

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 7
What Dash Would Dare to Do
Ep 717
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WHAT DASH WOULD DARE TO DO

Outline by Gillian Berrow

Friendship Lesson: Never give up hope!

TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. PONYVILLE MARKET - DAY**

PINKIE PIE trots up to a NEWSPAPER PONY selling papers. Pinkie tosses him a bit and he passes her a paper from a special stack. “Got your Canterlot Chronicle, Pinkie!” She thanks him and trots back over to a bored RAINBOW DASH. Pinkie is pumped for her tradition, reading out the headlines the as two stroll through the market.

RD is hardly paying attention as Pinkie reads headlines quickly. They are mostly meaningless, silly puff piece ones such as: NEW SHRUBBERY IN CASTLE GARDEN and/or PARASPRITE INFESTATION IN FILLYDELPHIA ERADICATED, etc. For each one, RD has a quick sassy response. When Pinkie reads out “AUTHOR A.K. YEARLING ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT”, in between two other headlines, Dash does a double take. What?! There’s no way her favorite Daring Do author and friend is quitting! She thinks it’s a prank. “Good one, Pinkie. You should try that one on Twilight instead.”

When Pinkie insists that it is true, Dash snatches the paper for a better look. She’s right! Rainbow falls to her knees, overly dramatic, and yells to sky- “NOOOOO!”

“So maybe we *shouldn’t* tell Twilight then?” Pinkie says, taken aback.

END TEASER**ACT ONE****SC. 2 - EXT. JUNGLE/FOREST- LATER**

RD flies, while Pinkie trots below (she still has the newspaper with her—they left straight from the market). “Are you sure AK Yearling wants visitors right now? I mean—she JUST retired like *today!*” Pinkie asks. Dash insists that she’s concerned for her friend. Daring Do is NOT a quitter. Something must be horribly wrong. Pinkie asks Rainbow if she’s not just trying to make sure AK writes more Daring Do books in the future. “Well, no. But that wouldn’t hurt, either! Hurry up, she needs us!” Rainbow flies ahead and Pinkie gallops after her.

SC. 3 - EXT. A.K. YEARLING’S COTTAGE- SHORTLY AFTER

Rainbow knocks on the door, nervous. Nothing happens. Maybe she’s not home yet? “No, she’s home.” Pinkie says, popping her head up to peep in the window. “I can see her in there, looking really sad and alone like she hasn’t got a single friend in the whole world! Look!”

Oh no! Dash was right. She knocks again, growing more worried. From inside, they can hear shouting. “GO AWAY! No more interviews! My decision is final.” RD won’t give up. “Come on, A.K.! Open up!

It's your friends-- Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie!" Finally, the door swings open. AK YEARLING stands there, surprised. She looks around and quickly ushers them inside.

Sc. 4 - INT. A.K. YEARLING'S COTTAGE- CONTINUOUS

There are several large chests and suitcases open on the floor. A.K. Yearling is in the middle of a rushed job of packing up her belongings—book collections, pith helmets, famous typewriter and all! Rainbow is shocked. "Did somepony ransack your house again? Did they find the relic? Is that why you're retiring?!" RD puffs up-- says she'll take them on, whoever they are!

But AK is just moving away so that nopony will be able to find her. When RD questions her motives, AK explains: "Ponies are upset with me." AK sadly points to a stack of other various newspaper clippings on her table. Pinkie and Rainbow read them aloud-- letters and articles from ponies (from the mysterious Southern regions) about Daring Do. The only problem is that they are not lauding her heroic deeds—they are complaining of the destruction she's left in her wake whilst in pursuit of villains and relics!

RD sticks up for her idol. "I know what it's like to be accused of something I didn't do (referring to MLP ep #515 "Rarity Investigates!")—we'll just explain that you weren't responsible for any of this." AK hangs her head in shame. "That's the thing," she says. "I *was*. I caused all of this destruction and now everypony despises me. I never realized how I was affecting other ponies."

Rainbow and Pinkie assure A.K. that she is wrong. For every one pony upset by her actions, there must be at least 20 ponies that are grateful! And Rainbow and Pinkie are going to show A.K. just that!

MAP OF EQUESTRIA

Animated visual of a MAP that shows the travel route the ponies take to PONYPEII, one of three villages near MT. VEHOVIUS (a volcano) in SOUTHERN EQUESTRIA.

Sc. 5 - EXT. THE VILLAGE OF PONYPEII- LATER

Our trio—A.K. Yearling (note: she is known as Daring Do in this region, so she is technically undercover), Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie arrive on the scene at Ponypeii. It is foreign in appearance; everything from the style of the buildings to the cloaks that the ponies are wearing gives the sense that they have traveled far.

Rainbow can't wait to prove A.K.'s theories wrong—ponies here still love Daring Do! How could they not? This is one of the three villages she's saved from a VOLCANIC ERUPTION, for goodness' sake!

To get started, Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie approach a stallion and ask him about Daring Do. "She's fantastic," he says. Rainbow and Pinkie brighten. "...Fantastic at DESTROYING MARKETPLACES!" He points and the camera pans over to overturned market carts - clearly somepony ran through the market leaving a trail of destruction in their wake. Another pony wearing a HOODED CLOAK steps forward. "Yes! Daring Do should be held responsible for what she did!" A few other ponies listen and nod in agreement.

By the crushed look on AK Yearling's face, it's clear that her worst fears are confirmed! Off PP and RD's wary faces as we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Sc. 6 - EXT. FOREST OUTSIDE OF PONYPEII- CONTINUOUS

But you saved them from the volcano! If you didn't race through the market you wouldn't have made it in time! And that was only one angry pony!" pleads RD flying alongside a galloping AK (note: she cannot fly due to her outfit). Pinkie Pie gallops after them. "Two ponies!" A.K. won't slow down. "It doesn't matter. I never should have come with you!" That village was a bad example, Rainbow Dash reasons. She begs AK to go with them to another place, but AK points out it's getting dark and they should find a place to stay. They head to...

Sc. 7 - EXT. "GET ON INN"- BARN & BREAKFAST- EVENING

A quaint hotel & tavern in a forest clearing. A.K. explains that she stays here as Daring Do all the time, but it's been awhile.

Sc. 8 - INT. "GET ON INN"- BARN & BREAKFAST LOBBY- CONTINUOUS

A crusty older mare, MRS. TROTSWORTH greets them. Pinkie takes the lead. "Is it true that Daring Do stays here?!" Mrs. Trotsworth frowns. "Not anymore, she doesn't. Never again!" When Pinkie asks why, the mare explains that the last time Daring Do stayed, she was in such a rush that she didn't even pay for her room and board. Then, not long after—a band of ponies had come through and destroyed half of the rooms looking for something Daring Do had stolen!

Not again! A.K. slumps in defeat. Rainbow Dash tries to jump to her defense, saying she probably had to leave to hunt down a dangerous criminal, but the old mare is getting really fired up about Daring Do "I'm not the only one she's hurt! That fella in the corner of the tavern, he even gave me this!" Trotsworth passes them a flier for an "anti-Daring Do" meeting. Rainbow Dash: "What? But that's ridiculous!" She heads over to the pony in the corner, but before Rainbow Dash can ask him anything, the cloaked pony disappears.

A.K. wants to leave, but Rainbow and Pinkie plead with her to just at least go to the town listed on the flier. Rainbow and Pinkie are sure something suspicious is going on. Besides, Rainbow insists she can reason with the ponies at the meeting! AK agrees on the condition that this is the last time RD can ever ask.

Sc. 9 - MAP OF EQUESTRIA- NEXT DAY

Animated visual of a MAP that shows the travel route the ponies take to SONAMBULA, even farther south! On the map, there are images to indicate it's in a desert-like area, with Egyptian inspired elements.

Sc. 10 - EXT. VILLAGE OF SONAMBULA- CONTINUOUS

“This is never going to work, Rainbow Dash.” AK says as the three of them approach the town. Rainbow insists that it will, and goes over her idea—Rainbow will just explain to everypony at the meeting that they’ve got it ALL WRONG! None of those things Daring did were intentional; she was just trying to save the ponies from villains and worse fates (which Daring Do totally succeeded at). Pinkie: “Yeah! And I’ll be like, ‘YEAH! WHAT SHE SAID!’”

When they arrive at the village, it’s bustling. “It almost seems like a party!” Pinkie says. Ponies of all ages are gathering in the center of the village around what looks like a toppled statue, waiting for something to happen. RD, PP, and A.K. stay at the back of the crowd. A.K. does not have a good feeling about this....

A local elder pony steps forward. “Each year, we celebrate the legend of Sonambula, the namesake of our town. He lived hundreds of moons ago, a brave pony with a good heart...”

Sc. 11 - EXT. NEARBY DESERT KINGDOM- IN THE DISTANT PAST- FLASHBACK

The pony tells the story as we watch it unfold (dusty terrain and a beautiful kingdom of pyramids as the backdrop.) We watch Sonambula fall in love with the Pharaoh’s daughter, and be refused as an acceptable suitor for the princess. He is heartbroken. One day, the Princess is kidnapped by a clever, but evil Sphinx! The Sphinx trapped the princess inside her Pyramid and wouldn’t allow anyone to enter without answering her riddle.

Nopony in the Pharaoh’s court is able to solve the Sphinx’s riddle. Sonambula, knowing he can not hope to be worthy of the princess but unable to stop loving her and yearning for her safe return, seeks the Pharaoh’s permission to rescue his daughter. The distraught Pharaoh tells Sonambula that if he can rescue his daughter from the Sphinx, he would gladly accept him into the family.

Sc. 12 - EXT. SPHINX’S PYRAMID - FLASHBACK

When Sonambula arrives, the Sphinx tells him the answer to her riddle is the only way to save his princess. “I shine brightest in the dark. I am there but cannot be seen. To have me costs you nothing. To be without me costs you everything.” Sonambula figures out the answer is hope. The Sphinx grows in rage, but knows she hasn’t lost yet. He still has to make it across a narrow bridge over a deep and foreboding chasm...blindfolded. The Princess is chained to a golden pedestal on the other side of the chasm. Still full of hope. Sonambula makes his way across the bridge, guided by the sound of the princess’s voice. When he reaches her, she asks how he beat the Sphinx’s riddle he tells her he never gave up hope that one day she and he would get to be together.

Sc. 13 - EXT. TOWN OF SONAMBULA- CONTINUOUS

Pinkie Pie has clearly enjoyed the story/forgotten what they are there to do. The local pony goes on to say Sonambula and the Princess lived happily and he went on to be a great pony of Equestria. Which is why normally they’d celebrate around his statue, decorating it with pearls but this year his statue has been destroyed by a thoughtless pony! He gestures to the pile of rubble that used to be Sonambula’s statue. The cloaked pony from the tavern (and from Ponypeii) stands next to the local and shouts, “Daring Do is the pony that destroyed your statue, your symbol of hope!”

The ponies all boo. AK is really upset. Pinkie Pie says she's sure it was an accident. AK says it was an unfortunate casualty of an intense fight with Ahuizotl, but that doesn't change the fact that it's destroyed and it's all her fault. PP and RD feel awful. The cloaked pony keeps saying stuff about how DD ruined their town. AK has had enough and takes off. Pinkie goes after her.

RD fumes. Who does this guy think he is? She marches right up to him and demands that he tell her what Daring Do ever did to him to deserve all this. "Only everything!" He says and takes down his hood to reveal that he is... DR. CABALLERON! "And with her spirit broken, she is finally out of the picture and I am free to do business as I please!" In a swift sequence of events, Dr. Caballeron's henchponies (who have been planted in the crowd as the ponies upset with Daring Do) close in on Rainbow Dash. They kidnap her and take off.

Pinkie Pie and AK stop in their tracks, horrified as they watch. "WE HAVE TO SAVE HER!" Pinkie takes off in their direction. "COME ON!" Off AK's conflicted face as we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

Sc. 14 -EXT. DESERT SOMEWHERE NEAR VILLAGE OF SONAMBULA- NOT LONG AFTER

Pinkie Pie stops running, tries to catch her breath. AK shows up—as DARING DO! Pinkie is glad to see her, but says she knew she would come because Daring Do is not the monster those ponies were making her out to be. She cares about other ponies! Daring is still feeling unsure/guilty but tries to put it aside for Rainbow Dash. "Which way did they go?" PP points but says she couldn't keep up. Daring pulls out some binoculars. In the binocular-vision we can see a big PYRAMID in the distance.

DD determines Caballeron must be taking her there—to the ancient (Egyptian style) ruins. They take off towards them.

Sc. 15 - EXT. ENTRANCE OF THE PYRAMID- CONTINUOUS

A GIANT SPHINX STATUE dwarfs Pinkie and Daring Do. Pinkie: "Just like in the legend! Except this one isn't alive." Daring Do searches the landscape for Caballeron, but sees nothing. Suddenly they hear shouting—it's Rainbow! It's coming from inside the pyramid. They rush in...

Sc. 16 - INT. SPHINX'S PYRAMID - CONTINUOUS

...And immediately come to a screeching halt. In front of them is an immense dark chasm and hanging in the center from the top of the pyramid is Rainbow Dash - suspended above spike pointed straight at her!! Caballeron is at an opening at the top of the dilapidated pyramid. He yells down to them- saying that if his previous efforts didn't cause Daring to give up on her career, then the shame of losing her dear friend will! They won't be able to make it up to him in time. And there is no way to cross the chasm. There is still a powerful and ancient magic here that would prevent them from flying to her. He laughs evilly as he saws through the rope holding Dash over the spike and climbs out the top of the pyramid. Rainbow's rope weakens and she falls a little closer to the spike.

PP and DD gasp. Didn't Sonambula's legend say there was supposed to be a bridge?! Daring Do says Sonambula's legend was just a story. Stories are glamorized to make it seem like everything ends in "happily ever after," but real life is much harder and there are consequences. Pinkie Pie tells Daring Do that she is wrong... it's not just a story. Pinkie says that now all they have to do here is have hope like Sonambula did... then they can save Rainbow! Daring Do is beyond skeptical. First of all, *there is no bridge*. And after everything they found out today, Daring Do is hopeless.

But Pinkie says she still believes! With that, she blindfolds herself with her own hair and jumps into the chasm with an "Eeeee!" AK loses sight of her and panics. She steels herself. If hope is the key, she can do this. She's Daring Do! She *is* a hero! And she's gonna save her friends! Daring Do blindfolds herself too and FALLS INTO THE CHASM!

CLOSE ON Daring Do as she plummets...for about five seconds, then she starts floating. REVEAL a magical, celestial bridge has appeared underneath her (like the aurora borealis). Daring Do sneaks a peek out of the blindfold to see Pinkie Pie happily bouncing along the bridge few feet ahead of her. The two ponies make it to the center of the pyramid. They untie RD just in time and run back across the chasm, bursting out into the bright sun.

Sc. 17 - EXT. ENTRANCE OF THE PYRAMID- CONTINUOUS

As the trio bursts out they spot Caballeron and his henchmen trying to make a hasty exit. Daring Do springs into action and apprehends Caballeron's crew before they can escape with a sack full of the town's pearls! The townponies recognize the henchmen as the ponies who got them so riled up about Daring Do and realize their mistake. Daring Do was only trying to help!

As the townponies cheer for Daring Do, she apologizes to Rainbow and Pinkie for all that she's put them through. She realizes now that sometimes, unexpected things may happen during the adventure (or get destroyed in the process), but that doesn't mean you should let those mistakes destroy your hope or belief in yourself. It doesn't ruin or negate what you were trying to accomplish in the first place. All a pony needs to do if she makes a mistake is to make it right, to fix things.

On the way out, Pinkie Pie jokes that it was lucky that the part of the legend about the riddle of the Sphinx wasn't true. Daring Do smiles and says maybe she'll change that part in her next Daring Do book to make it more interesting. RD is overjoyed to hear she's not retiring! Behind them, the statue of the Sphinx blinks, but they don't notice it...

They run off into the sunset.

MONTAGE- OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

-- A group of Construction Ponies showing up to the marketplace in Ponypeii, ready to build a new structure. The main Construction pony passes a slip of paper to the confused villager (from sc. 6). On it is DARING DO'S CUTIE MARK. He smiles.

-- A pouch of bits is dropped onto the front counter at the Get On Inn. Mrs. Trotsworth lifts the tag to reveal DARING DO'S CUTIE MARK. She looks touched.

-- A sparkling, new statue of the blindfolded Sonambula is revealed in the village. We see the STORYTELLER PONY cutting a ribbon in front of it. All the ponies cheer and drape the statue with pearls.

The crowd parts and we see A.K. Yearling's satisfied face in the back. She winks at STORYTELLER PONY who smiles back, unsure. But then with the blink of an eye, she's gone! Daring Do is back in action once more. FADE OUT! THE END.