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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Daring Don't"
Episode 404
Written by: Dave Polsky

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FADE IN:

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EXT. SKY - DAY

Rainbow Dash ZOOMS around, full of anticipation.

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

She happens to see FLUTTERSHY flying by.

2 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Heya Fluttershy, bet you're
excited, huh?

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

4 RAINBOW DASH
Come on. You gotta be excited.

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

6 RAINBOW DASH
I thought so.

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

8 RAINBOW DASH
Because the next Daring Do book is
coming out exactly four months from
today. I can hardly wait!

9 FLUTTERSHY
Oh. I didn't even know that. And
yet... somehow... I was excited
about it?

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

11 FLUTTERSHY
Gosh, I'm not really sure... but I
suppose in four months we'll -

Dash ZOOMS OFF and BLASTS through the CLOUD BANK...

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - FANTASY

... and emerges from thick RAINFOREST BRUSH to spy a huge PYRMAMID SHAPED TEMPLE on the horizon. She looks EXACTLY LIKE DARING DO, except for the rainbow cutie mark on her flank; complete with PITH HELMET and WHIP coiled on shoulder.

12 RAINBOW DASH
Will she at long last stalk the
Fortress of Talocan, and be forced
to brave the Dreaded Bat Flock of
Hormoluz?

The Dreaded Bat Flock attacks her, SCREECHING.

13 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
If so, outnumbered a thousand to
one, could her skill, quick wits
and courage carry the day?
(then)
Duh!

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

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - BACK TO SCENE

ANGLE ON Fluttershy looking on, alarmed.

14 FLUTTERSHY
Dash, look out where you're going!

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

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

Dash spins defiantly to face...

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - FANTASY

... HUITZLOPOTCHTLI, a towering and terrifying monster.

16 HUITZLOPOCHTLI
<HORRIBLE ROAR>

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

17 RAINBOW DASH
Would she cower? Turn to tail and
run? Or maybe bob? Or weave?

Then, ZOOMING right toward the monster.

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

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

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - BACK TO SCENE

ANGLE ON Fluttershy looking on, alarmed.

19 FLUTTERSHY
Dashie, look out!!

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

20 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
I'm not so sure Dashie'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.

21 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.

22 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.

23 TWILIGHT
Dash, so glad you finally made it!

24 RAINBOW DASH
What's everypony doing here?

25 PINKIE PIE
We're having a holiday party. Now
that Twilight's a princess, I'm
trying to get her to convince
Princess Celestia that we need lots
and lots more holidays in
Equestria, so we're trying out a
holiday today to see how everyone
likes it.

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

27 PINKIE PIE
National Random Holiday Party Day.
Whee!

28 APPLEJACK
We thought you knew but were too
busy re-reading one of your Daring
Do books for like the twelfth time.

29 RAINBOW DASH
I would've come if someone had
bothered to invite me.

30 APPLEJACK
I did bother to invite you.
Personally. Don't you remember?

EXT. PONYVILLE - FLASHBACK

Rainbow Dash sits under a tree, reading. Applejack approaches with an ENVELOPE in her teeth and DROPS IT in front of Dash.

31 APPLEJACK
Here, Dash - I done brung ya a -

Dash repositions herself to avoid Applejack and keep reading. Applejack SIGHS and wanders off.

INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - BACK TO SCENE

Dash is busted.

32 APPLEJACK
But at least you're here now,
that's what matters. Come have
some punch.

33 PINKIE PIE
It's got lots of random flavors in
it. You know, in the spirit of the
holiday...

34 RAINBOW DASH
Thanks.
(then, chuckling)
Gotta admit though, a second there
I though you might be celebrating
that it's only three months and
twenty-six more days till the next
Daring Do book comes out.

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

Rainbow Dash does a SPIT TAKE.

36 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!

37 FLUTTERSHY
Yeah, I can vouch for that.

38 RAINBOW DASH
Did they give a reason?

39 TWILIGHT
Nope. The publisher just said A.K.
Yearling won't be able to finish
the book for another two months.
 (then, offering)
Finger sandwiches?

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

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

42 RAINBOW DASH
Oh. Right.

43 TWILIGHT
A.K. Yearling just might be my
favorite author. I know what her
initials stand for. I know her
pony type - Earth pony.

44 PINKIE PIE/APPLEJACK
Yes!

45 RAINBOW DASH
Do you know where she lives?

46 TWILIGHT
 (wary)
Uh, no... though I could probably
find out somehow. Why?

47 RAINBOW DASH
Don't you get it? She probably
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!

48 TWILIGHT
Come on, Rainbow Dash... aren't you
being a little self-centered about
this?

49 RAINBOW DASH
What's self-centered about offering
to help? We could help her with
her laundry, buying her groceries,
cooking her meals. Whatever. Now
who wouldn't appreciate that?

50 APPLEJACK
She might have other folks doing
that for her already.

51 RARITY
Not necessarily. At times I desire
an assist with chores about my
studio yet feel too shy to trouble
others to help.

*

SPIKE bursts in, full of pride.

52 SPIKE
All done cleaning your studio,
Rarity - just like you asked.

53 RARITY
(blushing)
What unfortunate timing.

Spike helps himself to punch and finger sandwiches.

54 RAINBOW DASH
Anyway, where's the harm in at
least going to see if she could use
a helping hoof? Daring Do fans
throughout Equestria would benefit,
and she can always just say no.
Where's the harm in that?

The ponies all EXCHANGE GLANCES. Apparently none of them,
not even Twilight, can see any harm in that at all...

MUSIC UP as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INSERT: A MAP OF EQUESTRIA TRACES A RED LINE INDICATING THE
LONG ROUTE TRAVELED, A LA THE INDIANA JONES MOVIES.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. EVERFREE FOREST - LATER

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

55 TWILIGHT
I'm starting to think this wasn't
such a good idea. Why would she
live in this remote part of
Equestria except to keep folks from
intruding on her privacy? We
should respect that.

Just then, Dash flies down through the forest canopy.

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

57 TWILIGHT
(giddy with excitement)
Ooh-ooh, we're gonna see her house!
We're really and truly gonna see my
favorite author's houuuuuuuse!

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

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

59 RAINBOW DASH
Apparently, someone else 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.

60 APPLEJACK
Somepony really trashed this place!

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

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

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

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

65 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.

66 RAINBOW DASH
(sotto, to Twilight)
Told you she needed groceries...

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

68 RAINBOW DASH
Uh... A... K... Year... ling?

69 A.K. YEARLING
That's not an answer! Speak!

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

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

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.

71 APPLEJACK
We didn't do this, Ms. Yearling,
honest as a winter chill.

72 A.K. YEARLING
I believe you. Now go away.

She keeps searching. The ponies don't leave.

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

74 A.K. YEARLING
I wouldn't jump to that conclusion.
Now. Go. Away.

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

75 FLUTTERSHY
Need any help finding anything?

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

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

77 A.K. YEARLING
(wheeling around, livid)
Did you not hear me? I told you
all to GO A-WA-

Stepping toward the ponies, A.K. YEARLING BUMPS INTO A
CABINET, JARRING from it A LARGE GOLDEN RING which CLATTERS
NOISILY to the floor. She PICKS UP THE RING with great care.

78 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.

79 RARITY
What is that dazzling object she's
found?

80 FLUTTERSHY
I don't know, but it sure seems to
make her feel better.

81 RAINBOW DASH
Good. 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.

82 TWILIGHT
Uh, Dashie, may I speak with you a moment 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...

83 TWILIGHT
Okay look, I've gone along with this up to this point, but enough is enough!

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.

84 RAINBOW DASH
Uh, Twilight, I think maybe we should -

85 TWILIGHT
I know what you think we should do, Rainbow Dash, but I say we move along and let A.K. Yearling be. And furthermore -

Meanwhile, all the ponies but Twilight grow more agitated as they see A STRUGGLE OVER THE RING TAKING PLACE INSIDE THE COTTAGE BETWEEN THE HENCHPONIES AND A.K. YEARLING.

86 RAINBOW DASH
But Twilight -

87 TWILIGHT
But nothing. She's been through something very difficult and -

Meanwhile, in inside the cottage, THE HENCHPONIES SUCCEED IN GETTING THE RING AND ARE ABOUT TO MAKE THEIR ESCAPE.

88 APPLEJACK
Twilight, you don't know the half of it.

89 TWILIGHT
Applejack, I thought at least you
of all ponies would understand
what's going on here.

90 APPLEJACK
I understand plenty! Look!

Finally, Twilight turns around and sees A.K. Yearling, in rapid succession, THROW OFF HER CAPE - revealing that she's a Pegasus - 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.

91 RAINBOW DASH
I don't believe it -

92 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...

93 TWILIGHT
I can't believe it! A.K. Yearling
and Daring Do are one-in-the-same.
My mind is officially blown.

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

95 TWILIGHT
Oh give me a break.

96 RAINBOW DASH
Well, maybe I wasn't completely
sure, but I was close to pretty
definitely sure.

97 APPLEJACK
Amazing.

98 RARITY
Incredible.

99 PINKIE PIE
Wow! So much action! Just like in
the books! Wheeeeeeee!

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

The ponies all snap out of their awe simultaneously.

101 ALL THE PONIES
Oh. Right!

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. SALIERON, sneaks up behind Daring Do,
SNATCHING THE RING AWAY and LIFTING IT OVERHEAD.

102 DR. SALERION
Haha!

ANGLE ON the ponies.

103 RAINBOW DASH
Daring Do!

A loud BONK is heard O.S. The ponies wince.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Daring Do with a LUMP ON HER HEAD,
staggering. Meanwhile, the HENCHPONIES ALL CLOSE RANKS,
BLOCKING OUR PONIES from advancing any closer to help.
Twilight AIMS HER HORN to dispense magic, but some HENCHPONY
UNICORNS put up a forcefield, thwarting her.

104 DR. SALERION
Many thanks, Daring Do. As you can
see our search for this treasure
was unsuccessful without your help.

105 DARING DO
(rubbing her head)
Give it back, Salieron!

106 DR. SALERION
That's Dr. Salieron to you!

107 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.

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

109 DR. SALERION
Dr. Salieron!!

110 DARING DO
So let me guess: Huitzlopochtli the
Great and Terrible 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
prophecy.

111 DR. SALERION
Close... but no.
(beat)
I'm gonna sell this on the open
market, make a bundle and retire
from archeology in splendor.
(then)
Good guess, though.

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

112 DARING DO
Salieron, you fool! The highest
bidder is bound to be an agent of
Huitzlopochtli. Your plan is as
good as delivering it giftwrapped.

113 DR. SALERION
Ah, but that's where you're wrong.
Gifts are given for free.
(then, the henchponies)
To market, henchponies. Let us
ride!

As they all depart.

114 DARING DO
(calling after, furious)
You're dooming the valley to eight
centuries of freezing winter,
Salieron!

Daring Do goes to race after him, but the LUMP ON HER HEAD
makes her woozy and she FALLS TO HER KNEES.

115 RAINBOW DASH
Daring Do!

Rainbow Dash races over to HELP HER BACK UP.

116 DARING DO
(brusque)
Leave me be. I got this.

She stands. Dash seems a bit hurt.

117 FLUTTERSHY
She was just trying to help, Ms.
Do.

118 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 in hot pursuit of the Salieron.

119 RAINBOW DASH
She's injured. We've got to go
help her.

120 TWILIGHT
You heard her. She works alone.

121 RAINBOW DASH
How can we just stand by and do
nothing. You've read the books.
You know what's at stake here!
Huitzlopochtli is the head of the
Ketzwoctl tribe that has sought
control of the Tenoctchican Basin
since Book 3: Daring Do and the
Abyss of Despair.

The listening ponies turn in unison toward Twilight.

122 TWILIGHT
True, but in Book 4 she defeated
Ahuiizotl and secured control of the
Amulet of Redemption, 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.

123 RAINBOW DASH
But the Radiant Shield of Razdon is
vulnerable to the dark enchantment
of the Rings of Domination.
Everybody knows that!

The listening ponies turn in unison toward Twilight.

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

The listening ponies turn in unison toward Rainbow Dash.

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

Twilight is stymied.

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

127 RAINBOW DASH
You heard Daring Do. If this is the
final ring and we don't keep it
from falling into the hands of
Huitzlopochtli, the basin will be
covered with ice for eight
centuries. We gotta help Daring Do
retrieve the ring for safekeeping
before it's too late.

A beat.

128 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 -

129 RAINBOW DASH
I'm coming, Daring Do!

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

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

EXT. SKY - LATER

Rainbow Dash flies high above, scanning the Forest below.

131 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.

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

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

133 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(suddenly terrified)
Nevermind.

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.

134 RAINBOW DASH
Get a grip, Dash.

She slaps herself with her hoof.

135 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Just another adventure. No big deal. Adventure's my thing. I got this.
 (then)
Though doing it alongside Daring Do? Wow, maybe I could get my picture taken with her. Or an autograph. Or an autographed picture! Or -

Dash slaps herself with her hoof again.

136 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
There you go again, Dash. Knock it off. She just a pony like any pony else.
 (then)
A pony who stops entire armies of bad guys with nothing more than a whip and an attitude and a -

Dash slaps herself with her hoof again.

137 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.

138 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Aargh! Ow!

139 DARING DO
 (wrestling Dash down)
Got you, Salieron! Thought you could sneak up on me from behind, well think again!

140 RAINBOW DASH
Ow! I'm not Salieron! Stop!

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

141 DARING DO
Oh. It's you. My bad.

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

142 RAINBOW DASH
Wait, don't go!

Daring Do stops and turns, listening.

143 RAINBOW DASH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Think fast, Dash - 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...

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

Daring Do turns again to leave.

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

146 DARING DO
Uh kid, I've got places to be.

147 RAINBOW DASH
Let me help you. I promise I can
be a huge huge help if you just
give me a chance.

A beat.

148 DARING DO
I. Work. Alone.

149 RAINBOW DASH
But why? I mean, I know you've
always worked alone and things have
always worked out pretty well, but
there's a first time for
everything, right?

150 DARING DO
Kid, you remember that little talk
we had back in the cottage?

151 RAINBOW DASH
Uh, talk? I don't remember any
talk. You just pretty much told us
to go away.

152 DARING DO
That's the talk I meant.

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

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

154 DARING DO
For the same reason I wouldn't team
up with Salieron. My work always
involves secrets, and since you
never know who you can trust, it's
best never to trust anyone.

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

156 DARING DO
That's exactly what Salieron said.
Are you gonna go away or not?

Rainbow Dash says nothing, but simply flashes Daring Do her
BEST, WIDEST, AND MOST PLEADING PUPPY-DOG EYES.

157 DARING DO (CONT'D)
Uch. Fine. You can tag along, but
stay out of my way.

158 RAINBOW DASH
(doing a back flip)
Whee-hoo!

She lands on her hooves, and then - seeing Daring Do already
well ahead of her - she scrambles to catch up.

EXT. FOREST - ELSEWHERE - SAME TIME

The ponies make their way through the forest, searching,
while Twilight and Fluttershy drops in from the canopy above.

159 TWILIGHT
No sign of Dash yet. You?

The ponies shake their heads.

160 FLUTTERSHY
(flying off again)
I'll search north this time.

161 APPLEJACK
So have we figured out a plan yet,
besides just finding Dash before
she gets her behind stuck in a
bucketload of hot trouble?

162 TWILIGHT
I'm trying, but the more I think
about this situation the more it
things just don't seem to add up.

163 RARITY
How do you mean, Twilight?

164 TWILIGHT
For starters, if Daring Do were
trying to keep the ring from
falling into the wrong hands, why
would she keep it in her house?

165 PINKIE PIE
But it wasn't Daring Do's house.
It was A.K. Yearling's house.

166 RARITY
They're the same person, silly.

167 APPLEJACK
True, but not everypony would know
that.

168 TWILIGHT
But some might. So why would
Daring Do take the risk that
someone would find it while she was
away? It seems unnecessary.

169 APPLEJACK
Unless she was keeping it handy to
use it for something.

170 TWILIGHT
You're right. That must be it.
(then, furrowing brow)
But what could that be?

EXT. FOREST - ELSEWHERE - A LITTLE LATER

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

171 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.

172 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.

173 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Or maybe that neat trick you did in
Book 3 where you swoop down on them
and grab the ring with your whip in
one hoof and knock three guys down
with one swing of the other. That
was so awesome.

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

174 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...

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

176 DARING DO
I'm not going to use an ambush.
Too many of them. I'll use this
instead.

Daring Do shows Dash a huge BAG OF COINS.

177 RAINBOW DASH
Wow...

178 DARING DO
That's the big advantage of my
alter ego's successful book series.
Ca-ching.

FULL 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.

179 DARING DO (CONT'D)
 (disguised voice)
Good cold evening, gentlemen.
Amongst your inventory I've been
led to believe is a specimen I am
keen to acquire.

Salieron looks up and then registers a LOOK OF TERROR.

180 DR. SALERION
RUN!!

He turns to run. His henchponies LIKEWISE PANIC AND FOLLOW.

181 DARING DO
(lifting bag of coins)
Calm down. I am simply a customer
trying to conduct a transaction.

Salieron tosses the ring LIKE A FRISBEE as he goes.

182 DARING DO (CONT'D)
Very well.

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash looking on, loving it.

183 RAINBOW DASH
Hee hee! Daring Do, you're the
greatest!

ANGLE BACK ON the RING CLATTERING TO THE GROUND and Daring Do
reaching for it as a HUGE SHADOW LOOMS UP FROM BEHIND HER.

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash looking on, alarmed.

184 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Oh no! It's - !

ANGLE BACK ON Daring Do spinning around to discover -

185 DARING DO
Huitzlopotchtli.

186 HUITZLOPOCHTLI
(thick accent)
Daring Do, it appears you have a
trinket of mine in your possession.

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.

187 RAINBOW DASH
Be cool, Rainbow Dash, be cool.
She's got this. Breathe...

ANGLE BACK ON the Daring Do and her confrontation.

- 188 HUITZLOPOCHTLI
 (eyes aflame)
 The ring, Daring Do. Give it to
 me.
- 189 DARING DO
 Now Huitzlopochtli, you know I love
 you, but I can't give you the ring
 till I've properly proposed.
- 190 HUITZLOPOCHTLI
 Interesting. Because my friends
 her have a proposal of their own...
 for you: hand over the ring or
 suffer the agonizing consequences.

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

- 191 DARING DO
 Bring it.

The bats SWARM DOWN UPON HER.

ANGLE BACK ON Rainbow Dash, stressing.

- 192 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.

- 193 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
 (to self)
 The whip. Use the whip! To create
 a vortex. You've never used it
 that way, I know, but I bet it
 could totally -

Just then, Dash notices the WHIP COILED NEXT TO HER. Daring Do, in disguise, never brought it with her!

Dash grabs it and holds it aloft.

- 194 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
 (shouting)
 Daring Do. I've got your whip!
 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.

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

ANGLE BACK ON Daring Do as she, PERHAPS WITHOUT THINKING, turns for the briefest of moments to look toward where Dash is yelling... and the bats seize that ever-so-brief opportunity to gain the upper hand and GRAB THE RING.

Frustrated, Daring Do FIGHTS OFF THE BATS AROUND HER and flies after the ring. She's gaining ground, but Huitzlopochtli SWEEPS HIS MIGHTY HAND DOWN and SNATCHES Daring Do up in his grasp from the midst of the ROILING BATS.

Then, as bats SCATTER and Huitzlopochtli LIFTS DARING DO HIGH AND CARRIES HER OFF toward the FORTRESS IN THE DISTANCE...

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

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

Dash STOPS in her tracks, DEVASTATED.

198 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 Huitzlopochtli disappears over the next hill with Daring Do firmly in his grasp.

199 RAINBOW DASH
 (calling after)
I'm sorry I messed everything up,
Daring Do! I didn't mean it!

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 SLAM into Dash and send her tumbling.

200 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
All right then, I may have ruined
things for my greatest hero, but
that doesn't mean I can't take it
all out on you guys.

Dash begins GIVING AS GOOD AS SHE GETS from the multitude of bats, just as Applejack emerges over a ridge.

201 APPLEJACK
Found her! Over here!

ANGLE ON the OTHER PONIES joining Applejack at the top of the ridge, horrified and running toward the action at top speed.

Twilight lowers her horn, concentrates, and then FIRES A BEAM OF MAGIC that penetrates the bat-cloud, heading straight for Rainbow Dash. When it HITS HER it forms a protective bubble around her that the bats can't penetrate.

The BATS REACT AS A SINGLE UNIT - all simultaneously turning their heads to look at the other ponies, and then all simultaneously redirecting their wrath onto them.

The one bat left behind is the poor unfortunate one who somehow got trapped inside the protective bubble with Rainbow Dash. The bat REACTS COMICALLY as Dash snarls and prepares to give the little guy a whoopin'.

ANGLE ON the other ponies GRAPPLING with the SHRIEKING BATS. Applejack BUCKS at them. Rarity SHOOS THEM AWAY from Twilight so she can keep firing her protective-bubble-beam. Pinkie Pie is on her back with a BUNCH OF BATS ON HER.

202 PINKIE PIE
 (laughing uncontrollably)
Ooh, hoo, that tickles. Oh can't
take it. Heeheehee! Oh make it
stop, make it stooooooooop!

Then Fluttershy, losing it, yells at the sky:

203 FLUTTERSHY
SHAME ON YOU!!!

The bats all stop in their tracks and fall COMPLETELY SILENT.

204 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Honestly, I don't know *what's*
gotten into all you critters. Most
bats are gentle vegetarians, and
you're behaving like a bunch of
hooligans. What would your mothers
have to say?

The bats all look at each other nervously.

205 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Maybe you'd like me to tell all
your mothers what you've been up to
this afternoon? Hmm???

A beat. The bats RESUME SHRIEKING, but this time it's to FLY
AWAY IN PANIC OVER THE HILLS. In moments, they're gone.

Twilight lets the protective beam stop, releasing Dash... and
the last of the remaining bats beats his hasty retreat.

206 RARITY
Oh Dashie, thank goodness you're
all right.

207 RAINBOW DASH
I'm not all right, Rarity. I'm not
all right at all.

208 TWILIGHT
Quick. Where does it hurt?

Dash droops and points to her heart.

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

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

211 RAINBOW DASH
Whatever. Let's go home.

Dash starts back towards home...

- 212 APPLEJACK
We can't go back now! Looks a
might like she needs our help more
than ever.
- 213 RAINBOW DASH
Trying to help is how I got her in
this mess in the first place. You
were right Twilight. We shoulda
stayed out of this. Let's go.
- 214 TWILIGHT
Look Dash, 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.
- 215 RAINBOW DASH
She doesn't want my help, Twilight.
- 216 TWILIGHT
Perhaps. But she might need it
anyway.
- 217 RAINBOW DASH
Nah. My hero's way better off
without me.
- 218 APPLEJACK
Dash, this don't sound like you.
- 219 PINKIE PIE
Where's the Dash who would help
anypony at the drop of a hat?
- 220 RARITY
Or pith helmet, as the case may be?
- 221 RAINBOW DASH
 (still walking away)
She's here, where she's got no
business being. She should be
home.
- 222 TWILIGHT
Dash, it's fine to look up to
Daring Do, but you've put her so
high up on a pedestal you can't
even see your own worth anymore.

Dash stops in her tracks. Twi has her attention.

223 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.

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

INT. HUITZLOPOCHTLI 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 ALLIGATORS below. Huitzlopochtli looks on, satisfied.

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

226 HUITZLOPOCHTLI
(chuckling)
Oh, Daring Do, I will so miss your
amusing laughter-jokes. Now I must
leave to commence the ring-placing
ceremony to commence an 800 year
frozen wonderland. Or, as I prefer
to call it, winter vacation.

Huitlopochtli 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 ALLIGATORS 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 alligator-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 alligators 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...

227 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.

228 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.

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

230 RAINBOW DASH
Of course.

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

231 DARING DO
I'll take things from here. Have I
mentioned yet that I work alone?

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

INT. HUITZLOPOCHTLI 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).

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

234 HUITZLOPOCHTLI
Place the ring, quickly!

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

235 PINKIE PIE
Ha-yah!

236 HUITZLOPOCHTLI
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.

237 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...

238 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.

239 DARING DO (CONT'D)
I think it's time I let you in a little secret I've been keeping.

Dash is all ears.

240 DARING DO (CONT'D)
If we destroy this giant ring at the bottom, the whole fortress turns to dust.

241 RAINBOW DASH
Wow!

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

242 HUITZLOPOCHTLI
Stop her!!

243 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 Huitzlopochtli's mighty grasp.

244 RAINBOW DASH
Ponies! Run!

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

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.

245 RAINBOW DASH
 (shouting over wind-speed)
 Daring Do?

246 DARING DO
 What?

247 RAINBOW DASH
 Was this your plan all along?

248 DARING DO
 What?

249 RAINBOW DASH
 (louder)
 Did you get captured on purpose?

250 DARING DO
 Oh? So you want me to tell you *all*
 my secrets now?

Dash looks worried, but the DARING DO WINKS. 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.

Dash turns to smile and Daring Do... but droops a little when she discovers Daring Do is somehow nowhere to be found.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PONYVILLE - THREE-AND-A-HALF MONTHS LATER

Rainbow Dash is busy with her usual crowd wrangling, WHISTLING CONTENTEDLY.

The other ponies plus Spike gather on the ground below.

251 TWILIGHT
Hey Dash, we're all gonna go to the
bookstore tomorrow to buy the new
Daring Do book on the first day.
You wanna come?

252 RAINBOW DASH
Nah. Thanks, though.

Dash keeps on WRANGLING AND WHISTLING. The ponies exchange
mystified looks.

253 APPLEJACK
But you've been waiting months and
months for the book.

254 RAINBOW DASH
I know.

255 PINKIE PIE
And you said the wait was driving
you bonkers. And you're not even
gonna line up at the bookstore??

256 RAINBOW DASH
Don't have to. "A.K. Yearling"
sent me a private copy. Came in
the mail yesterday.

257 ALL THE PONIES
No way! / So cool! / Wow!

258 RARITY
Can we see it?

259 RAINBOW DASH
Welllllll... I'm not supposed to...
but....

Dash grabs the book off a cloud and tosses it down, then
flies over to join them.

260 TWILIGHT
You read this already??

261 RAINBOW DASH
Cover to cover. And guess what, in
this one -

262 TWILIGHT
No spoilers.

263 RAINBOW DASH
Okay. But all I'm gonna say is on
this adventure she has a sidekick.

264 TWILIGHT
Really?? Based on you?

A sly smile breaks across Dash's face.

265 RAINBOW DASH
You said no spoilers.

Dash flies off.

266 TWILIGHT
Da-ash!

Dash disappears into the distance. Then, seeing that the
other ponies are all already crowded around the book...

267 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
Hey. Make a little room.

Twilight pushes her way into a spot so they can all eagerly
read together.

FADE OUT.

END.