPEED on the suddenly-alarmed Ahuizotl...

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - BACK TO SCENE

ANGLE ON Fluttershy looking on, alarmed.

FLUTTERSHY
Look out!!

ANGLE ON Dash as she SLAMS into a mountainside, hard, and flattened against it. Then, as she SLIDES SLOWLY DOWN...

FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
I'm not so sure she's going to last
another four months.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - A FEW DAYS LATER

Rainbow Dash strolls along.

RAINBOW DASH
Three months and twenty-six days.
(more excited)
Three months and twenty-six days.
(still more excited)
Three months and twenty-six days.

INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - SAME TIME

Dash enters.

RAINBOW DASH
Hey Twilight, aren't you excited that
-

WIDEN TO REVEAL that TWILIGHT is there with PINKIE PIE, RARITY, APPLEJACK and FLUTTERSHY. They all appear to be in the midst of a party.

TWILIGHT
So glad you finally made it!

RAINBOW DASH
What's everypony doing here?

PINKIE PIE

We're having a holiday party.

RAINBOW DASH
So... what holiday would today be?

PINKIE PIE
National Random Holiday Party Day.
Whee!

RARITY
(off RD's look)
I'd never heard of it either.
(then)
But the punch is quite tasty.

PINKIE PIE
You might say the secret ingredient
is...
(conspiratorial whisper)
A secret.

RAINBOW DASH
How come nopony bothered to invite me?

APPLEJACK
I came to invite you personally.
But seems you were a spec too busy
reading the last Daring Do book for
like the twelfth time.

RAINBOW DASH
Yeah, well, in three months and
twenty-six more days I'll be able to
read the next one.

Rainbow Dash takes a sip of some punch.

TWILIGHT
Oh, haven't you heard? The release
of the next book got pushed another
two months.

Rainbow Dash does a SPIT TAKE.

RAINBOW DASH
Two more months?! I've been waiting
so long already, I don't think I can
take another two months! I'll never
make it!

FLUTTERSHY
Yeah, I can vouch for that.

RAINBOW DASH
Did they give a reason?

TWILIGHT

The publisher just said author A.K. Yearling won't be able to finish the book for another two months.

(then)
Cupcakes?

RAINBOW DASH
How could you possibly know that before me? I'm the series' biggest fan!

TWILIGHT
I'm just as big a fan as you. In fact, I'm the one who first introduced you to the books, remember.

RAINBOW DASH
Oh. Right.

TWILIGHT
A.K. Yearling just might be my favorite author. I know everything about her. Where she grew up. Where she studied literature. Where she wrote the first Daring Do book...

RAINBOW DASH
(hopeful)
Where she lives?

TWILIGHT
Uh, no... though I could probably find out somehow. Why?

RAINBOW DASH
Don't you get it? The new book is obviously delayed because she needs help dealing with whatever everyday nonsense is distracting her from spending her every living breathing second writing so I - I mean, fans like me - can get to read the next book ASAP!

(then)
Think about it. We could help her with her laundry, buying her groceries, cooking her meals. Whatever. Now who wouldn't appreciate that?

TWILIGHT
Hmm, I don't know... what she probably wants most of all is respect for her privacy.

RAINBOW DASH
She can always just say no.

The ponies all EXCHANGE GLANCES.

TWILIGHT
I suppose you're right.

RAINBOW DASH
Ofcourse I am.
(then)
So how's about getting that address?

MUSIC UP as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INSERT: A MAP OF EQUESTRIA TRACES A RED LINE FROM TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY TREE TO A REMOTE CORNER OF EQUESTRIA, INDICATING THE LONG ROUTE THEY'VE TRAVELED, A LA THE INDIANA JONES MOVIES.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FOREST - REMOTE PART OF EQUESTRIA - LATER

All the ponies - minus Dash - trek through the dense forest.

TWILIGHT
You see what I mean. Why would she live in this remote part of Equestria except to keep folks from intruding on her privacy? We should respect -

Just then, Dash flies down through the forest canopy.

RAINBOW DASH
I think I spotted the house. We're super-close. This way.

TWILIGHT
Wait--

But the others have already eagerly rushed ahead without her. Then, arriving at the clearing where the house is, she registers the SAME EXPRESSION OF SHOCK as the others.

TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Oh no! What happened?!

RAINBOW DASH
Apparently, somepony has intruded on her privacy pretty hard already.

ANGLE ON the AUTHOR'S COTTAGE. It's COMPLETELY TRASHED. Windows broken, doors off their hinges, etc.

EXT. A.K. YEARLING'S COTTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

THE ponies gingerly approach, examining the BROKEN WINDOWS, the DOORS OFF THEIR HINGES, the OVERTURNED FURNITURE, etc.

APPLEJACK

Somepony really trashed this place!

PINKIE PIE
Maybe. Orrrrrrr... maybe A.K.
Yearling's just a terrible, horrible,
unbelievable slob.

RARITY
I hope A.K. Yearling's all right.

TWILIGHT
Oh no! What if something terrible
happened to her!

RAINBOW DASH
I know! There might be no more books!
(then, embarrassed)
But of course I'd be worried about
her, too...

A.K. YEARLING (O.S.)
What are you all doing here?!?

The ponies spin to see the PRIMLY DRESSED AND BESPECTACLED A.K. YEARLING, with a black cape draped on her back and a BUNDLE OF GROCERIES on her back.

RAINBOW DASH
Uh..A-K-Yearling?

TWILIGHT
We... didn't... do this. We swear.

A.K. YEARLING
What have you done to my house!

A beat. A.K. Yearling eyes them skeptically... then drops her groceries and RUSHES INTO HER HOUSE.

APPLE JACK
We didn't do this Ms.Yearling.

The ponies exchange glances of FEAR AND CONFUSION.

INT. A.K. YEARLING'S COTTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The ponies hesitantly approach the doorway and peer inside to see A.K. YEARLING RUMMAGING THROUGH THE DEBRIS FRANTICALLY, as though searching for something, completely ignoring them.

Rainbow Dash gently KNOCKS ON THE FRONT DOOR, which - much to her chagrin - causes it to FALL OFF ITS LAST REMAINING HINGE and CRASH RUDELY to the ground.

A.K. Yearling ignores even this to continue her mad search.

TWILIGHT
We're awfully glad to see you're
alright.

She keeps searching with increasing agitation. The ponies still don't leave.

A.K. Yearling simply ignores them and keeps searching.

RAINBOW DASH
Okay, clearly this isn't the best
time, but I just gotta say how much we
all really love your books.

She stops short. She's spotted something underneath some items that had been strewn across the floor. From underneath them, she retrieves a BOOK.

She places it on her desk, flips it open with her snout, then pushes on the page with her hoof. The page slides open to reveal a secret compartment. Inside is a A LARGE GOLDEN RING which CLATTERS NOISILY to the floor. She PICKS UP THE RING with great care.

A.K. YEARLING (CONT'D)
(huge relief)
It's safe.

The ponies continue to look on, and confer in SOFT VOICES while the much-relieved Author busies herself inside.

RAINBOW DASH
Great. Maybe now would be a good time
for me to ask her how we can help move
the new book along a little faster.
Chop chop.

TWILIGHT
Rainbow Dash, a minute please.

Twilight gives Dash a firm signal to follow her outside.

EXT. A.K. YEARLING'S COTTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Twilight and Dash exit the building, followed by the others. Twilight has her back to the building, through...

TWILIGHT
A.K. Yearling has made it pretty clear
that she wants to be left alone. We
need to respect her wishes.

Meanwhile, Twilight does not see that BEHIND HER, IN THE COTTAGE, A GROUP OF HENCHPONIES HAVE STORMED IN THROUGH THE BACK DOOR TO CONFRONT A.K. YEARLING.

PINKIE PIE
You should tell that to those guys.

Twilight turns around and sees A.K. Yearling, in rapid succession, THROW OFF HER CAPE - allowing her wings to spread - then GRAB A WHIP from off the wall which she uses to SNAP HER PITH HELMET FROM ACROSS THE ROOM ONTO HER HEAD in one moment, and then to BLOCK THE HENCHPONIES' EXIT THE NEXT.

Meanwhile, our ponies look on in utter disbelief.

ALL THE PONIES
A.K. Yearling IS Daring Do!!

SLAM TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. A.K. YEARLING'S COTTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The ponies continue to PEER IN THROUGH A BROKEN WINDOW while THE BATTLE BETWEEN DARING DO AND THE INVADING HENCHPONIES and the STRUGGLE OVER THE RING rages on inside, through...

TWILIGHT
A.K. Yearling and Daring Do are
one-in-the-same. My mind is
officially blown.

RAINBOW DASH
Aw, come on. I knew it all along.

APPLEJACK
Amazing.

RARITY
Incredible.

PINKIE PIE
Wow! So much action! Wheeeeeeee!

The ponies all snap out of their awe simultaneously.

INT. A.K. YEARLING'S COTTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Then, as our ponies all BURST IN, ready to join the fray, Daring Do is battling all the HENCHPONIES AT ONCE as the Lead Henchpony, DR. CABALLERON, sneaks up behind Daring Do, SNATCHING THE RING AWAY and LIFTING IT OVERHEAD.

ANGLE ON the ponies. They are immediately detained by Caballeron's henchponies.

RAINBOW DASH
Daring Do!

A henchpony BUCKS, SWINGING its hind legs around attempting to SWEEP DARING DO'S LEGS from under her. Daring Do LEAPS TO AVOID a moment too late. She TRIPS and TUMBLES and takes A BAD LANDING ON HER LEG. She rises, LIMPING, through...

DR. CABALLERON
Many thanks, Daring Do. As you probably surmised, our earlier search for this treasure was unsuccessful.
(then)
So kind of you to find it for us.

DARING DO
(limping)
Give it back, Caballeron!

DR. CABALLERON
That's Dr. Caballeron to you!

RAINBOW DASH
(sotto to Twi)
He's from Book 4: Daring Do and the Razor of Dreams. He wanted to partner with Daring Do on her adventures.

TWILIGHT
I know. But she refused.
(then, starry-eyed)
I can't believe it. The real Daring Do and the real Caballeron!

DARING DO
So let me guess: Ahuizotl has put you up to this. You're stealing the ring to give to him so his hold on the Fortress of Talocan will be good for Eight Centuries as foretold by prophesy.

DR. CABALLERON
Close... but no.
(beat)
I'm gonna sell this to him, make a bundle and retire from archeology in splendor.

Daring Do THRASHES against those holding her back to no avail.

DARING DO
Caballeron, you fool! You're dooming the valley to eight centuries of unrelenting heat.

DR. CABALLERON

To market, henchponies.

As they all depart.

FLUTTERSHY

Uh... should we go in and help her maybe?

ALL THE PONIES

Oh. Right!

The ponies all snap out of their awe simultaneously.

RAINBOW DASH

(racing over to help)

Are you ok?!

DARING DO

(brusque)

I got this.

FLUTTERSHY

Um... She was just trying to help, Ms. Do.

DARING DO

Daring Do doesn't need help. She handles her business herself.

At that, Daring Do SUMMONS HER STRENGTH, grabs her PITH HELMET AND WHIP and EXITS, taking to the sky after Caballeron.

RAINBOW DASH

We've got to go help.

TWILIGHT

You heard her. She says she works alone...

RAINBOW DASH

How can we just stand by and do nothing. You know what's at stake here! Ahuizotli has sought control of the Tenochtitlan Basin since Book 3.

The listening ponies turn in unison toward Twilight.

TWILIGHT

True, but in Book 4 she defeated Ahuizotl and secured control of the Amulet of Atonement, dispelling the dark magic of the Ketzwtwctl Empress and thus protecting the basin with the Radiant Shield of Razdon.

The listening ponies turn in unison toward Rainbow Dash.

RAINBOW DASH
But the Radiant Shield of Razdon is
vulnerable to the dark enchantment of
the Rings of Scorcher.

The listening ponies turn in unison toward Twilight.

TWILIGHT
But are you forgetting that the rings
were scattered to the four corners of
Tenochtitlan, thus rendering the dark
enchantment powerless?

The listening ponies turn in unison toward Rainbow Dash.

RAINBOW DASH
Only if you assume that the rings have
yet to be retrieved and the ring
Caballeron just stole isn't the last
to completely restore the dark tower
and it's cruel hold on Tenochtitlan.
Did you ever think of that?

Twilight is stymied.

PINKIE PIE
(to Twilight)
You gotta admit, Rainbow Dash makes a
pretty good point.

RAINBOW DASH
We gotta help Daring Do retrieve the
ring for safekeeping before it's too
late.

A beat.

TWILIGHT
(deep breath)
Okay, but sounds to me like we're in
way way way over our heads. We're
going to need a carefully thought out
plan -

RAINBOW DASH
I'm coming, Daring Do!

In a flash, Rainbow Dash DARTS OUT after Daring Do and vanishes
into the distance.

TWILIGHT
(calling after)
That's not a plan!

EXT. SKY - LATER

Rainbow Dash flies high above, scanning the Forest below.

RAINBOW DASH
Come on, come on, come on...

Dash catches a glimpse through the canopy a pony wearing a pith helmet hiding behind a rock.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Bingo.
(racing toward her)
Here I come, Daring Do. To join in
adventure with the greatest, bravest,
coolest, most incredible hero I could
ever...

Dash now gets herself so nervous she's breaking a sweat.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(suddenly terrified)
Okay, maybe I need just a sec.

Dash changes course and DUCKS OUT OF SIGHT through the canopy a good twenty feet away.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

An anxious Rainbow Dash lands on the forest floor.

She slaps herself with her hoof.

RAINBOW DASH
Just another adventure. No big deal.
Get a grip! I got this.
(then)
Though doing it alongside Daring Do?
Wow, maybe I could get my picture
taken with her. Or an autograph.

Dash slaps herself with her hoof again.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
There you go again. She's just a pony
like any other pony.
(then)
A pony who stops entire armies of bad
guys with nothing more than her bare
hooves and an attitude and -

Dash slaps herself with her hoof again.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Ow. That's starting to hurt.

Suddenly, DASH IS ATTACKED as someone sneaks up from behind, yanking a PITH HELMET down around her eyes so she can't see.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Aargh! Ow!

RAINBOW DASH
Ow! Stop!

Dash stops, POPS THE PITH HELMET back off Dash's head... and then steps back to take a look.

DARING DO
Oh. It's just you.

With barely a shrug, Daring Do turns to walk away.

RAINBOW DASH
Wait, don't go!

Daring Do stops and turns, listening.

RAINBOW DASH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Think fast - this is your big chance
to impress her with your quick wits
and courage.

Daring Do still waits for her to speak. A beat. Then...

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(melting)
I am suuuuch a huge fan.

Daring Do turns again to leave.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Wait, wait, wait.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Let me help you. I promise I can be
a huge huge help if you just give me
a chance.

A beat.

DARING DO
I. Work. Alone.

She turns to leave again, but this time won't stop, so Dash has to run alongside to keep up.

RAINBOW DASH
But why won't you let me team up with
you just this once?

DARING DO
My work always involves secrets, and
since you never know who you can
trust, it's best never to trust
anypony.

RAINBOW DASH
But just because you can't trust some
doesn't mean nopony can be trusted.

DARING DO
Look, I don't have time to argue.

RAINBOW DASH
Neither do I. Let's go.

Rainbow Dash takes off ahead.

Daring Do shakes her head in disbelief. She <GRUMBLES UNDER BREATH> as she travels the same path, Rainbow Dash is taking.

DARING DO
(SIGH) I can't believe I'm even
talking to her.

EXT. FOREST - ELSEWHERE - A LITTLE LATER

... they peer through some bushes to spy on the henchponies making camp.

RAINBOW DASH
Looks like they decided to have an
early dinner before making their way
back down to the hill to the
marketplace in town.

Daring Do begins rubbing dirt on her face. She seems to have a plan.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Oh, I see, you're going to ambush them
like you did in Book 4 at the Horavian
Caves.

Daring Do keeps making ready, trying to ignore Dash.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Or maybe that neat trick you did in
Book 3 where you swoop in and knock
three guys down with one swing...

Daring Do is in a disguise and ready to make her move.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Or maybe -
(then, off her icy stare)
Okay, I'll be quiet now. Just
watching very quietly. Shh.

Daring Do seems pacified, then, unable to restrain herself...

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
So what kind of ambush are you gonna
use then?

Daring Do shows Dash a huge BAG OF COINS.

RAINBOW DASH

Wow...

FULLY DISGUISED, Daring Do heads down to the campsite while Dash remains where she is behind the bushes to watch.

ANGLE ON the disguised Daring Do approaching the henchponies.

DARING DO (CONT'D)

(disguised voice)

I've been led to believe, you have in your possession an item of significant importance that might be for sale.

CABALLERON

Oh, um, well... I did have another buyer lined up. But he's not here, so... sounds like we have a deal.

AHUIZOTL (O.S.)

Caballeron!! The ring!!

Caballeron reacts, TERRIFIED. Daring Do spins around to see -

DARING DO

Ahuizotl.

Caballeron freezes. Then...

Caballeron SNATCHES the bag of coins from Daring Do, DROPS THE RING, and RUNS OFF WITH HIS HENCHPONIES. Daring Do's disguise falls partially away as she POUNCES ON THE RING.

The monster extends it's hand toward Daring Do. With unflinching defiance, Daring Do merely slips the ring over her own head to wear it on her neck like a breastplate.

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash fighting the urge to jump in.

RAINBOW DASH

Be cool, Rainbow Dash, be cool.
She's got this.

ANGLE BACK ON the Daring Do and her confrontation.

AHUIZOTL

(eyes aflame)

The ring, Daring Do. Give it to me.

DARING DO

Now Ahuizotl, you know I love you, but I can't give you the ring till I've properly proposed.

AHUIZOTL

Interesting. Because my friends
here have a proposal of their own...

At that, DOZENS OF BATS gather on the monster's arms like
menacing starlings on a telephone wire. Daring Do scowls.

DARING DO
Bring it.

The bats SWARM DOWN UPON HER.

ANGLE BACK ON Rainbow Dash, stressing.

RAINBOW DASH
Come on, Daring Do, come on...

ANGLE BACK ON Daring Do, CONFIDENTLY BUCKING, SPINNING, DOING
DROP KICKS, ETC. She's protecting the RING and keeping her
cool, but the bat keep on coming and coming.

ANGLE BACK ON Rainbow Dash, struggling to stay out of it.

INSERT DASH'S POV: the mass of bats hurtling at Daring Do FLASHES
into a mass of arrows hurtling at Daring Do... then FLASHES BACK
to the mass of hurtling bats.

ANGLE BACK ON Rainbow Dash, reacting to this insight.

Dash notices the WHIP STILL COILED NEXT TO HER. Dash grabs it
and holds it aloft.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Daring Do. I've got your hat! Want
me to toss it?

ANGLE BACK ON Daring Do, still doing okay, but clearly has her
hands full. There's no sign she can hear Rainbow Dash above the
din of shrieking bats.

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash, yelling louder.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Daring Do!
(waving whip, louder)
DARING DO!!

ANGLE ON Ahuizotl who makes a gesture with his hand in Rainbow
Dash's direction. Suddenly, some of the bats fly off toward
Rainbow Dash and ATTACK.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Aaaaahh!

ANGLE BACK ON Daring Do as she realizes Rainbow Dash is in
jeopardy. She fights off the bats that are attacking her and goes
to help Rainbow Dash.

But in her efforts to save Dash, the bats manage to get an ever-so-brief opportunity to gain the upper hand and GRAB THE RING, tossing it to Ahuizotl.

Another wave of Ahuizotl hands and the bats leave Rainbow Dash and all swarm around Daring Do. She does her best to fight them off, but they manage to tie her up, and lift her into the air.

Ahuizotl points toward the FORTRESS IN THE DISTANCE and follows as his bats carry off Daring Do.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(flying after, determined)
Don't worry, Daring Do. I'll come help you!

DARING DO
(glaring back bitterly)
Don't bother. I'd say you've already "helped" plenty.

Dash STOPS in her tracks, DEVASTATED.

RAINBOW DASH
What have I done?

She hovers there STUNNED as the BATS DESCEND UPON HER.

SLAM TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

EXT. FOREST - SAME PLACE - CONTINUOUS

As the CLOUD OF BATS CLOSES IN on Rainbow Dash, she watches as Ahuizotl disappears over the next hill with Daring Do firmly in his grasp.

If Daring Do could hear her over the SCREECHING BATS, she makes no acknowledgment, as she disappears over the next hill crest out of sight.

Meanwhile the BATS SURROUND Rainbow Dash in a flurry of activity.

REVEAL: Fluttershy and the other Ponyville Ponies arriving on the scene. The bats have been COMPLETELY SILENCED.

The bats all look at each other nervously.

A beat. The bats RESUME SHRIEKING, but this time it's to FLY AWAY IN PANIC OVER THE HILLS. In moments, they're gone, revealing Rainbow Dash tied up by Daring Do's whip.

Rainbow Dash's friends help untie her.

RARITY

Oh thank goodness you're all right.

TWILIGHT

Quick. Where does it hurt?

RAINBOW DASH

(re: her heart)

In here. Daring Do *and* the ring have been captured by the dreaded Ahuizotl and it's all my fault.

TWILIGHT

Dash, I'm sure whatever you did was an honest mistake.

RAINBOW DASH

Whatever. Let's just go home.

Dash starts back towards home...

APPLEJACK

We can't go back now! Looks a might like she needs our help more than ever.

RAINBOW DASH

Trying to help is how I got in this mess in the first place. You were right Twilight. We shoulda stayed out of this.

TWILIGHT

Look, there's more going on here than meets the eye. In every Daring Do book there always is. We can't turn our backs on her.

RAINBOW DASH

She doesn't want my help, Twilight.

TWILIGHT

Perhaps. But she might need it anyway.

RAINBOW DASH

No. My hero's way better off without me.

APPLEJACK

This don't sound like you.

PINKIE PIE

Where's the Rainbow Dash who would help anypony at the drop of a hat?

RARITY

Or pith helmet, as the case may be?

RAINBOW DASH
(still walking away)
She's here, where she's got no
business being. She should be at
home.

TWILIGHT
It's fine to look up to Daring Do, but
you've got put her so high up on a
pedestal you can't even see your own
worth anymore.

Rainbow Dash stops in her tracks. Twi has her attention.

TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
She's in the fortress and we're here.
And we wouldn't be who we are if we
didn't go in after her. And neither
would you.

Dash considers this.

TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
So are you with us or not?

INT. AHUIZOTL FORTRESS - DUNGEON - A LITTLE LATER

Daring Do has each of her FOUR LEGS SHACKLED to the stone wall,
dungeon-style, high above a twenty-foot-straight-drop to the
pool full of CIRCLING, HUNGRY PIRANHAS below. Ahuizotl looks
on, satisfied.

DARING DO
Surrender now, Ahuizotl, or I'll be
forced to take you down.

AHUIZOTL
(chuckling)
Oh, Daring Do, I will so miss your
amusing laughter-jokes. Now I must
leave to commence the ring-placing
ceremony to unleash 800 years of
unrelenting sweltering heat.

Ahuizotl exits, still laughing. Daring Do watches him leave...
then snaps into action. She JERKS HER ARM FORWARD SHARPLY, and
the rock it's attached to gives way slightly. Another jerk, and
it gives way a little more...

... but the last jerk causes it to pop out and, to Daring Do's
great surprise, WATER STARTS POURING IN FROM BEHIND THE WALL...
causing it to CRUMBLE while, at the same time, causing the WATER
LEVEL BELOW TO RISE, BRINGING THE PIRANHAS EVER CLOSER TO HER
FEET.

More stones give way as the water behind her pours in with
ever-greater force. THREE OF THE FOUR SHACKLES are attached to
now-dislodged rocks, so they've BECOME HEAVY WEIGHTS

threatening to pull her down into the still-rising
piranha-infested water below.

Water pours in with INCREASING FORCE, and the last remaining
stone holding her up is about to slip out. She'll be sure to
either be devoured by piranhas or drown or both. Even Daring
Do begins to wonder how she'll get out of this one.

But then, as the last rock comes loose...

RAINBOW DASH
Gotcha.

... Rainbow Dash SWOOPS IN and FLAPS WITH ALL HER MIGHT TO KEEP
FROM BEING DRAGGED BY THE WEIGHT TO THE WATERS BELOW. Daring
Do is stunned.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(struggling)
You can flap too, y'know.

Daring Do snaps out of it and joins Dash in flapping there way
toward A SECURE LEDGE on the dungeon's other side.

DARING DO
I was just about to save myself, you
know.

RAINBOW DASH
Of course.

Dash lands Daring Do on the ledge where she can quickly free
herself of the shackles.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
I just thought you might need this.

She hands over Daring Do's whip.

DARING DO
Have I mentioned yet that I work
alone?

RAINBOW DASH
Have I mentioned yet that you're lucky
I don't?

INT. AHUIZOTL FORTRESS - CEREMONIAL CHAMBER - SAME TIME

The other ponies burst in as the final ring is about to be placed,
ceremonially, at the top of a stack of larger rings (same
principle as a colorful stacking-donuts kids toy).

APPLEJACK
Drop the ring,
Huiz-whatever-your-name-is.

AHUIZOTL

Place the ring, quickly!

Just as his bats are about to complete the stack with the final ring, PINKIE PIE makes a RUNNING LEAP and KICKS IT FREE, martial-arts style.

AHUIZOTL

Get it!

Before any henchponies can get it, Rarity grabs it and soon OUR PONIES ARE PLAYING FRISBEE WITH IT, consistently keeping it once step out of reach of the bad guys.

Meanwhile, Daring Do and Rainbow Dash rush in. Daring Do takes in the scene, then turns to Dash.

DARING DO

Come with me.

Daring Do flies off toward the ring stack. Dash, stunned by the invitation, follows.

While all the bad guys are occupied with trying to get the last ring from the other ponies...

DARING DO (CONT'D)

Help me get all these rings off.

Quickly, Daring Do and Dash begin FLINGING RINGS off the long pole in the middle till they're down to the LAST GIANT ONE.

Dash is all ears.

DARING DO (CONT'D)

(grunting)

If we can remove the giant ring at the bottom, the whole fortress will collapse

RAINBOW DASH

Was this your plan all along?

DARING DO

I had to find a way to get into the fortress.

RAINBOW DASH

You did it on purpose?? But I thought
-

DARING DO

Didn't count on how heavy *this* ring would be, though. Guess having a little help can be handy sometimes.

Daring Do struggles to lift the last ring just as Ahuizotl catches sight of her.

AHUIZOTL
Stop her!!

DARING DO
(struggling, to Dash)
You can flap too, you know.

Dash snaps out of it and starts helping. Just in time they are able to lift it up to the high ceiling just out of reach of Ahuizotl's mighty grasp.

RAINBOW DASH
Ponies! Run! This place is going down!

Daring Do and Dash fly the ring out through the open roof of the fortress, while our ponies head for the doors and make their exit.

AHUIZOTL
Daring Do! I will have my revenge!

EXT. FORTRESS - CONTINUOUS

With Daring Do holding one side of the ring, and Dash holding the other, they emerge from the fortress and go flying straight at a NEARBY MOUNTAIN at top speed.

Dash smiles. Then, with a simple nod to one another, they fly past opposite sides of the mountaintop, with the HUGE RINGS SMASHING TO BITS on the peak between them... and then, in the background... the FORTRESS CRUMBLES TO DUST...

Rainbow Dash sees this and smiles, elated. In the valley below she sees her friends all safe and waving.

DARING DO
Could never have done this without you, Rainbow Dash.
I've got a book to finish!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RAINBOW DASH'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Rainbow Dash has the journal from the Castle of the Two Sisters open and writes on its pages with a pencil she holds in her mouth.

RAINBOW DASH (V.O.)
Just had the coolest adventure with the coolest pony ever. Came this close to blowing it because I got so wrapped up in how awesome she was, I almost forgot how awesome I was.
(then)

Good thing I didn't, 'cause it gave me
a chance to show her how important it
is to put your trust in somepony else.

There is a KNOCK at the door. Rainbow Dash sets aside the
journal to answer it.

A DELIVERY PONY sets a package down in front of her.

DELIVERY PONY
Package from A.K. Yearling.

RAINBOW DASH
Sweet. The new book a week before
anypony else gets it. (GASP) Oh my
gosh, oh my gosh! Oh my gosh, oh my
GOSH!!

Rainbow Dash rips open the package to reveal a book.

CLOSE ON - DARING DO BOOK

The picture on the front depicts Daring Do with a SIDEKICK who
LOOKS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE RAINBOW DASH.

The Delivery Pony looks on as Rainbow Dash freaks out.

FADE OUT.

END.