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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Rainbow Confession

Episode

Written by: Mitchell Larson

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TEASER**INT. PINKIE PIE'S APARTMENT – DAY**

Pinkie Pie greets Rainbow Dash and Tank. Rainbow Dash is hesitant to leave Tank for the weekend – she's off to Canterlot for Wonderbolts Reserves duties – but Pinkie Pie assures her all will be well. "Gummy and Tank are the best friends in all of Equestria! It's completely impossible for them to be better friends!" Tank has helicoptered into the corner where he is banging against the wall and Gummy sits on the floor licking his eye. After a beat, Pinkie Pie throws her hooves in the air and shouts, "PET PARTY!"

ACT ONE**EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION – DAY**

Rainbow Dash pushes her way through the crowd. "Come on, Rarity, we gotta get good seats!" Rarity struts behind like Lana Turner, apologizing to perturbed ponies and looking fabulous while doing it. She tells Rainbow Dash to slow down and stop being so rude. Dash says they'd already have a seat if Rarity didn't pack the entire boutique. A wobbly-kneed porter enters laden with bags. Dash tosses hers on top and tells the guy to hurry up. Rarity admonishes Rainbow Dash. "I paid that gentlecolt handsomely for his services and offered to hire another to help him. You can't just go around treating ponies like that." Rainbow Dash tells her to lighten up. And to hurry up. They board the train just as the porter's knees give out. From beneath the pile, he scowls after them.

INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS – LATER

As the train roars to Canterlot, Rarity and Rainbow Dash discuss their upcoming weekend. Both are quite excited. This will be Rainbow Dash's first official performance as a member of the Wonderbolts! True, she'll just be standing on the sidelines as one of the Reserves, but it's still an amazing opportunity. Rarity, meanwhile, has a meeting to discuss her latest project. Her designs for Sapphire Shores' last tour were such a hit that she has asked her to design all the costumes for her next tour as well! Rarity loves working for the diva because nopony else asks her to flex her creative muscles quite so much. This is shaping up to be an outstanding weekend.

INT. CANTERLOT HOTEL ROOM – NIGHT (*re-use from ep. 218*)

Rainbow Dash is staying in the same hotel as the rest of the Wonderbolts and has invited Rarity to bunk with her. Rarity is exhausted from all the travel and heads straight to bed. Rainbow Dash, however, puts on her Wonderbolts uniform and poses in front of the mirror: "I'd do *anything* to fly tomorrow." Rarity needs sleep, but Rainbow Dash is way too excited for that. She leaves to check out Canterlot so Rarity can have some peace and quiet.

EXT. CANTERLOT STADIUM – DAY (*re-use from ep. 219*)

Rainbow Dash is in heaven. All around the stadium, ponies zip this way and that making preparations for the performance. Suddenly, one of the organizers flies up and tells her that nopony can find Soarin. Safety checks are in ten minutes and if he hasn't turned up by then, she better be ready to fly in his place. Rainbow Dash's lifelong dream is finally about to come true! Rarity is thrilled for her. She'll run to her client meeting and be back in plenty of time to see Rainbow Dash's official Wonderbolts debut! It's a shame the others won't be there, but at least she'll have one of her best friends supporting her.

INT. SAPPHIRE SHORES REHEARSAL SPACE – DAY (*re-use from ep. 420*)

Rarity and Sapphire Shores are brainstorming ideas for costumes, which Sapphire says “need to make a huge splash.” She has very specific needs and Rarity is able to answer them all. Silver in the light and gold in the dark? Rarity knows of a special dyeing technique that can do that. Eighty-eight costume changes before the encore? Slip-on horseshoes should help. Delicate silk that can stand up to all the tour’s water effects and pyrotechnics? (Sapphire was so in love with the Dolphin stitched headdress Rarity made for her last tour that she’s going for a total “Under the Sea” theme this time around.) There’s a supplier right there in Canterlot who produces the world’s only weatherproof silk! Rarity has aced the meeting and Sapphire Shores is thrilled! As she heads back to the stadium, she can’t help feeling that everything is coming up Rainbow Dash and Rarity...

EXT. CANTERLOT STADIUM – DAY

She arrives at the packed stadium just in time...but is surprised to find Soarin flying instead of Rainbow Dash. “Oh, the poor girl, she must be so disappointed.” She looks around for her friend, but is met with cold shoulders and scowls. Finally, one of the Reserves tells her that the “traitor” Rainbow Dash has been taken into custody. She’s in the brig awaiting trial for attempting to sabotage Soarin. She’s about to be banned from the Wonderbolts forever!

ACT TWO**INT. CANTERLOT DETENTION CENTER – DAY**

The brig is similar to a stable, where each prisoner has his or her own stall. Rarity walks the hay-lined aisle to find Rainbow Dash. She frantically swears she had nothing to do with it, though they claim to have rock solid evidence against her. “Of course you didn’t do it, darling, I believe in you to the ends of Equestria.” Rarity says she’ll get word to Twilight and the others right away, but Rainbow Dash won’t hear of it. As one of Twilight’s “representatives,” something like this could cause her all kinds of embarrassment and stress. She has faith that Rarity will be able to clear her name: “You say you believe in me? Well I believe in you, too.” Rarity sets her jaw. “I’ll do it! As soon as I slip into something a bit more investigatory. I have a wrap back in the room that simply screams ‘justice.’” Rainbow Dash rolls her eyes, but is confident her friend will get to the truth.

INT. CANTERLOT HOTEL – SOARIN’S ROOM – LATER

The detective on the case, Flat Foot, shows Rarity the crime scene. He explains that Soarin was asleep in bed when somepony, most likely a pegasus, entered through the window. Once inside, they clipped the door handle with a pipe cutter (a la COOL HAND LUKE), then went back outside and jammed the pipe cutter into the window frame. When Soarin woke the next morning, he was trapped inside. Rarity asks what evidence they have against her friend. Flat Foot shows her a small piece of fabric that had torn off near the door. It perfectly matches a missing piece from Rainbow Dash’s uniform. Rarity looks worried.

EXT. CANTERLOT STADIUM – LATER

She interviews some of the other Reserves. They have all heard Rainbow Dash “confess” that she’d do absolutely anything to become a Wonderbolt. None of them are a bit surprised that she went too far. Rarity’s case keeps getting worse.

EXT. CANTERLOT DETENTION CENTER, YARD – LATER

The prisoners walk in a circle to get some exercise. Rarity tells her client all she's learned and it doesn't look good. Dash has no alibi, there is strong evidence against her, and dozens of witnesses will testify that she all but confessed in advance. Dash says somepony must be trying to frame her, somepony who is carrying a grudge. "Gilda might still be a little peeved with me. Then there's Lightning Dust...oh, and that guy I headbutted at the Gala, check him out. I bet a few ponies at the Gala weren't too happy with me..."

TIMELAPSE "...and then there's that falcon from my pet contest. *Lots* of ponies from flight camp. The delegates from the cities that lost the Games to the Crystal Empire..." TIMELAPSE "...and I scared Pip so badly he never even came back to Ponyville." Rarity looks haggard: "Anypony else?" Rainbow Dash thinks, then says, "Discord, that guy never liked me. The entire town of Appleoosa. The guy from the train station yesterday. Oh, and Sweetie Belle." Rarity is overwhelmed by the task ahead.

MONTAGE

Tense, Hitchcockesque music plays over a series of film noir style shots of Rarity interviewing suspects. *[STORYBOARD NOTE: the characters should all be in close-up to avoid multiple locations]*. These characters are mixed with a rapidly-filling notebook, hooves knocking on doors, etc. Each suspect we see looks angry, and each time we see Rarity, she looks more concerned.

END MONTAGE with Rarity standing before a massive wall covered in photos of suspects like McNulty in "The Wire."

INT. CANTERLOT DETENTION CENTER – LATER

"I'm sorry, darling, I've spoken to as many as I could, but...well, you've made quite a lot of enemies." She says there just isn't enough time to keep chasing them all down – the trial is tomorrow – and she has run out of other leads. Rainbow Dash, however, remains calm. She knows Rarity will come through for her. "You're my only hope, and I believe in you."

EXT. CANTERLOT DETENTION CENTER – MOMENTS LATER

Rarity steps into the bustling streets of Canterlot. The suspenseful music returns as she stands alone in a sea of ponies, any of whom could be suspects. She looks at the setting sun and knows her time is running out. Her friend's future depends on her. She swallows her fear and a steel glint comes into her eyes...

INT. LA-TI-DA SPA – EVENING

A team of stylists works on her hooves and mane – her version of a late-night session in a law library. She tells the girls how stressed she is about her friend, and they offer folksy wisdom. One of them says, "Honey, you can flat iron a curl 'til it's straight as dawn and all you'll end up with is a straight curl." These words resonate with Rarity. In a flash of inspiration, she races off...

INT. CANTERLOT DETENTION CENTER – NIGHT

Rarity enters, buzzing with energy. "I feel like I'm right on the edge of a breakthrough, Rainbow Dash. There's something about the evidence that just doesn't make sense—" But Rainbow Dash cuts her off, aghast that she has been at the salon. Rarity tries to explain, but Dash is heartbroken. Her future is on the line and Rarity went to get her mane done? After the most serious fight the two have ever had, she tells Rarity she doesn't even want her at the trial tomorrow, then summons the guards to take her back to her cell.

ACT THREE**INT. CANTERLOT COURTHOUSE – DAY**

The courtroom is abuzz. Rainbow Dash looks incredibly nervous behind the defense table. She tells the judge that she will be representing herself. Then the prosecutor, Haybie S. Corpus, Esq, lays out the case...

FANTASY

Rainbow Dash sneaks into Soarin's room in the dead of night. She lops off the door handle with a pipe cutter. When it hits the floor, Soarin stirs. She drops, tearing off a piece of her uniform in the process. Then she sneaks back out and jams the pipe cutter in the window, barring it shut.

INT. CANTERLOT COURTHOUSE – SAME

The prosecutor holds up her uniform with the exact same piece missing. The audience gasps. "Soarin misses the performance and the defendant flies in his place." Rainbow Dash looks even more miserable than before.

SERIES OF SHOTS

One witness after another testifies that they heard Rainbow Dash say she would do anything to fly. When she tries to cross-examine them, she ends up saying she actually *would* do anything to fly with them, that it's her lifelong dream. The audience gasps, and she realizes her horrible faux pas.

INT. CANTERLOT COURTHOUSE – LATER

Flat Foot is on the stand, and is telling the judge that Rainbow Dash has no alibi. The pony she was staying with didn't even bother to show up in court. Suddenly, the door bursts open and Rarity enters. She's dressed in an immaculate pink dress and accompanied by the stylists from the salon. The whole courtroom buzzes and the judge calls for order. Rainbow Dash asks Rarity what she thinks she's doing. "I'm keeping you on the Wonderbolts."

"Your honor, I'd like to call my first witness. The fabulous Sapphire Shores!" The prosecutor raises all sorts of objections. Rainbow Dash plants her face in her hooves as the courtroom becomes a circus. Sapphire Shores takes the stand and Rarity begins her questioning. None of the questions seem to lead anywhere, but each time the prosecutor objects, Rarity gets a "Did you order the code red?" moment. Eventually the judge realizes that Rarity really doesn't have a point and says he's ready to put an end to this charade and make his ruling.

Rarity looks at Rainbow Dash in what might be the lowest moment of her life. Then she glances into the audience and sees the stylists, who give her a knowing nod. Sapphire Shores does the same from the witness stand. Just as the judge is about to strip Rainbow Dash of her Wonderbolts credentials, Rarity fires up her horn, lifts a pitcher of water from the defense table, and SPLASHES IT ALL OVER HERSELF! Amid the chaos, she shouts, "Your Honor, I would like the court to notice that my stunning silk dress didn't shrink a bit!" She holds aloft the scrap of Dash's uniform, which has shrunk to half its size. She says that the Wonderbolts also wear silk uniforms that are weatherproof, which can only be made in one specific shop in Canterlot. Whoever planted the evidence didn't know this and used ordinary silk. This proves that Rainbow Dash was framed!

The prosecutor desperately tries to salvage his case, but it is clear Rainbow Dash is innocent. As Rarity heads back to the defense table, she says, "What's the matter, Mr. Prosecutor?" Mane flip. "Can't handle the truth?" She rejoins the overjoyed Rainbow Dash, and they have a heartfelt moment together. Rarity says she never lost faith in her friend, even when everything pointed to her guilt. Dash is a pony of great integrity and loyalty, and she would never cheat to make the Wonderbolts. No matter how much flat ironing the prosecution did, Rarity knew her friend was always still a curl underneath. "Uh, thanks...I guess?"

INT. CANTERLOT COURTHOUSE – LATER (CONTINUED)

Suddenly, someone leaps up in the gallery. It's Lightning Dust, who has been watching in disguise. She shouts that it's not fair. Her plan should have worked! Rainbow Dash deserves to be punished for getting her kicked out of the Academy! As the baliffs take her into custody, Rainbow Dash gives Rarity a heartfelt thanks for always believing in her.

INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS – DAY

On the train back home, Rainbow Dash asks Rarity how she figured out that the silk didn't match. Rarity reveals that two phrases kept coming back to her head – the comment the stylists made about the true nature of things, and the comment Sapphire Shores made about wanting to make “a big splash.” She knew something was wrong with the evidence, but it took those things running through her head all night to get it. “So, wait, why did you even call Sapphire Shores to the stand?” Rarity admits that it was purely for the drama. She says it's just in her nature to be a bit dramatic, just as it's in Rainbow Dash's nature to be a bit brash. On that subject, Dash says she's learned something important from this whole experience. She hasn't always been the nicest pegasus, and she's going to try her best to be nicer to everypony from now on. But even more importantly, she learned that she should never, ever lose faith in her friend. They hug. Just then, the porter from Act One returns and asks for their tickets. “Beat it! Can't you see we're having a moment here?”