

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
He Neighed, She Neighed
EP 921
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Logline: When another author releases his own version of the events in AK Yearling's Daring Do books, Rainbow Dash is furious, while Fluttershy is curious to know the truth.

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

RAINBOW DASH answers her door to find a beaming FLUTTERSHY. She just stopped by to thank Rainbow Dash for lending her A.K. Yearling's Daring Do series. She loves the stories! Dash grins – well yeah! *"You must be the last pony in Equestria to read them! Which book are you on?"* Fluttershy says she's read them all, from "Daring Do and the Quest for the Sapphire Stone" to "Daring Do and the Fallen Idol." Dash comes up short – wait, what was that last one? It's not a title in the Daring Do series!

Fluttershy explains it just came out last week. Maybe that's why Dash doesn't know about it? Rainbow Dash gapes – how could there be a new book in the series that SHE, the biggest Daring Do fan EVER, hasn't heard of? Usually A.K. sends her an advanced copy and everything! Fluttershy says she's happy to lend Rainbow Dash her copy. Dash grabs the book from her hooves and eyes the cover, which purports to be "the true story of the greedy, spotlight-loving troublemaker known as Daring Do." *"WHAT?! Why would A.K. write that about herself?!"* Rainbow Dash demands. Fluttershy clarifies; the book isn't written by A.K. Yearling. It's by Groom Q.Q. Martindale.

Furious, Rainbow Dash rifles through the pages, a retelling of Daring Do's adventures from a different perspective, calling Daring Do a "thief," and a "fraud," accusing her of destruction of artifact treasures, cruelty to spiders, and unfair treatment of the mild-mannered Dr. Caballeron. Rainbow Dash is furious – this Martindale guy doesn't even KNOW Daring Do. They have to stop him from saying such horrible stuff about their friend! *"Okay,"* says Fluttershy, *"but what if some of it's true?"* On Rainbow Dash's huge disbelieving take, we...

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 2 - INT. RAINBOW DASH'S HOUSE – RESUME**

Rainbow Dash can't believe what Fluttershy just said. The book is a pack of lies OBVIOUSLY. Daring Do's no "dastardly villain" any more than Dr. Caballeron is a "kind, generous pony looking to find safe museum homes for the treasures Daring Do steals." Fluttershy admits it sounds strange, but she couldn't help but notice how some of the details in Martingale's book line up with AK Yearlings' – *"for instance, in 'Daring Do and the Griffon's Goblet,' Daring*

doesn't ask permission before entering the enchanted arbor. She destroyed an entire temple of irreplaceable artifacts in 'Daring Do and the Ring of Destiny.' And you have to admit, she doesn't seem very nice to snakes and scorpions in the books." Rainbow Dash can't refute those things, but she's sure her hero had a good reason for everything she did! Besides, she reminds Fluttershy, they're friends with the ACTUAL Daring Do. They know her, and they know she'd never do anything bad on purpose. But if Fluttershy still isn't sure, they can just go ask A.K. Yearling herself!

Rainbow Dash digs through her stuff and comes up with this month's Daring Do fan newsletter. Just as she thought, A.K. Yearling is going to be in Vanhoover for an Authors' Conference next week. They can meet her there and get to the bottom of this "truth-telling" book.

SC. 3 - INT. CONVENTION CENTER – AUTHORS' CONFERENCE HALL – NEXT WEEK

Several AUTHORS have tables set up for book signings (including possibly a cameo by PENUMBRA QUILL). Rainbow Dash has to fly up to see A.K. Yearling, because her booth/table is surrounded by FANS. Dash tries to get through the crowd, but a BOUNCER asks her for her autograph pass. Dash says she doesn't need one, she's actually FRIENDS with A.K. The bouncer doesn't buy it: *"yeah, and I'm besties with the Princess of Friendship. Back of the line."* Frustrated, Dash tells Fluttershy they'll have to wait until the crowd dies down to talk to A.K. Fluttershy suggests they talk to Groom Q.Q. Martingale instead. Rainbow Dash gapes – he's here?!

Fluttershy points to another table, where a very-familiar looking pony sits (with some similarly familiar henchponies). Dash double takes. Despite his "disguise" – different hairstyle and doctored cutie mark (a pen added to the skull) – it's obvious that Groom Q.Q. Martingale is DOCTOR CABALLERON! Now it all makes sense! He's created a fake "author" pony persona so he can write books that make him look good! Who would do that?! *"A.K. Yearling?"* Fluttershy suggests. Dash says that's TOTALLY different.

SC. 4 - INT. CONVENTION CENTER – MARTINGALE'S BOOTH – CONT.

Rainbow Dash storms up to "Martingale" and accuses him of being up to his old tricks – just like he did in Somnambula, he's trying to make Daring Do look bad by ruining her reputation with his book of lies! But Caballeron doesn't take the bait. *"I am just a simple author, telling it like it is."* Fluttershy suggests that maybe this is their chance to ask some questions about his book, but Dash refuses to talk to Caballeron. She's onto him, and she's going to tell Daring Do what he's up to! *"Let's go, Fluttershy!"*

Caballeron/Martingale sighs sadly, and Fluttershy pauses to ask if something's wrong. Caballeron begins to spin a sad tale of being misunderstood. (Which we may see in flashback – a different POV than scenes we've seen from Daring Do's perspective in past episodes.) He says his team is only interested in researching precious artifacts and returning them to where they belong. But despite his efforts, Daring Do always steals them in a wake of destruction. As a result, he might not have been as nice to her as he should. But it's only because he wants so

badly to protect the historical treasures of Equestria. The empathetic Fluttershy buys this hook, line, and sinker. Caballeron continues: when he learned A.K. Yearling was really Daring Do, he hoped he too could write books to set the record straight. Fluttershy sympathetically says that she understands. After all, a really bad pony would have revealed Daring Do's secret identity. Caballeron thanks Fluttershy for her keen understanding and kindness. He says his research team could use a pegasus with her kind of insight. Would she consider accompanying them on their next adventure?

SC. 5 - INT. CONVENTION CENTER – AUTHORS' CONFERENCE HALL – SOON

Rainbow Dash is still waiting to get A.K.'s attention as Fluttershy, Caballeron, and the henchponies walk past. Dash can't believe what she just saw – and she flies over to warn Fluttershy that if she keeps walking with them, other ponies are going to think she's joined Caballeron's band. *"Oh, I did,"* Fluttershy says. Dash can't believe it! Fluttershy explains kindly but firmly that she's travelling with Caballeron and his friends to get to the truth of which author is telling the real story. Dash splutters – she can't trust those henchponies, and Fluttershy says, *"Actually, they prefer to be called research assistants. This is Biff, and Rogue, and Withers."* Each rough-looking pony nods to an aghast Dash. *"Now if you'll excuse us,"* Caballeron smoothly says, *"we have some artifacts to protect."*

It's too much. Dash zips around the bouncer and grabs A.K.'s sleeve. The author is surprised to see Dash there, and even more surprised when the pegasus pulls her under the table for an urgent conference – she needs Daring Do to help her get Fluttershy out of Caballeron's evil hooves. Hearing the dire situation, A.K. agrees to cut her signing short and assist her friend. Of course she knew Martingale was really Caballeron – you call that a disguise?! But she wasn't worried until now. Because she knows what Caballeron's next big score is – a TRUTH TALISMAN RELIC that requires a pegasus to get it. Dash realizes – that must be why he recruited Fluttershy! She's about to become a criminal! They have to save her!

SC. 6 - EXT. TENOCHTITLAN BASIN – JUNGLE – LATER

Fluttershy is in camping gear as she follows Caballeron and his henchponies into the jungle. Caballeron has the charm cranked up to 11, telling Fluttershy about how he and his associates are careful to stay on the path and not disturb the natural ecosystem as they travel through it – unlike Daring Do and her machete. Fluttershy approves. When Rogue moves to eat a tropical fruit from a tree, Caballeron stops him harshly, *"Fool! Don't you know that's poisonous?!"* Then seeing Fluttershy's eyes on him, he adds awkwardly, *"I...Don't want you to get hurt, my friend."* A chastised Rogue grumbles that he's hungry. Fluttershy reaches into her knapsack and wows the four rough characters by announcing she's brought tasty snacks for everypony. The henchponies gratefully dig in, and even Caballeron looks impressed. *"You are willing to share?"* he asks Fluttershy. She smiles – of course! That's part of the fun of an adventure trip with friends. Caballeron considers this.

But they don't have much time to enjoy the snacks, because suddenly, fierce JUNGLE CATS (and a fluffly white one) leap out of the jungle in front of the ponies – snarling and ready to attack!

END ACT ONE**ACT TWO****SC. 7 - EXT. TENOCHTITLAN BASIN – JUNGLE – RESUME**

The villainous ponies turn in fear to flee from the big, snarling jungle cats. But Fluttershy stands her ground. Caballeron tries to pull her away – those ferocious beasts would love to devour a pony whole! Fluttershy says that’s a common misconception, and that you just need to talk to them. Caballeron gives her up for a lost cause and runs away. The band of four bad guys watches from the bushes as Fluttershy approaches the cats and apologizes for coming into their territory, but they’re just passing through. It’s not long before the big cats are rubbing against her and purring. Fluttershy calls to her fellow travelers that it’s safe to pass. Knees knocking, the villains make their way past the teeth and glowing eyes (the white housecat takes a swipe at the slowest one), and continue on their journey.

Caballeron is astounded and impressed by Fluttershy’s skill with animals. She explains it’s just about taking the time to listen and observe. And speaking of that, she noticed that Withers is limping. He claims he’s fine, but she makes him sit still and pulls a thorn out of his hock. “*Now, doesn’t that feel better?*” Withers has to agree that it does. The henchponies are clearly starting to appreciate what Fluttershy brings to the party!

SC. 8 - EXT. TENOCHITITLAN BASIN – ANOTHER PART OF THE JUNGLE – SAME TIME

DARING DO and Rainbow Dash run through the jungle – it’s too dense to fly through – with Rainbow Dash worrying about the corruption of her gullible friend. Daring Do says that Caballeron can’t pull off the nice pony act for long – she knows him too well. The most important thing is to get to the Truth Talisman before he cons Fluttershy into fetching it for him. It’s a mystical artifact that forces the pony holding it to tell the truth. But Caballeron doesn’t want it for its power – he wants it because it’s made of solid gold! He’ll melt it down and use it to get rich!

Dash asks why Daring Do didn’t retrieve the talisman herself yet - it requires a pegasus, and SHE’S a pegasus. “*It’s too dangerous,*” Daring Do says, “*even for me.*” The traps surrounding it will destroy anyone that tries to take the Talisman. Dash gulps and redoubles her speed.

SC. 9 - EXT. TENOCHITITLAN BASIN – ARCHWAYS OF THE SUN – LATER

Caballeron leads his band up a set of steep steps. Biff suggests a shortcut, but Caballeron shuts him down. Biff looks downcast, and Fluttershy reassures him that it was a good idea. Caballeron just probably wants to stick to his map. Biff opens up to her – he’s supposed to be Caballeron’s number two, “*but he never listens to any of my ideas!*” Fluttershy encourages him to keep trying. The ponies reach the top of the terrace of the archways – now they just have to wait for the sun to reach its zenith, and the doorway to the tunnels of truth will open.

Rogue flops under a tree, and Fluttershy warns him not to move. PAN up to reveal there's a wasps nest right above his head. Sweating, Rogue freezes. Fluttershy blows through a hollow log, buzzing to the wasps, luring them out of the nest long enough for Rogue to slide out of danger. The henchponies give a cheer for Fluttershy. She blushes.

SC. 10 - EXT. TENOCHITLAN – BASIN – STEPS BELOW ARCHWAYS – SAME TIME

Daring Do and Rainbow Dash start to fly up the steps – spotting Caballeron far in the distance. They've almost caught up to Fluttershy! Suddenly, a vine lasso whips out of the trees, snagging Daring Do and pinning her wings. Rainbow Dash hurries to free her, when another lasso takes her out too. AHUIZOTL steps out of the foliage, a wicked grin on his face. *"You may have outsmarted my cats, but you can't escape me!"* Rainbow Dash points out that they didn't see any cats, then distracts Ahuizotl by pleading their case – they're just there to rescue their friend, Fluttershy. They don't want anything to do with him. Ahuizotl isn't buying the coincidence of two pegasi in pursuit of a relic that requires wings to get it. But while Dash draws attention, Daring Do grabs a sharp rock in her teeth and uses it to saw through her ropes. She bursts free, grabs Dash's lasso, and the two of them daringly escape Ahuizotl, leading him off a cliff (he catches himself with his tail hand).

SC. 11 - EXT. TENOCHITLAN – ARCHWAYS OF THE SUN – CONT.

Just as the sun reaches its peak! The beams shine through the archways in a complex pattern that hits a gold disk, and suddenly a set of stairs sinks into the ground. Caballeron urges his team inside, quickly, before the sun moves!

A few beats behind, Dash and Daring Do hurry down the stairs!

SC. 12 - INT. TUNNELS OF TRUTH – CONT.

Caballeron leads his band through the stone underground maze. He hits a lever, slamming a wall down behind them – which Rainbow Dash and Daring Do nearly crash into. They'll have to find another way through the maze!

SC. 13 - INT. TRUTH CHAMBER – CONT.

Meanwhile, Caballeron leads the band to a large chamber (with several exits), where the Truth Telling Talisman hovers mid-air in a magic bubble above a bottomless pit. Caballeron feigns surprise – he knew the relic couldn't be moved with magic, but he lies, *"I never realized a pony would have to fly to retrieve it!"* So Fluttershy volunteers. Caballeron, still laying it on thick, says he could never ask it of her – she's just there to observe his team, not participate in the danger. Fluttershy insists – she WANTS to do it for her friends, and their good cause. Some of the henchponies are starting to look uncomfortable.

Fluttershy easily flies toward the relic and gets it in her hooves. But the moment she removes it from the magic bubble, geysers of HOT LAVA shoot from all sides of the chamber. Not one for

fancy flying, she's sent into a tail spin. Surprisingly, Caballeron and his henchponies hurry to her aid! While Biff cleverly blocks the lava (with tossed rocks that staunch several floes) Withers and Rogue tear down a decorative stone obelisk and make a bridge. Caballeron charges across the bridge and helps save Fluttershy.

Safe on solid, lava-less stone, the group rejoices... Just as Rainbow Dash and Daring Do burst in from another side of the chamber. Daring demands Caballeron hand over the artifact. Fluttershy tries to explain – her new friends are researchers – they just want to study it and put it safely in a museum. Rainbow Dash tells her she's been a part of a con the whole time – they were using her to get the amulet. And since he's holding the amulet, Caballeron has to tell the truth when Rainbow Dash asks him, *“you're only pretending to like Fluttershy because she has the wings you needed to steal the Truth Talisman! Isn't that right?!”* Caballeron surprises everypony by saying *“no.”* That was the original reason, but he and his henchponies have come to appreciate Fluttershy's kindness and friendship. Daring Do and Rainbow Dash are both amazed: *“did not see THAT coming.”*

Caballeron counters that he's not the only scoundrel here. Not everything A.K. puts in HER books is EXACTLY true. Rainbow Dash can't believe it, but Fluttershy gives A.K. the talisman, and she admits that sometimes she takes a little author's license. *“Look, you have to end chapters on an exciting part,”* she tries to explain, *“sometimes you have to invent some things...”*

But the argument is cut short with the arrival of Ahuizotl, already angry to have been thwarted by Rainbow Dash and Daring Do. Now, seeing even more intruders, AND that they've stolen the Truth Talisman, he's furious! He calls for the Catacomb Guardians to attack, and BAT-WINGED PONY GARGOYLES detach from the walls and fly toward our heroes (and anti-heroes!)

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 14 - INT. TRUTH CHAMBER – RESUME

Ducking and dodging the pony-goyle, both parties of adventurers agree to a truce until they're safe. Fluttershy tries to communicate with the gargoyles, but they're not alive – just magically infused stone – so it's no good. Fluttershy turns to Daring Do and Caballeron – surely one of them has encountered these gargoyles on one of their adventure before. Daring thinks – there was that one time in Marapore... And Caballeron recalls an incident in Flankladesh. Together they pool their knowledge and defeat the stone creatures. Dash, watching her hero and nemesis working together has to admit: *“I'm not sure how to feel right now.”* With an exit cleared of creatures, the team manages to escape down a stone corridor.

SC. 15 - TUNNELS OF TRUTH – CONT.

Ahuizotl runs after them, raging at their heels for stealing the artifact. In a game of keep-away

from the monster, the ponies continue to toss the Truth Talisman back and forth between each other – with comical results as “true confessions” come to light – Daring Do admitting that she checks the fan wiki for facts on her books she’s forgotten, Rainbow Dash copping to enjoying the spa, and Rogue surprising everypony by admitting that he’s planning on giving up the whole henchpony thing to follow his dreams of being an opera star.

But finally, Fluttershy puts on the brakes and calls for everypony to stop. The rest of the gang looks at her in shock – Daring Do: *“Did you forget there’s an angry monster chasing us?!”* *“But WHY?”* Fluttershy asks. No pony ever asked Ahuizotl what HIS point of view is! He must have a reason / his own side of the story for what he’s doing. Rainbow Dash reminds Fluttershy that Ahuizotl isn’t great. *“He’s tried to squash Daring Do like a hundred times!”* *“And me as well,”* Caballeron adds, *“I was very scared. Aaah, curse this Truth Teller!”* Frustrated, he hands off the artifact to Withers.

But Fluttershy isn’t scared, and she believes everycreature in the story should have their say. She takes the Truth Teller from Withers and delivers it to a suspicious Ahuizotl, asking, *“Why are you chasing us?”* Confused and clutching the artifact, Ahuizotl truthfully explains that he’s in charge of protecting this jungle, and if another artifact goes missing on his watch he is going to be in SO much trouble with the other guardian creatures. *“Those two have taken so many relics from my land, my job is on the line! So maybe I’m a little bloodthirsty and ferocious. Can you blame me?”* Fluttershy pats his back as he blows his nose with a hanky in his tail hand.

Daring Do and Caballeron are surprised to hear this. Daring Do thought she was protecting the artifacts, and while Caballeron admits he had his own self-interest at heart, he never thought Ahuizotl had any reason for what he was doing other than just general monster-behavior. Rainbow Dash has to admit to Fluttershy that maybe she wasn’t wrong to get the whole story. Maybe you can’t just make assumptions about right and wrong based on your personal feelings - no matter how obvious things seem.

Fluttershy agrees that it’s good to get the truth – but you should always pursue it with kindness. She smiles at Daring Do and Caballeron. *“Sometimes it’s what helps you make new friends.”* The adventurers share a look – *“don’t push it.”*

SC. 16 - EXT. TENOCHTITLAN BASIN – JUNGLE – RESUME

With Ahuizotl’s artifact restored, and a new understanding, if not quite BFF relationship for Daring Do and Caballeron, the ponies part ways with a truce. Neither will take artifacts from the area again. Caballeron: *“But everything else is fair game.”* *“On the page and off it,”* Daring agrees. The henchponies are sad to say goodbye when they learn Fluttershy isn’t continuing with their band. But she promises to see them at the Author’s conference next month...

SC. 17 - INT. AUTHOR’S CONFERENCE – NEXT MONTH

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy return to the same conference, surprised to find no line at A.K. Yearling’s table OR Groom Q.Q. Martin’s! The Bouncer pony gestures to where the action’s at: Ahuizotl is promoting HIS own tell-all book about protecting indigenous artifacts from no-good

adventurers. And as he signs copies with his tail hand, we...

END EPISODE