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MY LITTLE PONY IV

"Flight to the Finish"

Episode 405

Premise by

Ed Valentine

Premise: May 4, 2012

Notes Due: May 8, 2012

FLIGHT TO THE FINISH
Premise by Ed Valentine

The Head of the Equestria Games announces a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the littlest ponies: a chance to win the honor of carrying the Ponyville flag in the Games' Opening Ceremony! To compete, groups of ponies will travel to the Crystal Empire and present their most awesome flag routines for the judges. Scootaloo really wants the Crusaders to win - especially since her idol, Rainbow Dash, carried the flag for Cloudsdale when she was Scootaloo's age. (Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon, of course, are absolutely certain that one of *them* will win; after all, they already have their Cutie Marks, while the CMCs don't!) So Scootaloo takes the lead in planning their flag routine, sure that it's a winner (though it is, in fact, unimpressive, and the Crusaders perform it clumsily). Soon Scootaloo is overjoyed when Rainbow Dash herself volunteers to be the CMCs' coach - but her excitement turns to huge dismay when Rainbow Dash is *much* tougher on Scootaloo than the other CMCs!

And the harder RD urges her to step up her game, the more Scootaloo grows convinced that RD doesn't like her. She loses confidence in herself, and fails, flops, and falls each time they run through their routine! Racking her brain to figure out what she did to offend her idol, Scootaloo tries to curry favor with RD instead of perfecting their act. This annoys RD even more, and she chides Scootaloo for slacking off. Soon Scootaloo is fed-up. Just before leaving on the train to the Crystal Empire, she tells the other Crusaders that RD obviously thinks she's the weak link, and sadly asks the other Crusaders to go compete without her. As the train pulls out of the station, RD joins the Crusaders and is aghast to find Scootaloo stayed behind: *What was she thinking? Has she gone crazy? We need her if we want to win! Scootaloo's the most important part of this routine!*

Racing against time, Rainbow Dash dashes home to find a dejected Scootaloo, busy taking posters and drawings of RD off her wall. RD finally convinces Scootaloo to talk to her, and offers a rousing pep talk: she wasn't being mean at all – she was just pushing Scootaloo because she believes in her so strongly and knows she can win! RD was just trying to urge Scootaloo to work hard to create the best, most original routine possible. Bolstered, Scootaloo is rarin' to go – but there's one huge problem: the train has already left the station for the Crystal Empire! So it's a mad race to the Crystal Empire with RD in the air and Scootaloo on her scooter. With Rainbow Dash's firm but fair encouragement from the sky, Scootaloo races towards the train. She puts on an extra boost of speed, makes a daring leap-and-loop-de-loop, and just as she is about to land on the train we MATCH CUT to the end of the CMCs' performance, featuring this very same awesome scooter leap as the grand finale! The judges leap to their hooves, cheering: *the Crusaders are the winners!* RD congratulates Scootaloo - and challenges her to make the routine for the Games themselves even bigger and better! Scootaloo sighs, but it's a happy sight: she gladly accepts the challenge as we... *go out. THE END!*