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MY LITTLE PONY 6

Stranger Than Fan Fiction

614

Premise by: Josh Haber & Michael Vogel

Outline: February 23, 2015

STRANGER THAN FAN FICTION

Outline by Josh Haber & Michael Vogel

TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. RAINBOW DASH'S HOUSE – CLOUDSDALE – DAY**

RAINBOW DASH excitedly packs her bags for the upcoming DARING DO CONVENTION in Manehattan, Twilight helps her, but bemoans the fact that she is just too busy to go. It sounds SO amazing! Dash tries to play it cool. SURE, this is going to be the BIGGEST Daring Do convention EVER. AK Yearling's latest book, 'DARING DO AND THE AMULET OF CHICOMOZTOC' just came out (Rainbow Dash and Twilight both get momentarily off track as they geek out about how awesome the book was). And yeah, AK Yearling has finally agreed to show up to a convention, something she has never done before! Fans are going crazy for the chance to meet her in person. But Rainbow Dash points out that since she knows AK Yearling's secret (that she really IS Daring Do) there isn't a reason to go all fan crazy. She's just looking forward to spending a few days with like-minded Daring Do fans that appreciate every single aspect of the fandom as much as she does. After all, it's great making friends with people who like all the same things you do! And with that we SMASH CUT TO:

SC. 2 - INT. MANEHATTAN CONVENTION CENTER – DAY

Rainbow Dash stands in the middle of the crowded (but production friendly) convention center, totally decked out in her best Daring Do cos-play, as she has a full on fanpony freak out.

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 3 - INT. MANEHATTAN CONVENTION CENTER – RESUME**

Rainbow Dash walks the convention floor, having the time of her life. She steps up to a giant display for Daring Do's first book, "The Quest for the Sapphire Stone." She looks up at the life-sized poster of the book jacket and finds herself declaring "This. Is. Awesome." in unison with another VOICE. Dash turns to see another pony, DOUBTER NEIGH, dressed in her exact same cos-play outfit. Doubter and Dash compliment each other on their costumes, calling out several Sapphire Stone specific elements that they both got right. In a quick montage we follow the two of them as they rush around the convention floor, reveling in nerdtastic activities: getting their pictures taken on a jungle set; buying limited edition sapphire stone collectibles; trying their hooves at a Daring Do whip toss; etc.

As they take a break sipping cider from Tiki-themed collectible mugs, both Dash and Doubter marvel at how great it is to meet another pony who just "gets it" like they do. Dash reveals how excited she is to spend the afternoon geeking out over the second Daring Do trilogy since they spent the whole morning covered the first. This gives Doubter pause. He explains that although he loves the ORIGINAL Daring Do trilogy, everything after that is just silly, over the top, unrealistic and clichéd. In fact, now the entire franchise just feels like a betrayal. Rainbow Dash cannot believe what she is hearing. She asks him why he would even show up at a Daring Do convention if he felt that way. He explains that as a fan who loves the original series and despises the rest, he feels it's his duty to enlighten the other fans. Besides, he couldn't pass up the chance to ask AK Yearling in person why she sold out and started writing such unrealistic garbage. Rainbow Dash shoots back that the new books are awesome. In fact, the whole series has just gotten better and better. Doubter laughs and starts going on a rant about all of the inconsistencies and problems in the books. Each one making Dash more and more angry. Things escalate to the point where Doubter calls the books "unrealistic drivel" and Dash announces loudly that the books ARE awesome AND realistic and any TRUE FAN knows that. Doubter announces just as loudly that a TRUE FAN knows when things have gone bad, as they have with Daring Do. Furious, Rainbow Dash storms off, Doubter taunting her as she goes.

SC. 4 - INT. MANEHATTAN HOTEL – LATER

Rainbow Dash tries in vain to convince the snooty pony at the front desk that she is a friend of AK Yearling's and needs to talk to her. "Yea, you and everypony else. Nice try." Just as Dash is about to go to Rarity levels of drama to convince the pony, she hears a voice say "Rainbow Dash?" She turns and sees AK Yearling! "Oh THANK GOODNESS! I need to see you! It's an emergency!" AK Yearling looks dead serious, "Follow me."

SC. 5 - INT. AK YEARLING'S HOTEL ROOM – LATER

AK Yearling rushes Dash into her hotel room. She bolts the door and draws the curtains shut. "What is it? Did you see Caballeron? I thought I would have more time to prepare." Dash is confused. "What? No. There's a pony at the convention that hates all your books after the first trilogy. I need you to come with me and back me up so we can put this pony in his place!" AK Yearling stares at Dash incredulously. "There's a pony that hates my new books? So what? I've got MUCH bigger problems to deal with!" AK lifts her coat and reveals The Amulet of Chicomoztoc. "I haven't let this out of my sight since I recovered it. Caballeron and his ponies are out to steal it. This amulet is the key to unlocking the treasure of Chicomoztoc. Caballeron is close to locating the temple, but without this he can't get the treasure. That's the only reason I agreed to this silly convention. Between the security and the ponies dressed as me, it's the safest place for me to be." Dash asks if there's anything she can do to help. AK tells her to keep an eye out and warn her if she sees anything suspicious. Happy to be helping her hero, Dash agrees.

SC. 6 - INT. CONVENTION CENTER – EVENING

Dash patrols the convention floor, looking for anything suspicious. Unfortunately, at a convention, it's ALL suspicious. She's just happy that she hasn't run into Doubter. She really really doesn't like that pony. Who comes to a convention JUST to badmouth something? She's so annoyed about Doubter, she doesn't notice three ponies sneak out of the shadows and onto the convention floor. CABLLERON AND HIS HENCHPONIES!! Caballeron thinks all of this craziness around his arch-nemesis is silly (he also REALLY hates how he is portrayed in the books). But they are here to locate the Amulet. He tells his henchponies to keep their eyes peeled, Daring Do is there somewhere (the henchponies take one look at ALL the DD cosplayers and roll their eyes).

SC. 7 - INT. CONVENTION CENTER – ELSEWHERE – LATER

Dash is still patrolling the floor when she hears a smug voice loudly complaining to some other ponies: Doubter. She turns to head in the other direction but he spots her. "Hey Fanpony! Ready to admit how far Daring Do has fallen?" She reluctantly turns to deal with him. Dash says she doesn't have time to argue with a pony she doesn't even like and heads off. Not one to be dismissed from a geek-battle, Doubter chases after her. He keeps pestering her until she turns and gets back into it with him. But in the midst of the argument, Dash looks up, "Cabellorn" she whispers, as she sees him skulking around a booth. "What about him?" Doubter asks, "Original trilogy, solid backstory, good motivations." Dash says no, Caballeron is over there! "Of course he is" Doubter rolls his eyes. "He's also over there, over there and over there!" He points out multiple Caballerion cosplayers. Rainbow Dash takes off after Caballeron. Doubter follows, continuing his rant.

SC. 8 - INT. CONVENTION CENTER – LOADING DOCK – CONTINUOUS

Dash follows Caballeron outside to a loading dock, Doubter right behind her. Doubter is making a ton of noise as he continues his litany of grievances. Dash shushes him. He asks her what in the world she is doing. She says she saw Caballeron walk out here and that she has to figure out what he is doing before he steals the Amulet of Chicomoztoc! Doubter backs away slowly, realizing Dash might be one of those kind of fans. But before he can take off, two henchponies appear behind them and stuff them into burlap sacks!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 9 - INT. CABALLERON'S HIDEOUT - DAY

A pinpoint of light expands as we look out of the sack, Caballeron staring in at us. “Well, well, well. What do we have here?” Dash explodes out the bag, telling Caballeron that what he’s got is more than he bargained for, but two henchponies immediately grab her and tie her up. Another lifts a bored Doubter out of his sack. He looks at Caballeron, “Worst. Cosplay. Ever.” A confused Caballeron listens as Doubter makes no attempt to hide his disdain for what he thinks is a ridiculous attempt at “convincing him of Daring Do’s verisimilitude.”

Dismissing Doubter’s bizarre attitude, Caballeron tells them that he doesn’t know how two fanponies at a convention could possibly know about his plan to steal the Amulet of Chicomoztoc, unless they are in the employ of Daring Do, herself. He goes on to explain that by revealing themselves, they have only made things easier for him. Surely Daring Do will trade the Amulet for two of her agents. “Really?” says Doubter. “That’s your plan?” Doubter goes on to say that this is exactly the kind of poorly thought out logic that has been driving AK Yearling’s villains since book four. He can’t imagine why Daring Do would trade an artifact that she just spent an entire book acquiring for two ponies that Caballeron isn’t even 100% sure work for her. Caballeron tells Doubter that he better hope that he is wrong, for his own sake. With that, Caballeron leaves to make arrangements for the trade, leaving his henchponies to guard the door outside.

Doubter points to his departure as just another in a long list of things in their current situation that fly in the face of logic. “If they wanted to keep us from escaping, why would they leave us alone in here?” He then proceeds to escape his bindings in a common sense way that Daring Do would never do, according to Doubter, because it doesn’t rely on a hackneyed, adventure movie cliché. Resisting her instinct to shout him down, Dash has to grudgingly admit Doubter is kind of right. She quickly follows suit. Dash checks the window for the guards as she explains that they have to get out of the jungle and warn Daring Do. Again, Doubter worries Dash is off her rocker. But once the coast is clear and they head outside Doubter sees...

SC. 10 - EXT. EXOTIC JUNGLE – CONTINUOUS

Doubter stares at their remote jungle location in shock. Dash says I told you so and while Doubter isn’t quite ready to indulge what he believes to be Dash’s ridiculous fantasies, he admits that something is clearly going on. Perhaps the pony pretending to be Caballeron is an even more deranged super-fan than Dash is. The two of them agree to work together to get out of the jungle and back to the convention.

A shout draws their attention as henchponies come running after them. Dash and Doubter take off into the jungle, the henchponies in hot pursuit. They are chased into a clearing where they find...

SC. 11 - EXT. ROPE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

A very dubious looking rope bridge stretched out across a wide chasm. Doubter: “Of course. Can’t have an adventure story without a rope bridge! Yeesh. Talk about clichés.” Dash of course, just flies over the bridge, but Doubter quickly gets tied up in the ropes to the point where Dash can’t pull him out. In his struggling, Doubter unintentionally gets Dash tied up in the ropes as well. Dash, “Seriously?” The henchponies carefully make their way towards them. With no other choice, Dash cuts the rope bridge. The henchponies manage to grab onto the bridge and avoid the drop as Dash and Doubter hurtle into the rapids below.

SC. 12 - EXT. RAGING RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Dash and Doubter head down the rapids towards, you guessed it, a waterfall. Doubter, “Ok seriously, this is just getting ridiculous. Is there ever NOT a waterfall, what’s next? Crocodiles?” Dash points out that yes, there are crocodiles, two of them, headed right for them! Doubter manages to cleverly get them out of the ropes but they are still careening through the rapids with crocs right behind them. Dash grabs Doubter and flies them both out of the rapids and away from the crocs. However the croc’s heads both follow them out of the water, revealing long sleek necks. These aren’t two crocs, it’s one giant double headed sea serpent! The heads both shoot towards Dash and Doubter. Dash flies as fast as she can with Doubter in tow, but they just aren’t fast enough, the serpent is gaining on

them. Doubter: “They’re going to catch up!” Dash gets an idea, she turns and starts flying towards the serpents. Doubter: “What are you doing? Go OVER them don’t go between them!” Dash: “Go between them are you crazy?” But Dash puts on an extra burst of speed and sonic rainbooms past the two heads as they slam together. Doubter: “I said go over them.” Dash: “You said go between them!” Doubter rolls his eyes but is grudgingly impressed with Dash’s flying skills.

SC. 13 - EXT. EXOTIC JUNGLE MONTAGE - LATER

Dash and Doubter trek through the jungle, arguing the whole way. We track the conversation through treacherous cliffs, waterfalls, overgrown foliage, etc. Doubter still won’t shut up about clichés and story structure and poor execution while Rainbow Dash refuses to admit that anything in any of the books is anything less than perfection. It becomes clear through their conversation that Doubter loved the original trilogy because Daring Do really used her brains to get out of situations and that’s been lost whereas Rainbow Dash loves how brave and fearless she is. But before the two of them can come to any kind of understanding with each other, Doubter makes another snide comment that sends Rainbow Dash over the edge, continuing their geektastic fight.

SC. 14 - EXT. EXOTIC JUNGLE TEMPLE RUINS - CONTINUOUS

Their argument is so intense that they don’t realize that they’ve stumbled upon ancient temple ruins. They also fail to realize that Caballeron and his men are all there waiting for them. Caballeron points out that they might possibly be the worst agents Daring Do has ever worked with. He and his henchponies could hear them arguing from miles away. In addition, they have led them right to the Lost Ruins of Chicomoztoc! Doubter has had it with all of this talk of Daring Do as if it were real. He goes on an epic rant and accidentally triggers a booby trap sending himself, Dash, Caballeron and his henchponies through a trap door.

SC. 15 - INT. UNDERGROUND TEMPLE – CONTINUOUS

Dash and Doubter are separated from the others and find themselves in an underground temple. Dash goes off on Doubter. For someone who claims to know so much about clichéd adventure story tropes, he sure missed the GIANT BOOBY TRAP that he set off, getting them in this mess. While Dash is going on her rant she accidentally pulls a switch. Spikes pop out of the ceiling as it starts to slowly lower towards them. Rainbow Dash: “Okay. Fine. We’re even.”

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 16 - INT. UNDERGORUND TEMPLE – CONTINUOUS

Doubter and Dash realize that the only way they’re going to make it out of the temple alive is if they stop arguing and start to actually work together. Dash admits that Doubter is better at solving puzzles and Doubter admits he’s never met anypony as brave as Rainbow Dash. Together, they figure out a TBD (very clever) way of stopping the spikes and head out into the temple to find an exit.

SC. 17 – INT. CIPACTLI’S LAIR

Doubter and Dash find themselves in a dark cavern. Dash looks at the symbols on the wall and freaks out. This looks like Cipactli’s lair! Doubter can’t help himself: “Cipactli? That Ahuizotl wannabe? Puh-LEASE! What a lame monster. Part Crocodile, part fish and part TOAD? How does that even sound dangerous?” Dash keeps trying to shut Doubter up, finally tackling him and turning his head so he can see the giant form of Cipactli sleeping inches away from them! Doubter: “Okay. I’ll give you that one. He’s terrifying.”

They are both as cautious as possible as they work together to sneak out of the lair without making any noise. There are a couple of close calls, but they make it to the door without waking him up. Unfortunately as soon as they get there, Caballeron and his henchponies come barging in. Caballeron: “AHA! WE’VE FOUND YOU!” Cipactli wakes up to find intruders in his lair. With a giant roar he attacks. Everypony retreats out the door.

SC. 18 - INT. CHICOMOZTOC CATACOMBS – CONTINUOUS

They all enter a room with seven ornate doors leading in different directions. Cipactli roars in the distance behind them. Caballeron hides in the shadows as his henchponies all run in different directions and, as much as we can on a show for little girls, we imply that they meet pretty horrible fates. Dash and Doubter need to choose which way to go before Cipactli arrives. Dash looks at Doubter. “You’re the puzzle guy. You choose. But choose wisely! Please!” Doubter isn’t sure. The pressure is too much. But Dash gives him a pep talk. “You’re smart. Daring Do level smart. You’ve got this.” Doubter thinks through all of the adventure tropes and clichés and realizes all of the doors are wrong. There’s probably another exit somewhere, one that’s not ornate. Dash flies around and BINGO! There’s a dingy plain looking exit high above them, almost invisible. Perfect for an ace flyer like Rainbow Dash. She grabs Doubter and they take off just as Cipactli bursts into the Catacombs.

SC. 19 - EXT. EXOTIC JUNGLE – CONTINUOUS

Dash and Doubter burst free from the temple into daylight. They both land on the ground, exhausted. A hoof steps in front of them, they both look up to see Daring Do looking down at them. She came as fast as she could when she got Caballeron’s ransom note but it looks like the two of them had things under control! Daring Do points Dash and Doubter towards the safest path back to civilization. She’s going to stay and clean up the mess. Someone has to put Cipactli back to sleep. She thanks Dash for being a loyal friend but asks that next time she try to avoid becoming bait. She asks Doubter if she can count on him to keep all of this a secret. He readily agrees. Rainbow Dash quietly reminds Doubter that this is his chance to ask Daring Do “why she sold out and started writing such unrealistic garbage.” Doubter declines, but he can’t help but ask one question about the books that bugged him, some random logic issue. Daring Do rolls her eyes and tells him that sometimes real life doesn’t make sense the way it does in adventure books.

Dash and Doubter head into the jungle. Dash: “So?” Doubter: “So. Fine. Maybe the later books are more realistic than I thought and not just an attempt to regurgitate the same thing over and over again, BUT that doesn’t mean I have to like them!” Dash: “What?” Doubter: “I don’t know. Maybe A.K Yearling’s just not a very good writer.” Dash: “WHAT?!?” Doubter quickly backs down: “But you know what? YOU are awesome. I mean, the way you handled Cipactli? WOW!” Dash: “Yea, well we’d probably be stuck on spikes right now if it weren’t for you. Good job under pressure.” Doubter: “I guess we don’t have to agree on everything to get along.” Dash: “Yea, you might be wrong about the Daring Do books. But I’d take you on an adventure anyway. Friends?” Doubter: “Friends!” They Hoofbump.

Dash and Doubter walk off into the sunset together.

Doubter: “Do you think she’d consider let me write the next book?”

END