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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Tank's for the Memories

Episode 5##

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TEASER**SC1. EXT. FIELD/FOREST AREA – AFTERNOON**

It’s a beautiful early autumn day. The sun casts mottled shadows over the fields as red, brown, and golden leaves fall from the trees and lay in fluffy piles. High in the sky, the clouds are plenty, puffy and white. WEATHER TEAMS are hard at work preparing for the start of winter, including APPLEJACK, PINKIE PIE, and RARITY. Pinkie Pie is busy reminding everypony that winter is the BEST TIME OF THE YEAR. Meanwhile, up in the clouds, TWILIGHT SPARKLE is trying to help the pegasi, but she is adorably inept.

Suddenly RAINBOW DASH flies in. “Time to clean up autumn, everypony! Let’s get to work!” Twilight says they’ve already been working since dawn: “We were starting to wonder if you were ever going to show.” Rainbow Dash explains that she had a little bit of a hard time getting Tank moving that morning, but everything’s cool now— “Whoa whoa whoa!” She rescues TANK, who was sound asleep on a pile of leaves and about to be raked up by some earth ponies.

FLUTTERSHY, who is helping the animals gather food for winter, says it looks like Tank might be ready to hibernate. Rainbow Dash laughs off Fluttershy’s suggestion. “Tank’s not going to hibernate, he’s going to spend an awesome winter doing awesome stuff with me.” As she flies off, chuckling condescendingly, Fluttershy and Twilight share a concerned look.

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT 1****SC2. INT. FLUTTERSHY’S COTTAGE – LATER**

Fluttershy examines Tank. She explains that hibernation is a healthy, natural occurrence in many animals, but Rainbow Dash isn’t buying it. “He’s just a little run-down. Can’t you give him a vitamin or something?” But Fluttershy is adamant. When the time comes, Tank will leave and dig into the ground, reappearing when the spring warms the earth back up. “Tank’s going to hibernate, but when spring comes he’ll wake up and be right back by your side.” Rainbow Dash snaps at her and says she’s just plain wrong. She snatches up Tank, who is so tired he flops around limply.

SC3. INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – LATER

“I told you Rainbow Dash—I’m a DRAGON!” exclaims SPIKE. Rainbow Dash, who is obviously in denial, is seeking a second opinion: “But, you’re *like* a turtle, right? Kinda green and scaly—and *you* don’t have to hibernate, do you?” Spike explains that he doesn’t, but that’s because HE’S A DRAGON! “Okay, but you’re like, related to a turtle or something, right??” NO! And if Fluttershy says Tank needs to hibernate, then Tank needs to hibernate. Rainbow Dash lashes out at him, too. “None of you know what you’re talking about!” She takes the exhausted Tank and flies off. Spike is slightly offended, “Huh! Related to a turtle! As if! Hibernate? Pshaw! hmm...hibernate....on second thought...maybe I should look into that...”

SC4. EXT. FIELD/FOREST AREA – LATER

Rainbow Dash and Tank are back in the fields helping clear away autumn for winter. Rainbow Dash is clearly distracted and Tank is clearly sleepy, but when her friends try to suggest maybe Fluttershy was right, Dash erupts. “Enough talk about hibernation! Your brains are all so scrambled maybe it’s you who need to hibernate! Tank is fine and he and I are going to have a great winter together so why don’t the rest of you just BUTT OUT?”

SC5. EXT. RAINBOW DASH’S HOUSE – LATER

Rainbow Dash lies down next to Tank, who is looking very sleepy. Her denial has become anger. “There’s no way you’re gonna hibernate, buddy! Those ponies don’t know anything.” The thought of Tank sleeping through all the fun things surrounding winter—the holiday songs, the cozy stories by the fire, the sledding and snowball fights—infuriates her.

She hears Tank snoring and nudges him awake. But now her anger has given way to real desperation. She frantically tries to think of anything that can keep Tank awake. “Winter is the best part of the year and they want you to sleep through the whole thing? Well you can’t hibernate if winter NEVER COMES!!”

END ACT 1**ACT 2****SC6. EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY**

BIG MCINTOSH and Applejack are starting to move snow around the apple trees. “A good frost is exactly what these apples need to get nice and crisp!” exclaims Applejack. They take a warm-up break inside, where GRANNY SMITH and APPLE BLOOM are stirring a big cauldron of hot apple cider over a fire in the kitchen. “Maybe we better taste it just to make sure it’s cinnamony enough,” offers Applejack as she enters the kitchen with Big McIntosh. Granny Smith puts the stick aside, pulling her teeth out with it, and serves them some cups. But when Applejack and Big McIntosh return to the orchard, they see that somepony has melted all their snow into big puddles! “Who did this? Somepony sabotaged all our hard work!”

SC7. EXT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE – CONTINUOUS

Rarity is in the window putting together a display of scarves, hats, and hoofmitts. Last season’s goods sits in a pile in a little cart. She goes into her store to look for some of the scarves she’s missing. When she comes back out, all the autumn clothes have been put back on display—and the winter clothes have gone missing. “Oh, in the name of all things glittery, who would dare to steal fashion?!”

SC8. INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – CONTINUOUS

Pinkie Pie is putting the last minute touches on a gingerbread house, complete with little snowponies and candy decoration. “There!” she exclaims as she places the last candy cane on the front door. “Just in time for winter!” Reveal that there are gingerbread houses stacked all over the room. She heads into the kitchen to get more sprinkles, but when she returns, someone has trampled the gingerbread houses into dust! “Who would do such a thing?!” she cries. “Are they trying to ruin winter?” Her eyes go red with fury at the thought. “NOPONY RUINS WINTER ON MY WATCH!!”

SC9. EXT. FLUTTERSHY’S COTTAGE – CONTINUOUS

Fluttershy is in front of her house conversing with the forest animals. “What do you mean it’s all gone?” The animals explain to her that all of the food they’ve gathered for winter storage has disappeared. “Well, that’s terrible! We can’t start winter without a stockpile of food!” HARRY THE BEAR starts to zoom around the room, doing his best Rainbow Dash impression. Fluttershy can’t believe her friend would do something like this.

SC10. INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – LATER

All the ponies, except Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie, have convened in Twilight’s castle. They compare stories and piece together that it probably was Rainbow Dash behind the winter sabotage. Now that they understand how seriously upset she is about Tank’s hibernation, the ponies are really worried. “We’d better go try and find her.”

SC11. EXT. FIELD/FOREST AREA – LATER

A tyrannical Pinkie Pie orders workers around like Cecil B DeMille. “MORE FROST THERE! I WANT THAT ICE POURED NOW! *I WILL HAVE MY SNOW!!*” Rainbow Dash flies overhead with Tank in a little pouch. She sees that despite her best efforts winter is still going to come. Panicked, she flies away.

SC12. INT. RAINBOW DASH’S HOUSE – LATER

Rainbow Dash is slumped on her fluffy cloud bed with a sleepy Tank by her side. She strokes his head, still upset and angry. “Why do we even need winter, anyway? None of these ponies get it.” Deep in the bargaining stage, Rainbow Dash is desperate to think of some other way to avoid Tank’s hibernation. And that’s when she hits on the perfect solution...

SC13. EXT. SKY – LATER

Rainbow Dash hovers in the sky, with Tank in his pouch on one side and an overstuffed saddlebag on the other. “Next stop, tropical winter-free paradise.” She begins to fly away. “Stop right there!” says Twilight Sparkle, halting in front of Rainbow Dash alongside Fluttershy. They try to reason with her, to tell her they understand how much she’ll miss Tank, but she isn’t having it. She is running away from Ponyville to find warmer climates and the rest of them can just go hibernate for all she cares.

“You can’t run away from your problems, Rainbow Dash!” But that’s exactly what she does. Twilight Sparkle tries to pursue her in a TOP GUN style air chase. “There are some things in life that are just out of your hooves!” shouts Twilight. Just when it seems Rainbow Dash is pulling away, Fluttershy flies in out of nowhere and stops her in her tracks. Rainbow Dash, defeated, finally realizes there is nothing she can do to stop the inevitable. She is a broken pony, depressed and miserable.

Her friends surround her, explaining the importance of winter. Fluttershy calmly explains that every living thing, from animals to plants, NEEDS winter. “That’s right, Rainbow Dash,” says Applejack, “without the cold snap, my apples won’t grow and taste they way they should.” Rarity chimes in: “We must give snow caps, mittens, and booties their opportunity to shine!” Pinkie Pie skates through the scene, oblivious to everything that has happened: “Check it out, everypony! No winter saboter is going to keep me from my frosty hooves and pink cheeks!”

Rainbow Dash looks sadly at Tank, who yawns with complete adorableness. There is a whole range of emotion in her eyes, and soon the tears begin to fall. Her friends give her some space as she bends down to let Tank out of his pouch. He turns to look back at her with a smile. She is overcome with grief as she watches him walk away into the sunset.

END ACT 2

ACT 3**SC14. INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – NIGHT**

The other ponies and Spike are trying to figure out what to do for Rainbow Dash. She seems so depressed now with Tank gone. Pinkie Pie, having been filled in on the full story, suggests maybe they SHOULD end winter early. Rarity wonders why Twilight Sparkle can’t just use her magic to keep Tank from hibernating. Just then, Rainbow Dash walks glumly through the room. She is a shell of her normal self. “I think I’m just gonna go home, guys.” They try to keep her there. Applejack suggests she check the kitchen, maybe get something to eat. “Huh? Oh...sure...good idea...”

As much as they hate to see her so depressed, Fluttershy reminds them that it’s HEALTHY for Tank to hibernate, and Rainbow Dash will accept this in time. “That’s all true, Fluttershy, but it don’t make it hurt any less,” says Applejack. “Well, what’re we gonna do?” asks Spike.

“We’re going to do what any good friends would do,” explains a suddenly confident Twilight. “We’re going to sing.”

SC15. INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – MOMENTS LATER

The ponies enter the kitchen to find Rainbow Dash crying over a piece of plain bread. “Rainbow Dash? What’s wrong?” She wails, “It’s the bread! It rhymes with red, which is Tank’s fourth favorite color...”

She devolves in tears as the MUSIC COMES UP. She explains that she was going to have such a fun first winter with her pet, but now she just feels so all alone. Her friends sing her a song about accepting what life gives and the emotions that come with it. Using changing seasons as a metaphor, they show her that life and change go hoof-in-hoof using examples from their own lives. But even after hearing (and seeing) how each of her friends have dealt with change in their own lives, Rainbow Dash is no closer to working out of her depression...

SC16. EXT. FIELD/FOREST AREA – MORNING

The ponies, minus Rainbow Dash, gather to finish up the winter prep. Snow is piled high and clouds cover the sky. Pinkie Pie feels remorse for trying so hard to bring winter when it only caused her friend pain. They all agree it will be hard to enjoy this winter if Rainbow Dash is still feeling so blue.

Just then, Rainbow Dash arrives. She says she’s still sad, but is ready to help. With the help of her friends, she has come to accept that Tank needs to be away every winter. It won’t be easy, but now she knows she can handle it. “And besides,” she says to Spike, “I know when I’m feeling lonely I can count on you to be my substitute turtle.”

THE END