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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Tanks for the Memories

Episode 5##

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

High in the sky, the clouds are plenty, puffy and white. Suddenly they rip apart as Rainbow Dash blasts through, Tank puttering along behind. “Good job, everypony! Keep it up!” We see that there are crews of weather teams busy preparing the landscape for winter, kicking leaves off trees and raking them up, moving out the lighter clouds to make room for fluffier ones packed to the brim with snowflakes, etc. “We’ll have this place ready for winter in NO TIME!” exclaims an excited Rainbow Dash. “Right, Tank?” Tank just yawns.

“What’s the matter with you?” she says. “Aren’t you psyched for our first winter together?” As she scans the horizon, we see visions of the things she describes, complete with snow where there is now only brown: “Snow forts...ice skating...and these babies,” she says, patting one of the overstuffed clouds to release a puff of snow like a salt shaker, “are packed with big, fat snowflakes. Once we open them up, that’s when sledding season is officially on!” Tank yawns again. Rainbow Dash frowns.

Twilight Sparkle flies up to join them. “Everything is looking great!” Rainbow Dash agrees...except for Tank. She says he’s acting weird, like all slow and stuff. Twilight leans in and takes a close look at Tank. “You’re right, he does look a little slow...just like he always does. Come on, Tank, the ice team has just started hoof-rolling some icicles!” As Twilight and Tank fly off, we stay on Rainbow Dash. Something is just not right...

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

Fluttershy examines Tank with a magnifying glass. He sits there impassively, occasionally blinking. “I don’t know, Rainbow Dash, I suppose he could be a teensy weensy eensy bit slower than usual...” Tank yawns and Rainbow Dash says, “SEE! Did you see that?” Fluttershy clearly thinks Rainbow Dash is overreacting but doesn’t want to say anything. So she offers, “Maybe he’s just getting ready to hibernate.” Rainbow Dash scowls and says that maybe Fluttershy hasn’t noticed, but Tank isn’t a bear. Fluttershy explains that all sorts of animals need to hibernate. They have a very long sleep during winter to help conserve energy when the temperature gets too cold. When the time comes, Tank will leave and dig into the earth, then reappear when the spring sun warms the ground back up.

There’s a beat where we don’t know how Rainbow Dash will react, then she just shakes her head and waves Fluttershy off. “Ah, you don’t know what you’re talking about. I’m going to a REAL reptile expert...”

SC3. INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – LATER

“I told you Rainbow Dash—I’m a DRAGON!” exclaims Spike. Rainbow Dash, who is obviously in denial, has sought a second opinion on Tank’s condition. “But, you’re LIKE a turtle, right? Green, scaly—and you don’t hibernate, do you?” Spike explains that he doesn’t, but that’s because HE’S A DRAGON! “Good enough for me!” says Rainbow Dash. “Come on, Tank.” She starts to fly off, but Tank has drifted to sleep. She nudges him awake and he follows, leaving a disgruntled Spike. “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 is back at work, trying to ignore what Fluttershy said about Tank, which is growing increasingly more difficult. He has fallen asleep in mid-air, propelling around and around in a circle. Pinkie Pie notices: “Awww look at that cute little guy, all snuggly wuggly, getting ready to hiber—”

“DON’T SAY IT!” yells Rainbow Dash. Pinkie continues fawning over Tank, cheerful as ever, until Rainbow Dash cuts her off again: “If you think it’s so cute, why don’t YOU go hibernate?” Pinkie’s eyes go wide: “That’s a great idea!” Other weather ponies have noticed Rainbow Dash’s anger, and have stopped work to gawk. “WHAT?! What are you looking at? Get back to work!” They shake their heads and mutter, but return to their jobs.

Twilight walks over and says that Rainbow Dash should be nicer to everypony. They’re all working very hard. Rainbow Dash says she’s just sick of everypony talking about hibernation. “That’s no reason to get so angry—” “I’M NOT AAAANNGRYYY!!” She grabs Tank and flies off in a huff. Pinkie Pie hops up and happily asks if Twilight knows any good hibernation spells.

SC5. EXT. RAINBOW DASH’S HOUSE – LATER

Rainbow Dash frowns at Tank, who is dangling from his propeller rig like dead weight. We see a FLASH OF WORRY in her eye before she hardens into drill sergeant mode. “Come on, Tank, up and at ‘em! I need you bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, not sleepy-eyed and scaly-tailed! Well, you can keep the scaly tail, but...come on, Tank, please wake up!”

He smacks his lips and looks up at her, but his eyes are so droopy he can barely see. “You can’t hibernate, Tank! What about all the cool stuff we’re going to do this winter?” Tank lets out a big yawn. The fear in Rainbow Dash’s eyes is clear. She paces around her house, frantically trying to think of a solution. “I got it! Fluttershy said you hibernate until the spring, right? Well then we’ll just have to...STOP WINTER!”

END ACT 1

ACT 2

SC6. EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES – DAY

Rainbow Dash scans the preparations. She is wearing a pouch with Tank inside. We see that not only is he tired, but his teeth are chattering and he is wearing a winter hat. Not only is he getting sleepier, but he is getting colder, too. Rainbow Dash notices some pegasi trying to place snowclouds over the field. Her eyes narrow...

The pegasi have a debate about where exactly to place the clouds (think of contractors arguing over blueprints). When they finally agree, they turn back around and the clouds are gone.

Down below, an earth pony picking up leaves notices a heaving tree at the edge of the forest. As he edges in to inspect...BOOM! The tree explodes, covering everything around (including the pony) with snow.

SC7. EXT. PONYVILLE, VARIOUS – DAY

Rainbow Dash, carrying Tank in the pouch, flies through town looking for way to stop winter. Over this montage, she sings a song in the style of “Poor Unfortunate Souls” about how she will make this the most summery winter ever:

-SWEET APPLE ACRES – When the Apples have their backs turned, congratulating themselves on clearing all the leaves from the trees, Rainbow Dash zips in and secretly glues the fallen leaves back onto the branches. The Apples turn back around, utterly confused.

-SKY – She flies to some pegasus ponies busy dropping snow. As she sings, she orders them to different positions in the sky and pantomimes that they should make wind with their wings. WIDEN to reveal she has created a snow loop, where the snow falling from the clouds is blown from one pegasus to the next until it falls back into the top of the cloud.

-DIFFERENT PART OF THE SKY – She flies through the clouds, poking holes in them. REVEAL the holes she has made let the sun through...right above the iced-over ponds, melting them back to water.

-MORE THINGS LIKE THIS...

As the song finishes, Rainbow Dash sits back to admire her work. But nothing has been accomplished. For every step she took to stop winter, the weather teams have taken three to bring it forward. Tank's teeth chatter from his pouch. Now, there is a real sense of worry in Rainbow Dash's eyes.

She notices some pegasi forming a tornado to pull water to Cloudsdale (they are emptying a pond to make a huge sledding hill). A new idea hits her. "That's it! If I can't stop winter in Ponyville, maybe I can stop it at the source!"

SC8. EXT. CLOUDSDALE, WEATHER FACTORY – LATER

Rainbow Dash stealthily zips through Cloudsdale, hiding behind cloud columns, with Tank stowed in his pouch. She waits outside the big weather factory for the lunchtime horn to sound. Pegasi come out in droves. Then, she sneaks in...

SC9. INT. WEATHER FACTORY – CONTINUOUS

In a panic, she heads to the snowflake room. But just wrecking some snowflakes won't stop anything. She's got to think bigger...

On the cloud assembly line, she finds various sizes and shapes of clouds waiting to be stuffed with various sizes and shapes of snow. At the head of the assembly line she sees the cloudmaking machines (think of an ice cream machine, where liquid goes in and ice cream comes out). Nearby is an enormous tank of fresh water that is used to make the clouds. "Hmm...so if there's no water in that tank, there will be no clouds. And if there are no clouds there will be no snow. And if there is no snow there will be NO WINTER!"

"I hate to do this to these hardworking weather ponies, but desperate times call for desperate measures..." She shuts off the emergency button and opens up the half dozen spouts at the bottom of the giant tank. Water shoots out of the faucets and the tank slowly empties. She glances at Tank, who is floppy and barely awake.

She starts to sneak back out of the room, but slips in the water, crashing into a table full of snowflakes. The snowflakes stick to her like feathers. She tries to get up, but can't see, and ends up inside a giant drum of flakes. Now she looks like a fluffy snowpony! She slips again and lands on an ice sheet (being rolled through a crank machine like pasta). She slides, out of control, into the next room...

...a completely dark storage room filled with rack after rack of LIGHTNING IN BOTTLES! "AAAAHHHH!!!"

SC10. EXT. WEATHER FACTORY – CONTINUOUS

Water, lightning, snowflakes, and rainbows start to pour out of the factory! The factory workers gather round in concern.

SC11. INT. WEATHER FACTORY – CONTINUOUS

Rainbow Dash staggers back into the assembly line area, trying desperately to get the snowflakes out of her eyes, as lightning bolts bounce around the room. She leaps out of the way and accidentally flips a lever on a cloudmaking machine. It fires into high gear, spewing out massive clouds!

SC12. EXT. PONYVILLE – CONTINUOUS

From below, Twilight Sparkle and the other ponies see weather phenomena exploding from Cloudsdale in the distance. Huge overstuffed clouds roll toward Ponyville! Lightning streaks across the sky! Waves of snow and water dump from the clouds to the ground below! "Uh-oh..."

END ACT 2

ACT 3**SC13. INT. WEATHER FACTORY – DAY**

Rainbow Dash stands and wipes the snow from her eyes. She can finally see again, and what she sees is an enormous cloud puffing from the machine. It's about to blow!

SC14. EXT. PONYVILLE – CONTINUOUS

Weather teams scramble to prepare for the wall of winter headed toward Ponyville. "Everypony inside! We're getting the whole season's snow at once!" There's an explosion in the distance, and Twilight and the others watch as a rainbow comet blasts across the sky from Cloudsdale, sailing over Ponyville with a trail of sparkly snowflakes and icicles.

Twilight and the others find Rainbow Dash in a huge pile of leaves that had been gathered from the field. They help her out of the pile and she shakes off the snowflakes. "Rainbow Dash, what happened up there?" She admits that she just wanted to stop winter so her friend wouldn't have to sleep. Twilight points to Tank, who is sound asleep in his pouch. Though he is incredibly adorable, the sight makes Rainbow Dash tear up...

SC15. RAINBOW DASH'S HOUSE – LATER

Rainbow Dash is lying on her bed, robed and drying up. Tank is beside her in his own little robe, warming up, too. Her five friends are there (a line of dialogue will explain that Twilight cast the cloud-walking spell from "Sonic Rainboom" because they all wanted to be there for their friend).

They give her space, letting her have a moment with Tank. Rarity whispers to Twilight that, "She just looks so...sad. And defeated." Twilight explains to the others that she thinks Rainbow Dash might finally be ready to accept that Tank needs to go away for the winter. Twilight tries to gently prod Rainbow Dash: "Would you like us to help you carry him to the ground?" Rainbow Dash snaps, but it's not the same hostility as in Act One. It is almost petulant, like a spoiled child. Fluttershy steps forward. "Rainbow Dash, you're not going to be able to move forward until you let it out." But Rainbow Dash doesn't want to hear it. She just cuddles Tank closer and wallows in self-pity.

"All right, you leave me no choice. Rainbow Dash, you have chosen a pet who can't handle the cold!"

Rainbow Dash sputters. The others look at her, confused. Did she just...cry?! "There there, Rainbow Dash," says Fluttershy. But now the floodgates open. Rainbow Dash cracks, tears flowing. The other gather around to comfort her, but she is only just getting started. She moans and bawls, comically writhing on the bed.

"WAAAAAAHHHHH!!!!" The others' compassion quickly turns to confusion. "I DON'T WANT HIM TO GOOOOOOOOOO!!! WAAAAAAHHHHH!!!!"

"How do we stop this, Fluttershy?" says Applejack. "We don't! She's got to let it go!" says Fluttershy, shouting to be heard over Rainbow Dash's over-the-top blubbing. "It's only for a few months, Rainbow Dash!" cries Rarity, but this sets off a fresh round of yowling.

They try their best to comfort her and calm her down, but Rainbow Dash doesn't do anything quietly. Finally, Fluttershy is able to stem the tide by reminding Rainbow Dash that hibernation is nothing more than a really big nap. Rainbow Dash comically blows her nose and whimpers, "I do love naps." The others, sensing that the worst may be over, close in to offer their own support. "When he wakes up, we can throw him a wake-up party!" says Pinkie Pie. "And I'll design a new look for spring, just for Tank!" adds Rarity. Rainbow Dash, bleary-eyed, looks over at Tank and sees how completely exhausted he is. Finally, she is able to accept that hibernation is for his well-being, and this shouldn't be about her own selfish desires.

SC16. EXT. FIELD – LATER

Ponyville is covered in winter, thanks to Rainbow Dash's excursion to Cloudsdale. Townsponies are already sledding and building snowponies. But Rainbow Dash and her friends have cleared a patch of snow away so Tank can dig down into the earth. Rainbow Dash nuzzles Tank and says, "Have a good nap, buddy. I'll see you when it warms up." He nuzzles her back, then digs into the ground.

The others gather around her to make sure she's okay. "Eh, no big deal. It's just a big nap, right? And there's tons of winter fun to be had with my other friends." The others, thrilled to see Rainbow Dash back to normal, get excited about sledding, etc. But she reclines on the ground and whips out a Daring-Do book. "You guys go ahead, I'll catch up with you later," she says with a cocky grin. "If I know Tank, he won't be able to sleep without a bedtime story."

THE END