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MY LITTLE PONY

Season 8

The Washouts

Ep 820

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THE WASHOUTS

Outline by Nick Confalone

TEASER**SC. 1 - INT. CMC CLUBHOUSE - DAY**

At the podium up front, SCOOTALOO bangs her gavel, calling the room to order for today's meeting of the Rainbow Dash Fan Club. As the room quiets down, we get a glimpse of RAINBOW DASH herself, spying on them through the open clubhouse window, enjoying the attention as always. ...Except she's a little confused to hear Scootaloo rushing through today's business at ten times normal speed. She finishes up and BANGS the gavel again, adjourning the meeting and quickly pushing everypony out of the clubhouse. Rainbow Dash ducks behind the bushes—what is going on!? She peeks back through the window to see Scootaloo take a DEEP BREATH, then hang up a new poster right on top of Rainbow Dash's poster, completely covering it with an image of an EXTREME AIR STUNT TROUPE, *The Washouts!* Redecorating complete, Scootaloo BANGS the gavel, calling to order the FIRST EVER meeting of her newest and most exciting fan club... of which she is the president and founding member! Off Rainbow Dash's confused/offended face...

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 2 - INT. CMC CLUBHOUSE - DAY**

Picking up where we left off, Rainbow Dash bursts in trying to act like she was just in the neighborhood and, oh, what's this, is her sister in the middle of a fan club meeting...? Like she caught Scootaloo cheating on her, as Scoot tries to hide the poster: "Hey, what are you doing here? It's not what it looks like..." But it's no use lying because Rainbow Dash heard everything when she was outside eavesdropping, just like she's done for every meeting up until now, which, um, sure sounds like an insecure weird thing to do now that she says it outloud, but anyway—she knows about the new fan club! Scoot tries to soften the blow but it sounds like she's breaking up: "I just think maybe I need time to explore... other fan clubs." Rainbow Dash is hurt but hides it well under her indignation: "But you're the FOUNDING member of the Rainbow Dash Fan Club, you swore an oath to always look up to me!" She gets even MORE flustered when she unfurls Scootaloo's poster, which shows a fiery-uniformed pony wearing two rockets strapped to her back like a Jetpack, soaring through a ring of flames: **"The Washouts?"** Scootaloo excitedly

explains that as Dash can see from the picture, they're an aerobatic stunt troupe, like the Wonderbolts but SO MUCH COOLER. They do all sorts of extreme stunts that focus on daredevilry and sheer guts, rather than boring old flight-and-formation precision—cause hey, not everypony can fly, right? Guts or no, Dash wants to make sure Scootaloo still looks up to her, too... right? Scootaloo assures her that she'll always be her number one fan, "...even if I don't think the Wonderbolts are all that great anymore." OFF RAINBOW DASH'S REACTION, CUT TO:

SC. 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

The Mane 6 react: "She said WHAT!?" Rainbow Dash, walking with the others, is beside herself with frustration: yes, her sister actually said that the Wonderbolts aren't cool! And for a moment back there it sounded like she didn't think Dash was cool either, but she isn't worried because if Scootaloo doesn't see how awesome she is, that's her loss, right everypony? After a moment of silence, Fluttershy calls out Rainbow Dash for hiding how she really feels, empathizing: Scootaloo always used to look up to her, so no matter how much Rainbow Dash pretends it doesn't bother her, it must be hard seeing her look up to someone else. Applejack agrees: it'd be like if Apple Bloom started lovin' bananas! Rarity tries to sound as mature as possible, sagely commenting on how their siblings are growing up so fast that changing opinions are inevitable. In fact, Rarity fondly recalls the first time Sweetie Belle said she didn't like one of Rarity's designs (RY: "Although the hat was a tri-folded sheer pillbox with a silk sash cross-over, so her opinion was wrong and I corrected her."). Rainbow Dash's bravado bubble pops and she starts sulking, telling them they're right, and wondering what the Washouts could possibly have that she doesn't?! Pinkie Pie zips over holding a WASHOUTS SHOW POSTER: "Why don't you find out!?" Turns out they're doing a show in Ponyville this weekend... giving Dash a chance to see what's soooooo amazing about them! Twilight Sparkle checks it out over her shoulder, impressed by how cool they look—(off Dash's glare, TS: "I mean, how lame they look... trying so hard to be cool, is what I was saying.")

SC. 4 - EXT. A FIELD OUTSIDE OF PONYVILLE – DAY

As the crowd settles in for the Washouts show, Dash is super dubious about everything: this is just going to be a rip-off of the Wonderbolts! Look at those uniforms... rip-offs! And they have an announcer? Total rip-off! Having a place for ponies to sit...? COMPLETE RIP-OFF! But the second the show starts, she sees what Scootaloo means: FLAMING HOOPS light up around the ground. Gears turn, activating an obstacle-course-like series of SMASHING PLATFORMS, and then to Dash's astonishment, a cannon fuse is lit and it BLASTS a pony who SOARS through the course, barely dodging the crushing platforms and flames. Dash soon finds herself more amazed than Scootaloo. She wonders out loud: "Who are these guys...?"

SC. 5 - EXT. A FIELD OUTSIDE OF PONYVILLE – AFTER THE SHOW

With Scootaloo geeking out in tow, Dash introduces herself to the team, as a fellow aerobic enthusiast... and then tries to brag that she's actually somepony they might recognize-- a Wonderbolt. They laugh: join the club! Literally, because every member of the Washouts was ousted from the Wonderbolts or the WB Academy for not being able to follow all the ridiculous rules. There's Cannon Fodder (shot out of too many cannons, too twitchy to fly straight), Smoke Screen (can't see a foot in front of her face), Rolling Thunder (loves extreme weather) and Short Fuse (RAGE ISSUES!!!). Dash is even more surprised to meet their leader... the most reckless ex-Wonderbolt of all time, who gives her autograph to Scootaloo then takes off her helmet, revealing herself to be... LIGHTNING DUST! Scootaloo's mind is BLOWN: "You know her!?"

END OF ACT ONE**ACT TWO****SC. 6 - EXT. A FIELD OUTSIDE OF PONYVILLE - SAME**

Scootaloo watches with rapt attention as Rainbow Dash says she should have known Lightning Dust was the brains behind a crazy idea like the Washouts. Lightning Dust glares at Dash, telling Scootaloo that, yes, they do know each other: "Your sister got me kicked out of the Wonderbolts." Scootaloo's eyes widen as Dust steps up to Dash, looking for a fight... but then Lightning Dust cracks a huge grin and embraces Dash in a tight hug: "...And it was the best thing that ever happened to me. Great to see you, Wing Pony! I heard you're a full-fledged Bolt now!" Dash tries to give her the cold shoulder, but softens a bit after Lightning Dust apologizes for endangering the Mane 6 last time they saw each other (LD: "Now I only endanger these knuckleheads!"). Dust wastes no time telling her that the key to the Washouts' success is to basically ignore everything the Wonderbolts ever taught them. Besides, all their "rules" and "elitism" were just ways of excluding ponies so they could feel good about themselves. Dash defends the Bolts, saying it's not about making anypony feel bad—it's about separating out the best of the best! She doesn't catch the sad look on Scootaloo's face on hearing that, or the way Scootaloo's eyes filled with hope on hearing Lightning Dust's rebuttal: "The Washouts like to believe that anypony can be the best of the best." In fact, Lightning Dust offers Dash a spot on the team if she wants to join (Rolling Thunder is gonna be out for a while—she got struck by lightning... AGAIN). Dash declines, and is annoyed to hear Scootaloo clearly wish that SHE could take that open spot. Before Lightning Dust can respond, Dash suggests maybe Scootaloo needs to see the Wonderbolts up close and personal to be reminded what REAL awesomeness looks like. As she drags Scootaloo away, Lightning Dust calls after them with a grin: "Say hi to Spitfire for me!"

SC. 7 - EXT. WONDERBOLT ACADEMY – LATER

Rainbow Dash leads a tight formation through an impossible-seeming series of twists and turns in the air, punching holes through clouds, leaving trails across the blue sky. They land one by one, skidding to a stop inches from Scootaloo, who watches the whole thing with a kind of bored acceptance. Dash tries to sell Scootaloo on what she just saw: precision through speed, excellence through precision, and honor through excellence. Spitfire adds that Lightning Dust and her group of, well, “washouts” couldn’t make the cut so they formed their own sorry rag-tag group, but that doesn’t make them cool... it makes them reckless and dangerous. The Wonderbolts go on to tell a few stories about some of the Washouts, like how Short Fuse once lost her temper and screamed at a waterfall for twenty minutes. But their stories have the opposite effect as intended, only intriguing Scootaloo more. Besides, why should she look up to the Wonderbolts when she can’t even fly! Rainbow Dash interrupts her by placing an ill-fitting Wonderbolts cap on her and rubbing her head (annoying her): “Sure, but you might one day, and you’ll be able to follow in my hoof prints.” Scootaloo, kind of annoyed, sarcastically thanks her super-talented sister for clearing up what she should do. Rainbow Dash obviously doesn’t catch the sarcasm, because she’s just glad this whole Washouts-craze will all be over. Off Scootaloo’s determined look, CUT TO:

SC. 8 - INT. CMC CLUBHOUSE - DAY

The clubhouse is packed for this week’s meeting of the Rainbow Dash Fan Club. Rainbow Dash watches through the window, as usual... but this time she’s wondering why Scootaloo is so late for her own fan club meeting. As members give up on waiting and begin drifting out the door, Dash tries to stop them, but her presence only weirds them out even more until they’ve all left. Rainbow Dash, embarrassed and frustrated at her sister, eyes the WASHOUTS poster behind the podium...

SC. 9 - EXT. FIELD OUTSIDE OF PONYVILLE - DAY

Washouts practice! Lightning Dust tells Cannon Fodder and Smoke Screen about this sick new stunt she’s come up with (while Short Fuse rages against a tomato sandwich she doesn’t like). Rainbow Dash soars above them and skids to a landing, showing off, asking if they’ve seen her little sister anywhere? Lightning Dust gestures over to one of the Washouts: “Sure we have. Have you...?” Rainbow Dash does a double take because it’s Scootaloo in a Washouts uniform! She took the open spot on the team?! HOW COULD SHE DID THIS!? Dash loses it in front of everypony, telling her sister that this team of “Washouts,” by definition, is a bunch of rejects! Dash does NOT understand why Scootaloo would look up to them, let alone BECOME one. But then she’s surprised when Scootaloo stands up for herself, telling Dash that just because they’re sisters does NOT mean they’re the same pony, and based on Dash’s definition of what makes

somepony worth looking up to, she has some bad news: “I can’t fly, I’ll never be a Wonderbolt, and I guess I’ll never be good enough for you!” Rainbow Dash feels the sting of what she’s done immediately, but Scootaloo goes on: maybe she can’t fly, but that doesn’t mean she can’t do something awesome like strap her scooter to a rocket and jump twenty wagons lined up in front of a roaring crowd... which incidentally is what she’ll be doing at the show tomorrow and there’s nothing Dash can do to stop her. Hurt, Rainbow Dash gives up, telling Scootaloo to do her own thing if that’s what she wants. Off both of them feeling bad, we... FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 10 - EXT. FIELD OUTSIDE OF PONYVILLE – THE DAY OF THE SHOW

Crowds begin filling the stands. The Mane 6 (minus Rainbow Dash) take their seats, excited to see this crazy show again, but also worried about Rainbow Dash... nopony has seen her all day. Their worries are interrupted, however, by Lightning Dust telling everypony to hold onto their flanks, because the show is about to start! She gives an exciting play-by-play commentary on what’s being set-up: the most dangerous stunt they’ve ever performed: “Foals, don’t try this at home!” Before their eyes, twenty wagons are wheeled into place with a GIANT RAMP at either end. And in just a moment, the newest member of the Washouts will be ROCKET-SLEDDING on a scooter down that hill, up that ramp, and soaring through the air, jumping over all twenty wagons and landing safely on the other side. The Mane 6 comment on how crazy that is, wondering what kind of nut they found to try a stunt like that. CUT TO:

SC. 11 - EXT. TOP OF THE HILL - SAME

Scootaloo on her scooter at the top of the giant hill overlooking the crowd, as Lightning Dust lands nearby and begins strapping the rocket to the back of her scooter, asking if she’s ready to MAKE HISTORY as the sickest daredevil ever. Scootaloo tells her she’s not QUITE ready to do the stunt... not until Rainbow Dash is in the crowd to see her do it. Lightning Dust tells her that’s not the way this works, as she yells down to the other Washouts: “Light it up!” FWOOSH! The wagons burst into flame making the jump even scarier... and Scootaloo realizes she didn’t know it until this moment, but she only wanted to do this crazy stunt so her sister would see it and be impressed. But if Dash doesn’t show up, then um... this whole thing seems a little bit kind of incredibly dangerous for no reason. Lightning Dust grins, lighting the match: “That’s the point!” Before Scootaloo can protest, the fuse is lit and the rocket scooter BLASTS OFF DOWN THE HILL! The crowd GASPS! Scootaloo closes her eyes as she tears up the ramp and into the air and everypony realizes... SHE’S NOT GONNA MAKE IT! But at the last second, RAINBOW DASH swoops along the top of the hill, past Lightning Dust, down the hill, up the ramp, where

she rescues Scootaloo right out of the air, just as the rocket scooter crashes into the ground and skitters away. Carrying Scootaloo to safety, Dash confesses that she'd never let anything bad happen to her little sister... **UNLIKE YOU!** Lightning Dust sees how mad Rainbow Dash is and stammers: "Aw, come on, you're not mad just because I endangered the lives of your loved ones – **AGAIN!?**" But when the crowd turns against the Washouts with boooooos, Lightning Dust gets super annoyed and says, "Forget it, I'm outta here! Show's cancelled anyway!" And she climbs into a cannon with the others and they blast themselves over the horizon (but not before she looks back at Dash and growls: "Rivals for **LIFE!**").

Rainbow Dash brings Scootaloo down for a safe landing with her friends, where Scootaloo apologizes for joining the Washouts... telling Dash that Lightning Dust isn't the kind of pony worth looking up to. And Rainbow Dash cuts her off—she's the one who should be apologizing for not acting like somepony who deserves a fan club. Her whole life, she's been lucky to have a little sister who thinks she's the coolest, but how cool is she **REALLY** for making her sister feel like she'd never be as awesome as she was? Rainbow Dash suggests they cancel the Washouts Fan Club, "because I know a fan club that could use some new members." Scootaloo grins: "The Rainbow Dash Fan Club!" But Dash shakes her head—that's not what she means. Off Scootaloo's confusion...

SC. 12 - INT. CMC CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Rainbow Dash **BANGS** the gavel and calls to order the first ever meeting of a new fan club for the awesomest, previously **UNDER**-appreciated pony in Ponyville... The Scootaloo Fan Club, with founding member and president Rainbow Dash presiding! Everypony cheers for Scootaloo. Overjoyed, Scootaloo gives her sister the squeeziest hug of all time and we **FADE OUT**.