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MY LITTLE PONY 5

The Lost Treasure of Griffonstone

5##

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TEASER**SC1. INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – DAY**

Rainbow Dash poses like a Greek statue. She is struggling to maintain the awkward position. Is it for a painting? A sculpture? No, it's for Scootaloo's birthday cake. Pinkie Pie tells her to hold still while she puts the finishing touches on the life-size frosting Rainbow Dash. "And stop shimmering!"

Sure enough, a GLOWING RAINBOW LIGHT (from ep 501) ripples through Rainbow Dash's body. The same thing happens to Pinkie Pie. They look at one another and their eyes go wide. "The map!"

They race off screen. A beat later, Pinkie darts back in and runs a hoof through the frosting Dash, then licks it clean. "Come on, Pinkie!" She darts away and we go to...

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT 1****SC2. INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – LATER**

Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie enter the map room with Twilight Sparkle and Spike. They're a little confused to find only two Cutie Marks projected above the map. "Does that mean you're not coming with us?" asks Pinkie Pie. Twilight says it looks that way. But there must be a reason the map wants only those two.

Pinkie Pie and Rainbow Dash look at the location they're being summoned to... GRIFFONSTONE! Rainbow Dash is thrilled. "Ohmygosh! I know exactly why we're going there!" As she narrates, we see what she is describing in a...

SC3. FANTASY SEQUENCE

"I read in an interview that A.K. Yearling based one of her books on the legend of the lost treasure of Griffonstone!" Perched atop an enormous stone that pierces through the clouds sits the majestic kingdom of Griffonstone (a bigger, more impressive version of Pride Rock). The structures comprising the kingdom are made of sticks and branches, like a city made of eagles' nests. It is breathtaking, worthy of the griffon species.

In the main palace sits a GOLDEN IDOL, protected by proud griffon sentries. "The griffons who live there are half lion and half eagle, the king of beasts and the king of birds. And their greatest source of pride was a mysterious golden idol. Until a one-eyed beast called Arimaspi came and stole it away..." ARIMASPI crashes into the palace and snatches the idol. He is essentially a Cyclops, but much more of a Harryhausen Cyclops than anything resembling a human.

Arimaspi battles with the GRIFFON KING at the edge of a BOTTOMLESS PIT just outside the kingdom. "During the struggle, Arimaspi and the idol fell into a bottomless pit." As the creature plummets into the blackness, we see the heartbreak in the griffon king's eyes. Griffonstone's great treasure, gone forever...

SC4. INT. TWILIGHT'S CASTLE – CONTINUOUS

"We're going to fight Arimaspi and return the lost idol to the griffons!" Twilight looks at her skeptically. How is missing treasure a friendship problem? But Rainbow Dash is too excited by her vision of this adventure to listen. "It's *totally* a friendship problem, Twilight, obviously."

SC5. EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION – LATER

Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie are boarding a train and discussing their trip. To get to Griffonstone, they'll have to ride to the end of the line and then hike a mountain range.

"This is so exciting!" says Pinkie Pie. "Maybe we'll get to see your old friend from flight camp, Gilda!" For the first time, Rainbow Dash's mood darkens. "She's not my friend, remember? She insulted you and all my other friends the one time she visited Ponyville. I hope I never see her again." She changes the subject back to the legend of the lost idol and her excitement returns once again.

SC6. EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE – DAY

Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie, wearing Mongolian shepherd hats, have arrived at the base of Griffonstone. They can just see the kingdom's silhouette perched high on the enormous rock that pokes through the clouds. It is stunning...

SC7. EXT. GRIFFONSTONE, VILLAGE SQUARE – LATER

...and when they get to the top, it's actually kind of a dump. The bones of the great kingdom remain, but the place is totally run down. Some of the nests have fallen and never been repaired. It's also a bit of a ghost town. Scattered griffons walk the streets, but none of them so much as look at the two strangers.

Rainbow Dash tries to announce their arrival, approaching random griffons and asking to speak to a leader. But the griffons are incredibly rude. Some ignore her or bump her out of the way. Others couldn't care less what she's saying.

"Well, well, well...never thought I'd see you two dweebs again." They turn to find... GILDA.

END ACT 1**ACT 2****SC8. EXT. GRIFFONSTONE, VILLAGE SQUARE – DAY**

"What are you doing here?" asks Gilda, "I was hoping I wouldn't ever have to see you again." "Look, Gilda," says Rainbow Dash, "we don't like you and you don't like us—" "I do!" interrupts Pinkie Pie. "—but the sooner we find Arimaspi and get back the idol, the sooner we'll be out of here."

Gilda laughs. They came all the way to Griffonstone because of some dumb legend? What a waste of time! "We'll see how dumb it is when I defeat Arimaspi and get your idol back." Gilda just shakes her head. Her grandmother used to talk about how great Griffonstone was when the idol was still there, back when griffons still had pride in their city and cared about one another, but those days are loooooong gone. Most griffons have left the kingdom and gone their own way, and the ones left don't care about anything but themselves. "And that's the way we like it," she says. She walks away, still shaking her head at the naïveté of the ponies. But Rainbow Dash doesn't care what Gilda says. She's going to find that idol. She marches away, leaving Pinkie Pie alone. Pinkie has to decide between following Rainbow Dash or Gilda. She has an intuition and chooses to follow Gilda...

SC9. INT. SUPPLY SHOP – LATER

Rainbow Dash enters a shop that is strewn in spider webs and dust, like nopony has been inside for years. She tells the shopkeeper that she needs some supplies because she's going to bring back Griffonstone's former glory. The shopkeeper, busy doing nothing, can barely be bothered to look at her. "What do I care about glory? You got any gold?" Rainbow Dash is disheartened. She had expected to be welcomed as a hero, but instead she is being treated like a pest.

SC10. EXT. GRIFFONSTONE, VILLAGE SQUARE – CONTINUOUS

Pinkie Pie furtively tracks Gilda as she goes about her daily business. It turns out she is a food vendor, selling her creations from a cart on the street. Pinkie Pie watches as one griffon after another passes by without even looking at her. Finally, a griffon buys something, but refuses to give her more than one bit for it. He then dismissively tosses the wrapper aside and it lands on Gilda's face. She doesn't seem particularly bothered by how shabbily she is being treated. She just scowls and sneers like she always does. The more Pinkie Pie sees of Griffonstone and its citizens, the more she realizes it is a FRIENDSHIP DESERT. And if that doesn't change, the kingdom will eventually just crumble away...

SC11. EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF GRIFFONSTONE – LATER

Rainbow Dash is geared up for her descent into the bottomless pit. She has hired a griffon to be her guide, but he is completely unhelpful and demands a new gold bit for every little thing. Rainbow Dash tries to complain that she has already paid him – and besides, if they can pull this off he will be a hero to all his fellow citizens. He will be the one who helped return the pride of Griffonstone to its rightful place. But the griffon guide could not care less about that.

It's starting to dawn on Rainbow Dash how empty and hostile this place really is. "And this is where Gilda grew up? That explains a lot..."

SC12. EXT. GRIFFONSTONE, VILLAGE SQUARE – LATER

Pinkie Pie continues her watch. She sees a griffon come out of a "building" without holding the door for the one behind. The door crunches the second griffon, causing her to fall to the ground in pain. Gilda goes over to her and helps her to her feet, but even this small act of kindness is met with indifference. The injured griffon shakes off the incident and walks away without even a smile or thanks for Gilda.

"AH-HA!" shouts Pinkie Pie, leaping out from her hiding place. Gilda rolls her eyes, but Pinkie Pie says she saw what just happened, and knows that Gilda isn't as self-centered as these other griffons. Gilda says it's no big deal, that's Greta, a griffon she has known since birth. "A *friend* you've known since birth?" "No," says Gilda, "griffons don't have friends." We see a tiny, subtle hint of her inner hurt when she adds, "I had a friend once, remember? And look how that turned out."

Pinkie Pie sees right past Gilda's hostility to that tiny crack of vulnerability. Her wheels begin to turn as she starts to put some things together...

SC13. INT. BOTTOMLESS PIT – LATER

The endless void is like a steam vent, with random bursts of wind and heat shooting out. This makes flying down too dangerous, so they'll have to climb. Rainbow Dash rappels down the rock with a lantern. It's tough going on the craggy rock face, but she is exhilarated by the physical challenge. Even though she's only just inside the mouth of the pit, her spirits are high. "We're going to find this idol in no time!"

Suddenly, a blast from the depths of the pit knocks her into the wall. The rope snaps and she plummets onto a small rock ledge. Her wing is injured and the rope dangles above her, out of reach. She calls up to the guide, but he is busy climbing back to the top. "Wait!" she calls. "Throw me another rope! I hurt my wing and I'm stuck here!" But the guide has reached the top and looks down at her with complete indifference. "Not my problem." He walks off, leaving Rainbow Dash stranded inside the bottomless pit...

END ACT 2

ACT 3**SC14. INT. BOTTOMLESS PIT – DAY**

Rainbow Dash, forlorn, shouts for help. Another blast of steam shoots up from the depths and we see how perilous her situation really is. “HEEEEEELP!”

Suddenly, Pinkie Pie peers down over the edge. “There you are, silly! Guess what, I totally figured out what friendship problem the map wants us to fix! SO EXCITING!” And she races away.

“PINKIE! *PINKIE GET BACK HERE!*” Pinkie’s face reappears. “Oh, right. Sorry.” She tries to help by lowering a rope, but Rainbow Dash is just too far down. She tells Dash to hold tight, she’s going back to get Gilda. “Gilda doesn’t care about me! Pinkie, wait!” But Pinkie is gone again.

A bit of rock cracks off her already tiny ledge, disappearing into the bottomless pit. Her situation seems completely hopeless. After seeing how callous the guard was, she is convinced that Gilda won’t lift a claw to help her either.

SC15. EXT. GRIFFONSTONE, VILLAGE SQUARE – LATER

Pinkie Pie finds Gilda dealing with another obnoxious customer. She tells her what’s happened and says she needs to come quickly. But Gilda says Rainbow Dash’s predicament isn’t her problem.

Pinkie Pie pleads with her. “You may not think Rainbow Dash is your friend now, but she was once, wasn’t she?” Gilda doesn’t want to think about it, but her mind goes back to her first days at the...

SC16. EXT. JUNIOR SPEEDSTER FLIGHT CAMP – FLASHBACK – DAY

A smaller, younger Gilda has just arrived at flight camp. She is shy and sullen and awkward, and clearly feels out of place amongst all the pegasi. The expression on her face says she wants to be anywhere else in the world but here.

Suddenly, a brash filly named Rainbow Dash zips through. She is full of confidence, even when some others try to belittle her. We see Gilda watching her with awe. As the flashback progresses, we see the two of them slowly becoming friends. By the end, Gilda has found her confidence and is just as cocksure as Rainbow Dash. She is the Gilda we recognize from “Griffon the Brush-Off.”

SC17. EXT. GRIFFONSTONE, VILLAGE SQUARE – CONTINUOUS

Gilda is still stone-faced and hard on the outside, but something about the memory has moved her enough that she reluctantly agrees to go help Rainbow Dash.

SC18. INT. BOTTOMLESS PIT – LATER

Gilda and Pinkie Pie look down to find Rainbow Dash on the tiniest little bit of ledge. “Hang on, loser, I’m coming.” Gilda dives into the pit and flies down. Another blast of steam hits and she is forced to cling to the rock wall until it passes. But Rainbow Dash loses her balance...she’s just about to fall...

“RAINBOW DASH!” screams Pinkie Pie. She hurls into the pit, just grabbing Rainbow Dash’s hoof as the last of her ledge breaks away. Gilda wraps a talon around Pinkie’s leg as she falls past, and the weight of two ponies pulls her off the wall! All three plummet into the darkness!

Eventually, the ponies crash onto a rocky outcropping, then tumble over the side (but their lantern stays, lighting the scene). Rainbow Dash has the ledge by one hoof, with Pinkie Pie dangling from her legs. Gilda lands on the ledge and grabs Rainbow Dash’s hoof. As she struggles to pull the ponies up, something catches her eye...

A SHIMMER OF GOLD. THE IDOL. THE LOST TREASURE OF GRIFFONSTONE.

Gilda's eyes go wide. She reaches out for it and just scrapes it with a talon, knocking it loose. The idol slowly rolls toward the edge of the outcropping. Gilda can't reach it and maintain her hold on the ponies. Her grip on Rainbow Dash's hoof is slipping. She has to make the choice to save them or the idol...

And she watches it fall over the side and disappear into oblivion. She grabs Rainbow Dash's hoof with her other claw and pulls the ponies to safety. Dash throws her hooves around her old friend and thanks her profusely. Pinkie Pie hugs them both.

SC19. EXT. GRIFFONSTONE, VILLAGE SQUARE – LATER

Gilda and Rainbow Dash apologize for how they treated each other, and then Gilda apologizes to Pinkie Pie. She says she had never had a friend before meeting Dash at flight camp, and when she saw how close she was with Pinkie Pie on that disastrous visit to Ponyville, she freaked out and acted like a jerk.

Rainbow Dash, despite mending her friendship with Gilda, is upset that she will never be able to recover the lost idol. Pinkie Pie sagely says, "But we weren't sent here to find the idol, Rainbow Dash. We were sent here to replace it with something even better." If griffons could learn to care about one another again, this might be an even greater kingdom than it used to be. And it all starts with something more valuable than gold: friendship.

She encourages Gilda to go try to befriend Greta, the griffon she has known her whole life. They watch as a nervous Gilda approaches Greta with a piece of food from her cart. Greta is suspicious and hostile, but after a small chat, accepts the food. Gilda returns with a huge smile. "She said I'm weird and told me to get away from her a couple times, but she said 'thanks' when I gave her the food! She even said it tasted good!"

Just then, the rainbow shimmer flutters through Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie. "Looks like it's time for us to go." Gilda looks panicked: "But...but how can that be? I'm supposed to spread friendship here by myself, but I haven't made one single friend yet!" Rainbow Dash gives her a smile: "No. You've made two." She and Pinkie Pie both hug Gilda, who has to fight back tears. She realizes it's true.

As Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie leave town, the ground starts to rumble and a craggy TREE sprouts up in the center of the kingdom. They turn back to see it and notice Greta crossing the square to join Gilda. Dash and Pinkie watch as the two griffons share some unheard conversation about the tree. The first green shoots of friendship.

Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie hoofbump, then head out of town, knowing that they have left the seeds of friendship in a place that hasn't seen them in centuries. And a new lost treasure has been found.

END