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MY LITTLE PONY IV

“Flight to the Finish”

Episode 405

Outline by

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ACT I**TEASER:****1) EXT. PONYVILLE – DAY - ESTABLISHING****2) EXT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – CONTINUOUS**

APPLE BLOOM, SWEETIE BELLE and SCOOTALOO are trotting off to school. Ever optimistic, the Crusaders are excited for their school day, while SILVER SPOON and DIAMOND TIARA express their boredom: school is the same old same old every day, what is there new and exciting ever?

CUT TO:**3) INT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – CONTINUOUS**

MISS CHEERILEE promises that today won't be the same old same old: two special guests are here with a very special announcement. She introduces the HEAD of the EQUESTRIA GAMES, who tells the class that the littlest ponies are to have the honor of representing Ponyville in the Games' Opening Ceremonies.

RAINBOW DASH bursts in to reveal the coolest part: the Girls will get to compete for the honor, and the coolest, most awesome act will be the one chosen. The ponies murmur: *Could it be me? Could it be me?* But Scootaloo looks at the Crusaders and is determined: *It's gonna be us!*

END TEASER.**4) INT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – CONTINUOUS**

The Head of Games tells everyone that Rainbow Dash is going to serve as the coach for all the Ponyville Ponies who hope to compete for the honor of carrying the flag.

While the Head of Games tries to give the facts about the competition, an overexcited Rainbow Dash keeps interrupting her to tell the story of how she represented Cloudsdale in the Games when she was a just little pony.

5) FLASHBACK - EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE – STADIUM – DAY

Young Rainbow Dash carries the flag of Cloudsdale in the opening ceremonies, while she performs a fantastic, athletic flying routine to bring the flag into the stadium.

6) RESUME REALITY - INT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – CONTINUOUS

Rainbow Dash really talks up the opening ceremonies of the Games, telling the wide-eyed young ponies that this is the most important thing that will ever happen in their young lives! And she knows that her legendary performance offers them quite a high standard to live up to. She hopes they're up to the challenge!

Scootaloo *is* up to the challenge, and as Miss Cheerilee sends them out for recess to plan who's going to enter to compete for this honor, Scootaloo tells RD that she's going to come up with the most awesome, most exciting routine imaginable. Rainbow Dash tells Scootaloo that she's sure she will.

7) EXT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – CONTINUOUS

While Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle are uncertain about how they could ever match up to Rainbow Dash's performance at the Games, Scootaloo is undaunted – and really jazzed! She rallies the other Crusaders, and launches into a SONG about how important representing Ponyville is to them! What's more, she sings, they are the right ones to do this: Scootaloo believes that the Crusaders have the talent, the heart, and the drive to come up with a routine that will win this honor.

But when they finish singing, they find two dissenting voices doing an ironic "slow clap": it's Silver Spoon and Diamond Tiara. The two tell the Crusaders that they themselves are planning to compete, and they already have a routine planned that's so great it's sure to crush everyone else. (And why not? Of course, *they* already have their Cutie Marks. Why shouldn't they win? Having Cutie-Mark-less ponies represent Ponyville would be unthinkable!)

Scootaloo vows: Cutie Marks or no Cutie Marks, the Crusaders are they ones who are going to win the day. *GAME ON!*

ACT II**8) EXT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY**

The Cutie Mark Crusaders have been practicing, and they're excited and ready to show their routine to Rainbow Dash. RD says she's ready to see what they've got – and when they perform the routine, it's really impressive! The showpiece of the act is its grand finale: a daring scooter trick from Scootaloo, as she bursts through a hoop held by the other two Crusaders, the Ponyville flag streaming behind her in the breeze.

The trick is really quite amazing, and when it's over RD is impressed. She tells the Crusaders that they have some practicing and refining to do, but that she thinks this is a great routine and they have a real shot at winning. Then she flies off to coach another group of competing ponies.

But watching off to the sidelines are the Silver Spoon and Diamond Tiara, who are impressed as well – and also concerned. They realize the Crusaders' routine might indeed land them a victory, and they can't have that! So as soon as RD is gone, they sidle up to the Crusaders and start to undermine them: they tell Scootaloo that it's such a shame she wants to represent Ponyville and she's not even flying as part of her routine!

Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom insist that no one said anyone *had* to fly in this routine, and that they like it just the way it is – but our resident Mean Girls see that Scootaloo's face falls and they go off with a satisfied smirk: the damage has been done!

9) INT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle are ready to go home to get some rest, pleased with a job well done. But shaken by the Mean Girls' comments, Scootaloo now grows nervous: she tells the Crusaders they need a whole new routine in which Scootaloo plans to fly.

Apple Bloom asks Scootaloo if she really thinks that's a good idea, but Scootaloo is adamant: she's sure that flying is the only way to win this competition. So even though it's late in the day, the Crusaders go back to the training field.

10) EXT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – ATHLETIC FIELD - EVENING

The Crusaders are exhausted, and starting to get cross and impatient with each other. They've been working on this new routine for a long time, and it's not going terribly well. When Scootaloo tries to fly she just hovers a few inches off the ground.

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle admit to each other that the routine is nowhere near as impressive as it was before she gave up the scooter trick. But they feel they can't tell Scootaloo, who's grown deeply determined to try to fly but can't seem to manage it. Scootaloo promises she'll be fine, just fine, when they present the final routine for Rainbow Dash's review tomorrow.

11) EXT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

The next day, RD returns to check the Crusaders' progress, saying she's really looking forward to seeing their improvement and confiding that she believes the Crusaders have a great shot at winning the chance to represent Ponyville at the Games. But when the Crusaders run through their new version of the routine, it falls flat: at what's supposed

to be the big finish, Scootaloo just hovers inches off the ground. (Unseen by RD or the Crusaders, the Mean Girls watch the routine from behind a bush, snickering.)

Seeing the routine, RD's jaw drops open. Then she gives her review and stumbles over to say. "Y'know, that's good and all – always great to try out different options..." but in the end she suggests that they go back to the first version of the routine, which was better. Then she flies off to another coaching.

Relieved, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle tell Scootaloo they agree with Rainbow Dash: since RD thought that the old version of their act was good, why don't they just stick to that? But the Mean Girls slink by and plant seeds of doubt in Scootaloo's mind: "Well of *course* Rainbow Dash said she liked the old routine. What did you think she was going to say? She knows you have her on a pedestal and she just didn't want to hurt your feelings." Then they saunter off, with sly winks at each other.

As confident as she was when she undertook this challenge, Scootaloo is completely unsure of herself now. They're supposed to leave tomorrow for the Crystal Empire and the act is totally unready! Frustrated and out of confidence, Scootaloo consents to return to the old routine, which means the Crusaders have to stay late to recreate what they did before...

12) EXT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – ATHLETIC FIELD - AFTERNOON

...but increasingly tired, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle are uncertain of which choreography to do and fumble their moves. Scootaloo's really dragging too. It's a disaster! (Which causes the Mean Girls to "hi-five" each other from a hidden vantage point, where they watch through binoculars as the Crusaders' efforts fall apart.)

Seeing how shaky Scootaloo is becoming, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle call it a night, saying they're not getting anywhere tonight, and they'll just have to squeeze in some rehearsal when they arrive at the Crystal Empire tomorrow. They tell Scootaloo to get some rest and she'll feel better in the morning when it's time to get the train at the Ponyville Station. But Scootaloo tells her friends to go on home, saying she's staying behind to practice just a few minutes more. And she keeps practicing...

13) EXT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – ATHLETIC FIELD - LATER

...and practicing...

14) EXT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – ATHLETIC FIELD – STILL LATER

...and practicing...

15) EXT. PONYVILLE – SCHOOL – ATHLETIC FIELD - NIGHT

...and with less and less success, and more and more weariness, Scootaloo alone and determined, keeps practicing well into the night.

16) EXT. PONYVILLE – STATION - DAY

The competing ponies all gather to board the train for the Crystal Empire. Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle are concerned because the train is about to leave and they don't see Scootaloo anywhere. As a conductor calls a final "All aboard!", they finally spot Scootaloo and urge her to hurry onto the train – but exhausted, Scootaloo says she's not going to the Crystal Empire at all. Scootaloo tells her friends that she knows she's the weak link, and clearly she's going to blow it for the other Crusaders if she performs – so it's better if she stays home and lets them go on to compete without her. Wishing them well, she goes off just as the train is pulling out.

As the train pulls away from the station, RD joins the Crusaders to wish them well and say how excited she is for them to present their amazing routine with Scootaloo's scooter finale – but when she finds out that out the routine won't *have* a scooter finale, or even a Scootaloo at all, she's horrified: *WHAT?* She just *has* to get Scootaloo to the competition, and fast! As the train steams full speed ahead to the Crystal Empire, Rainbow Dash flies off as fast as she can to find Scootaloo and get her back on the team.

ACT III

16) EXT. TRAIN TRACKS TO THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE – DAY

As the train steams on, Rainbow Dash flies in the other direction towards Ponyville. She tells herself she hopes she can find Scootaloo in time.

17) INT. – PONYVILLE – SCOOTALOO'S BEDROOM – A LITTLE LATER

At home in her bedroom, a dejected Scootaloo's taking down Rainbow Dash posters from her walls. She says she fears she's let her idol down. Then she goes to put away her scooter forever...

But there's a beating of wings at her window, and RD flies in! RD can't understand what's gotten into the little pony and asks if Scootaloo's gone crazy – but Scootaloo won't agree to RD's demand that she get back on the train. Exasperated, RD asks why, and Scootaloo explains that she was trying to live up to RD's legend by being a *flying* Pegasus pony, like she thinks she's supposed to be. She can't understand what good her routine would be otherwise.

Finally getting it, RD tells Scootaloo that it doesn't matter if she can fly or not – that Scootaloo should do what makes her special and what she can do better than anybody

else: *scootering*. Scootaloo is still unsure of herself, saying she's the weak link and doesn't want to ruin her friends' chances of winning – but when RD tells her that Scootaloo's scooter finale is the most necessary part of that routine and the other girls can't win without her, Scootaloo is finally swayed. Her confidence back, she begins a REPRISE of the song of determination from Act I, and RD joins in.

18) EXT. – PONYVILLE – SCOOTALOO'S HOUSE – CONTINUOUS

As they sing, Scootaloo takes her scooter out, and she and her idol burst from her house (RD in the air, Scootaloo zooming along on her scooter.)

19) MONTAGE - EXT. – VARIOUS LOCATIONS - PONYVILLE AND CRYSTAL EMPIRE – CONTINUOUS

A brief montage begins as RD and Scootaloo try to catch the train. They pass Ponyville landmarks on their way to the Crystal Empire. Will they get there on time? All the way, RD encourages an increasingly confident Scootaloo, who's got her mojo back in a big, big way. Her scooter moves grow more and more daring and impressive.

At a climactic moment, Scootaloo approaches a ridge of small rolling hills. She gulps, and CAM goes close in on her as she hits the moguls and launches into an amazing Evel Knievel-style loop de loop, as there's a MATCH CUT TO:

20) INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE – STADIUM – LATER

We're suddenly watching the finale of the Crusaders' routine, featuring Scootaloo's amazing final scooter move! The ponies in the stands leap to their feet, clapping their hooves wildly. When the Head of Games announces that the Cutie Mark Crusaders have been chosen to represent Ponyville, the Crusaders hug. Rainbow Dash and Miss Cheerilee go wild with excitement. (By contrast, the Mean Girls fume.)

21) INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE – STADIUM WINNER'S CIRCLE – MINUTES LATER

As the Head of Games puts victory rose wreaths on the Crusaders, they sing a quick REPRISE of the final chorus of the song. That's when Rainbow Dash flies in and reminds them that what they did was good – but if they want their routine to be even *better* at the Equestria Games, they've still got some practicing to do! Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle moan: "*Oh, maaaaan!*" – But Scootaloo, once again confident in her own abilities, takes up RD's challenge with pleasure: "*YESSSS! Let's DO this thing!*" she cheers, as we... FADE OUT.

THE END.