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MY LITTLE PONY IV

"Daring Don't"

Episode 404

Premise by

Dave Polsky

Premise: May 4, 2012

Notes Due: May 8, 2012

DARING DON'T
Premise by David Polsky

While managing clouds, Rainbow Dash spices up her chores with some Daring-Do-style fantasy. She imagines herself combating assailants (in the form of clouds), while she narrates her actions as though she herself were her favorite action hero. Her fantasy ends abruptly when she flies straight into a Cyclops that turns out to be a mountainside instead.

Later, the other ponies all wonder where Dash is. They find her waiting for the mail to arrive. The author of the Daring Do books (name TBD) always responds to her fan mail promptly, but Dash sent her a geeky Daring Do fangirl question weeks ago and still hasn't heard back. When the mail arrives with still no response, Dash sets out to visit the Author in person. Maybe she's getting so much fan mail these days she could use an assistant. The other ponies believe Dash is overstepping, but can't resist coming along.

When they arrive at the Author's house deep in the woods, the doors have been left ajar, a couple of windows are broken, and the place generally appears to be a mess. Through the open door Dash sees what appears to be a manuscript on the table... perhaps it's the next installment! Dash wants to take a peek, and the other ponies can barely restrain her, when they hear commotion and quickly hide. To their amazement, they witness Daring Do arrive and she begins scribbling frantically in the manuscript. Moments later exotic villains appear on the scene. She fights them but the villains escape with a jewel-encrusted goblet. Daring Do makes a couple more notes in the manuscript, and then gives chase. To their amazement the ponies realize that the Author and Daring Do are one and the same pony! Dash immediately sets off to help her hero. The other ponies, unable to stop Dash and concerned for the well-being of their friend, reluctantly follow.

When Dash catches up with Daring Do, she offers to help but Daring Do – ever the loner – insists she's got the whole thing covered and just wants Dash to disappear. But Dash is determined to help. Unfortunately, she's also in a full-on fangirl swoon, and her persistent geeky speculation about what the villains' plan might be, what their lair might look like, how Daring Do would most likely handle a situation like this, etc. are all driving Daring Do crazy. Daring Do makes a plan to rendezvous with Dash someplace, but when Daring Do doesn't show, Dash realizes she's been ditched. Upset that her hero would treat her this way, Dash catches up with Daring Do to give her a piece of her mind, and inadvertently leads to Daring Do's capture by the villains!

When the other ponies catch up with Dash, they find her in despair over what she's done. She admits they were right that she should have never set out on this journey in the first place. Though Dash is tempted to go help Daring Do one more time, she's afraid of making an even bigger mess of things. Her friends help her see that she's been blinded by hero worship and must find the hero within herself. Dash's courage revived,

she heads off to rescue Daring Do, insisting her friends stay behind. The ponies, worried for Dash, follow anyway – only to get captured and thrown into captivity with Daring Do. Dash ultimately succeeds in rescuing Daring Do and her own friends and recovering the goblet in a manner that leaves even Daring Do amazed. Also amazing to the loner Daring Do: that Dash has friends who would risk hoof and limb for her like this. Rainbow Dash and her friends are all sworn to secrecy that the Author and Daring Do are one and the same, and they all end up as characters (with aliases) in the Daring Do's next book.