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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Griffon Grove

Episode 5##

Written by: Mitchell Larson

Premise: Jan.16th, 2014

GRIFFON GROVE

Premise by Mitchell Larson

Pinkie Pie and Rainbow Dash burst into Twilight's castle, both glowing with rainbowness. They're excited to have been called by the map, but are confused to find that Twilight isn't glowing, too. She says the mission must only be for the two of them. And when they find out where the map is taking them, all of their excitement for the mission evaporates. Their Cutie Marks are pointing straight to Griffon Grove. "Does this have something to do with Gilda?" Neither of them are excited about that prospect, but Twilight tells them they have a job to do.

Griffon Grove is a majestic, regal kingdom perched on an enormous rock that breaks through above the clouds. The city is made up of giant primeval trees, and griffons live in elaborate nest houses [*DESIGN NOTE: since a griffon is made up of a lion and an eagle, this version of their homeland is a mix of Pride Rock and eagles' nests*]. Pinkie Pie and Rainbow Dash quickly realize how out of place they are when they get hostile looks from the locals. In fact, everyone in Griffon Grove seems to have quite the ego. They are snooty, arrogant, and self-absorbed, and none of them seem to particularly care that any of the others are even there (it's the West LA of Equestria). Just as the two ponies are starting to question the map, they hear a familiar voice: "Well...never thought I'd see you two dweebs again."

Gilda is as angry as ever, and doesn't want to listen to a word Pinkie Pie or Rainbow Dash says, especially Pinkie. She says everything is fine in Griffon Grove, and she doesn't miss her friendship with Dash one bit. In fact, she'd prefer if they just left. But Pinkie Pie and Rainbow Dash refuse. They know they have something to accomplish, but they don't know what, so eventually Gilda agrees (reluctantly) to let them trail her and see that everything is fine so they will leave. As the day progresses, Pinkie Pie and Rainbow Dash see how hard Gilda's life is. No one in Griffon Grove pays her any attention, even when she does something great. And when Pinkie Pie praises her, it catches Gilda off-guard. She is suspicious of ponies being nice to her and caring about what she does.

Seeing how Gilda grew up, Rainbow Dash has flashbacks to Junior Speedster Flight Camp, where she and Gilda first met. Gilda was different then, shy and sullen. But when Dash tried to befriend her, Gilda took the whole "I'm awesome" vibe to heart, and soon began acting like a Griffin version of her new friend. On her disastrous trip to Ponyville in "Griffon the Brush Off," she only acted so badly to Pinkie Pie because she was afraid of losing Rainbow Dash – her only friend.

The ponies realize that they have been sent to Griffon Grove to try to help Gilda learn to make true friends, and the first step is to help her drop the attitude and be herself...her true self. Gilda resists. It's hard to be yourself when you're all alone and no one around you even cares that you exist. But, Pinkie Pie says, being yourself is the only way to make a real friend. Gilda finally builds up the courage to go out of her comfort zone and approach some griffons she has always wanted to get to know better. Though it's difficult for her, she actively tries to be herself. She fails a few times, but in the process of coming out of her shell, she and the ponies have a really fun time trying (and freaking out some of the more snooty griffons in the process). Pinkie Pie and Rainbow Dash suddenly have flashes of rainbowness, signaling that their work is done. "But how can that be? I still haven't made a friend," says Gilda. "No," says Rainbow Dash, "you've made two." She and Pinkie Pie hug Gilda, who hugs them back. As the ponies return to Ponyville, they leave Gilda with the confidence to be herself and trust that the friendships will follow.