

Distribution:

Production:

Devon Cody
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Ashley Irving-Scott

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Hasbro Studios:

Stephen Davis
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Michael Vogel
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Kathy Page
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Sophia Hussain

Hasbro Brand:

Mark Wiesenbahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

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

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FADE IN:

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
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.

12 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...

13 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
And if so, could her skill, quick
wits and courage possibly carry the
day? 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 through the PHLANX OF ARROWS as she FLIES THROUGH IT.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - BACK TO SCENE

ANGLE ON Fluttershy looking on, alarmed.

14 FLUTTERSHY
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 Ahuizotl
himself?

Dash spins defiantly to face...

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - FANTASY

... AHUIZOTL, a towering and terrifying monster.

16 AHUIZOTL
<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 Ahuizotl...

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - BACK TO SCENE

ANGLE ON Fluttershy looking on, alarmed.

19 FLUTTERSHY
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 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.

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
So glad you finally made it!

24 RAINBOW DASH
What's everypony doing here?

25 PINKIE PIE
We're having a holiday party.

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

27 PINKIE PIE
National Random Holiday Party Day.
Whee!

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

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

30 RAINBOW DASH
How come nopony bothered to invite
me?

31 APPLEJACK
I came to invite you personally.
Remember?

EXT. PONYVILLE - FLASHBACK

CLOSE ON a BOOK COVER featuring Daring Do.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Rainbow Dash sitting under a tree reading.
Applejack approaches with an ENVELOPE in her teeth and DROPS
IT in front of Dash.

32 APPLEJACK
Here ya go, one hoof-delivered
invitation to -

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

INT. TWILIGHT'S LIBRARY - BACK TO SCENE

Dash is busted.

33 APPLEJACK
But seems you were a spec too busy
reading the last Daring Do book for
like the twelfth time.

34 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.

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

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

(then)

Cupcakes?

*

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. 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 everything about her. Where she grew up. Where she studied literature. Where she wrote the first Daring Do book...

44 RAINBOW DASH

(hopeful)

Where she lives?

45 TWILIGHT

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

46 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?

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

48 RAINBOW DASH
All I'm saying is where's the harm
asking A.K. Yearling if she could
use a helping hoof? She can always
just say no.

The ponies all EXCHANGE GLANCES.

49 TWILIGHT
I suppose your right.

50 RAINBOW DASH
Course 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.

51 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.

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

*

53 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.

54 TWILIGHT (CONT'D) *

Oh no! What happened?!

55 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.

56 APPLEJACK

Somepony really trashed this place!

57 PINKIE PIE

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

58 RARITY

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

59 TWILIGHT

Oh no! What if something terrible
happened to her!

60 RAINBOW DASH

I know! There might be no more
books!

(then, embarrassed)

But of course I'd be worried about
her, too...

61 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.

62 RAINBOW DASH

(sotto, to Twilight)

Told you she needed groceries...

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

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

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

66 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.

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

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

She keeps searching. The ponies don't leave.

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

70 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.

71 FLUTTERSHY
Need any help finding anything?

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

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

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

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.

74 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.

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

76 FLUTTERSHY
I don't know, but she sure seems to
like it.

77 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.

78 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...

79 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.

80 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.

81 RAINBOW DASH
I don't believe it -

82 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...

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

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

85 TWILIGHT
Oh give me a break.

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

87 APPLEJACK
Amazing.

88 RARITY
Incredible.

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

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

The ponies all snap out of their awe simultaneously.

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

92 DR. CABALLERON
Haha!

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

93 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...

94 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.

*
*

95 DARING DO
 (limping)
Give it back, Caballeron!

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

97 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.

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

99 DR. CABALLERON
Dr. Caballeron!!

100 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.

101 DR. CABALLERON
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.

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

103 DR. CABALLERON
Ah, but that's where you're wrong.
Gifts are given for free.
 (then, the henchponies)
To market, henchponies.

As they all depart.

104 DARING DO
 (calling after, furious)
You're dooming the valley to eight
centuries of unrelenting heat,
Caballeron!

105 RARITY
Oh my, think of all the damage that
heat could do. To the land, to our
crops, to my mane...

*

Daring Do goes to race after him, HOBbled.

106 RAINBOW DASH
 (racing over to help)
Daring Do!

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

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

109 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.

*

110 RAINBOW DASH
She's hurt. We've got to go help.

111 TWILIGHT
Yes I know, but... you heard her.
She says she works alone...

112 RAINBOW DASH
How can we just stand by and do
nothing. You've read the books.
You know what's at stake here!
Ahuizotli has sought control of the
Tenochtitlan Basin since Book 3:
Daring Do and the Abyss of Despair.

The listening ponies turn in unison toward Twilight.

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

The listening ponies turn in unison toward Rainbow Dash.

114 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.

115 TWILIGHT
Duh. 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.

116 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.

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

118 RAINBOW DASH
You heard Daring Do. If this is the
final ring and we don't keep it
from falling into the hands of
Ahuizotl, the basin will be
scorched. We gotta help Daring Do
retrieve the ring for safekeeping
before it's too late.

A beat.

119 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 -

120 RAINBOW DASH
I'm coming, Daring Do!

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

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

EXT. SKY - LATER

Rainbow Dash flies high above, scanning the Forest below.

122 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.

123 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.

124 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.

125 RAINBOW DASH
C'mon Rainbow Dash, get a grip.

She slaps herself with her hoof.

126 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.

127 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
There you go again. Knock it off.
She's 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.

128 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.

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

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

131 RAINBOW DASH
Ow! Stop!

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

132 DARING DO
Oh. It's just you. My bad.

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

133 RAINBOW DASH
Wait, don't go!

Daring Do stops and turns, listening.

134 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...

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

Daring Do turns again to leave.

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

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

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

A beat.

139 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.

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

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

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

143 DARING DO
That's exactly what Caballeron
said. Look, I don't have time to
argue about this.

*
*

144 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.

*
*

EXT. FOREST - ELSEWHERE - SAME TIME

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

145 TWILIGHT
No sign of Rainbow Dash yet. You?

The ponies shake their heads.

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

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

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

149 RARITY
How do you mean, Twilight?

150 TWILIGHT
For starters, if Daring Do were
trying to keep the ring from
falling into the wrong hands, why
would she leave it in so vulnerable
a spot as her own house?

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

152 RARITY
They're the same pony, silly.

*

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153      APPLEJACK
True, but not everypony would know
that.
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154 TWILIGHT
But some might. So why would
Daring Do take the risk that
someone would find it while she was
away? It seems careless.

*

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

156 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.

157 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.

158 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.

159 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.

160 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...

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

162 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.

163 RAINBOW DASH
Wow...

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

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.

165 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.

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

167 AHUIZOTL (O.S.) *
Caballeron!! The ring!!

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

168 DARING DO *
Ahuizotl.

169 DR. CABALLERON *
Oh my, seems the other buyer's here *
after all. I'm afraid that means *
the price goes up. Supply and *
demand, you know...

170 AHUIZOTL *
<TERRIFYING ROAR>

Caballeron freezes. Then... *

171 DR. CABALLERON
Sold.

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.

172 AHUIZOTL
(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.

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

ANGLE BACK ON the Daring Do and her confrontation.

174 AHUIZOTL
(eyes aflame)
The ring, Daring Do. Give it to
me.

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

176 AHUIZOTL
Interesting. Because my friends
here 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.

177 DARING DO
Bring it.

The bats SWARM DOWN UPON HER.

ANGLE BACK ON Rainbow Dash, stressing.

178 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.

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

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

180 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.

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

182 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. *

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

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

Dash STOPS in her tracks, DEVASTATED.

185 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.

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

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. *

187 FLUTTERSHY (O.S.)
SHAME ON YOU!!!

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

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

The bats all look at each other nervously.

189 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,
revealing Rainbow Dash tied up by Daring Do's whip.

*
*

Rainbow Dash's friends help untie her.

*

190 RARITY
Oh thank goodness you're all right.

*

191 RAINBOW DASH
I'm not all right at all.

192 TWILIGHT
Quick. Where does it hurt?

193 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.

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

195 RAINBOW DASH
Whatever. Let's go home.

Dash starts back towards home...

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

197 RAINBOW DASH
Trying to help is how I got her in
this mess in the first place.
(MORE)

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

You were right Twilight. We shoulda stayed out of this. Let's go.

198 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.

199 RAINBOW DASH

She doesn't want my help, Twilight.

200 TWILIGHT

Perhaps. But she might need it anyway.

201 RAINBOW DASH

Nah. My hero's way better off without me.

202 APPLEJACK

This don't sound like you.

203 PINKIE PIE

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

204 RARITY

Or pith helmet, as the case may be?

205 RAINBOW DASH

(still walking away)

She's here, where she's got no business being. She should be home.

206 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.

207 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.

208 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
So 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.

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

210 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. Or, as I prefer to call it, summer vacation.

*

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...

211 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.

212 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.

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

214 RAINBOW DASH
Of course.

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

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

She hands over Daring Do's whip. *

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

217 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). *

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

219 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. *

220 PINKIE PIE
Ha-yah!

221 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.

222 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...

223 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.

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

Dash is all ears.

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

226 RAINBOW DASH
Wow!

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

227 AHUIZOTL
Stop her!!

228 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.

229 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.

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.

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

231 DARING DO
What?

232 RAINBOW DASH
Was this your plan all along?

233 DARING DO
I had to find a way to get into the
fortress.

*
*

234 RAINBOW DASH
You did that on purpose?? But I
thought -

235 DARING DO
Didn't count on how heavy *this* ring
would be, though. Guess having a
little help can be handy sometimes.
 (then)
Could never have done this without
you, Rainbow Dash.

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:

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. *

236 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. *

237 DELIVERY PONY
Package from A.K. Yearling. *

238 RAINBOW DASH
Sweet. The new book a week before
anypony else gets it. A.K.
Yearling had said she had a
surprise for me. *

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. *

239 DELIVERY PONY
You must really like these Daring
Do books. *

FADE OUT.

END.