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MY LITTLE PONY 6

Newbie Dash

60#

Premise by:

Premise: October 22nd, 2014

NEWBIE DASH

Premise by Dave Polsky

Rainbow Dash runs in to tell the rest of the Mane 6 her HUGE news: the Wonderbolts just contacted her and she's no longer on the reserves. Just as Pinkie Pie consoles Dash for being dropped, Rainbow Dash clarifies: she's a full-fledged Wonderbolt now and has to report for duty immediately. Dash says her goodbyes, and Pinkie Pie winds up being the one who needs consoling.

Dash can barely contain her excitement among the Wonderbolts. This has been her dream for as long as she can remember, and now that it's come true the normally-cool Dash is anything but cool. The Wonderbolts are used to seeing this when a newbie gets admitted, and since Rainbow Dash is the only newbie right now that's what the start calling her: Newbie.

Dash soon learns that this is typical initiation stuff with the Wonderbolts. It's natural for ponies to start out thinking they're hot stuff, but to be an effective Wonderbolt newbies get stripped of their "specialness" so they can function as members of a cohesive team capable of responding to the needs of any situation at a moment's notice. This takes some of the bloom off the rose for Rainbow Dash, who's none too eager to give up her cocky independent-minded ways. For instance, Dash happens to know she's the only one on the Wonderbolts who can pull off a Sonic Rainboom, and nopony can take that away from her. The leader of the Wonderbolts replies that she most certainly can: if Dash pulls a stunt like that in a Wonderbolt uniform, she's gone.

On leave, Dash returns to Ponyville to much hoopla. But to everypony's surprise, Dash is downbeat about her Wonderbolts experience so far. When Dash explains why, the rest of the Mane 6 encourage her to find ways to express her individuality when she's not on duty with the Wonderbolts, maybe when she's just hanging out with them. But Dash complains that's impossible because they're all pretty much the same personality type: self-assured and competitive like Rainbow Dash. That's when Dash hits on the "genius plan" of adopting a different persona altogether. She goes back to Cloudsdale and tries on the only personalities she knows: Pinkie Pie's, Fluttershy's, Rarity's, etc. It's such a total disaster that she finally gives up trying to stand out. The Wonderbolt leader is pleased.

Soon the Wonderbolts are called for their first official function since Dash started: they're to fly ceremonial formations over Ponyville as the big attraction of an annual celebration. When they get there, Scootaloo is beside herself. She's Dash's biggest fan. Dash tamps down Scoot's enthusiasm, explaining that she's nopony special, just a garden variety Wonderbolt. But, when the Wonderbolts fly their formations, Dash notices Scoot out of the corner of her eye – cheering from the highest bleacher from which she quickly loses her balance and falls! In a flash, Dash breaks ranks and speeds to save Scoot, inadvertently causing a Sonic Rainboom in the process. Heartbroken, she heads back to seek consolation from her friends for ruining things with the Wonderbolts. But the Wonderbolts come find Dash to tell her that she's not dismissed at all. The goal has always been "to respond to the needs of a situation at a moment's notice" and that's exactly what Dash did. Team unity is secondary to that. They welcome Dash back and she's elated. They still call her Newbie, but she's cool with it. Way cool.