

"PamEEEE"

Rainbow Dash was a good little filly in Cloudsdale. She often tried to stay mostly out of trouble unless the situation really called for it. She sat at her desk in flight school, as she half-listened to the professor's lecture. Fluttershy sat next to her, writing down all the details she could. They had just finished their lesson on emergency controlled weather patterns and just started the chapter on different types of rain.

*Soooooo borrrreeedddd. I wish we could go back to learning about tornadoes. That lesson was actually cool for once.*

Indeed, the past few pages of Rainbow's notebook, which was mostly empty, was filled to the brim of notes on tornadoes, down to the tiniest little details. Of course, even her interest didn't stop her habit of filling in the margins up with doodles of all kinds, such as tornado-based cutie marks or the Wonderbolts making a tornado. In fact, the doodles only seemed to increase with the interest.

*Hmm. I wonder if you could do any tricks with a tornado? It would probably be kinda hard, but wouldn't it be awesome?*

She immediately got to work as she scribbled out all of the ideas she had and double-checked them with her notes. Most were based on using the suction power of the tornado, and how to use it for various means. The suction power was already used by the tornado to suck up hot air, powering it, but she was sure it could be used for quite a few other purposes.

*Now, what would be a good name for it? Rainbow Vacuum? Nah, too boring. Rainbow Suck? Oh, do I want to be teased? Eh, I'll think of it later. The annoying thing is, all these would probably only work with small tornadoes. A full-sized one would probably be too strong to do anything other than push it around. But...I wonder if you could do a trick by working with the tornado, instead of working against it?*

Twilight Sparkle looked down from her cliff, staring at the out-of-control monster she had told everyone they needed to make. Her mouth hung open in dismay.

"The tornado is headed straight for Ponyville! The town's gonna be destroyed!" Spike yelled to Twilight.

"Tarnneee!"

Applejack ran out of the cave behind them towards the unicorn and dragon. "Twi, we gotta problem here. We can't find Pinkie Pie anywhere."

"*What?*" panicked Twilight. "I thought you said everyone was here and accounted for!"

Applejack looked away in embarrassment. “Well, y’see we had kind of assumed Pinkie Pie was in the movin’ bundle of hay with fake glasses and balloons. But when I just checked it out just now all I found in that pile was...” Applejack held up her back leg, showing a small, green, toothless alligator hanging from her knee.

“Then where IS she?”

“Well...” Applejack stammered.

“SharfEEEEEEE”

Rainbow Dash was currently trapped in an uncontrollable beast. She leaned left, right, and every other way she could think of that was away from the town. The tornado was now set on its path through Ponyville.

“I can’t do it,” Rainbow said to herself. “I’m sorry everyone. I tried.”

Her eyes watered, and she shut her eyelids tightly, letting her teardrops roll across her face and blow away in the wind.

“ParmEEEEEEE”

*There’s a voice coming from the town! I thought it was supposed to be evacuated! Wait, I know I know that voice. But... it can’t be!*

Rainbow opened her eyes against the wind.

And she found herself surrounded by rainbows.

“PARTYYYYYY!!” shouted Pinkie Pie at the top of her lungs towards the roaring tornado. She stood on a thatched roof, waving pinwheels, besides rows of boarded-up houses decorated in colorful streamers. Behind her from the ground, hundreds if not thousands of colorful balloons were released and billowed up into the sky.

The balloons were almost instantly caught by the strong breezes and soon circled the areas around the tornado. The grey sky was now filled with color.

Rainbow spun in the tornado, the balloons shining in stark contrast to the dull landscape she had been looking at. Each balloon caught a different gust and moved through the complex wind currents in the area. The air patterns were now visible. Upon the screaming winds and the wave of destruction, Rainbow heard only silence, and saw only the rainbow of balloons showing

her the way. She took it all in, and for a few moments, she saw everything.

Adrenaline pulsed again through her veins as a smirk creased her lips. She pulsed with excitement with the knowledge of what she had to do. It was like she had told Twilight from the very beginning.

*I don't need to "think" the sky.*

Rainbow Dash pushed as hard as she could to the left. Following the now known wind currents, she adjusted her circles to the absolute limit, causing the tornado to turn a few degrees. It was now heading southeast. It would no longer bisect the town, but it would still do considerable damage as it tore off the northeast section off the map.

*I simply "be" the sky.*

There was a small hill between the cyclone and Ponyville. The tornado would simply roll over the hill and continue its destruction. Rainbow stopped her spinning, allowing the strong winds around her to continue on undirected. She was right; the tornado didn't need them anymore. But she could still tame it.

*I don't need to "test" the weather.*

She dove down the eye of the storm, falling past all the hot air rushing up against her. The twister started to move up the hill. Rainbow tapped the shoulder of the pony at the tip, quickly directing them with her hoof to fly up and using a motion to represent a rope. It was her alone at the violent tip of the storm, dust and rocks flying up around her. She spread her wings out, feeling them catch the spinning tip around her. Rainbow grimaced as she felt as though her feathers were going to be pulled off.

The tornado reached the top of the hill. Rainbow put all of her might into one push of her wings, and shot upwards out of the tornado.

"I AM THE WEATHER!" Rainbow shouted at the top of her lungs.

Far above, the Wonderbolts watched the storm underneath the clouds. After making sure the wind tunnel was even and stable through the cloud, they had just come down to watch how the funnel was doing, even though they couldn't do much at this point. Soarin' stared at what was now happening with his mouth agape. "Spitfire, is she doing what I think she's doing?" Spitfire just smiled. "My my my, it seems that little pony has another trick under her hoof."

The tornado *lifted* off the ground as it reached the apex of the hill, the tip following Dash as she rounded up the side of the tornado, following the path of the wind. As she rounded up it,

the tornado seemed to take on the same rainbow sheen of the pony who was controlling it.

Spike started shaking Twilight, while rambling off all the questions he could think of. "I didn't know she could do that! Did *you* know she could do that? Why did *no pony* tell me she could do that? How can she do that?"

"She...she's jumping Ponyville... with the tornado..." was all Twilight managed to say in response.

The rainbow tornado in the sky surrounded with colorful balloons soared over Ponyville. The buildings underneath shook but refused to break, but many of the thatched roofs were sucked into the tornado. The brightly-colored, dried plants shot through the entire tornado, making it reappear more golden than anything else. Rainbow Dash, reaching midway up, started her decent, the tip following her still as she wrapped it along the wind down the funnel. It tightened on itself, stabilizing the structure into the stovepipe form it had at the beginning.

Just clearing the houses, the tornado landed slightly south of the eastern park, with wind quickly dying down. *It's stopping! The tornado ran out of hot, humid air to power it!* With its final gales pushing the nearby trees away from it, it sizzled out and faded away.

Rainbow hovered and landed on the ground. She stood at the bottom of a tower of very tired but smiling pegasi. The rain started to lighten up, and most of the pegasi teams started clearing up the clouds. As the late-afternoon sunlight started beaming down onto the land, it caught the last bits of rain, and formed a beautiful rainbow over Ponyville. The last of the balloons sailed up into the sky, passing the clouds above.

Rainbow's body started to shake as the rush of the moment finally caught to her.

"That..." She closed her eyes.

"Was..." She brought her front hooves in to her chest.

"AWESOME!" She laughed with joy as she reared up on her hind legs, shoving her front hooves into the sky.

The next few days were busy, yet filled with a sense of ease, as the citizens of Ponyville had started moving back into their homes. The weather team reported a full control with the weather. The tornado had followed mostly along the lines planned, the town was saved, and everything was going to be fine. Still, the tornado had destroyed quite a number of trees and decimated five houses, not to mention that it happened to remove the roofing of almost fifteen

more. The town was running on minimal electricity power after the destruction of the windmill. Much of Ponyville put aside their jobs to focus on the rebuilding of the town. Applejack led the reconstruction, while Rarity and the bird-nesting team offered to focus on the roofs. Even the Wonderbolts helped out a couple days before they had to head back.

As the famous team flew back to Cloudsdale, Soarin' pulled up to Spitfire.

"Hey, Spitfire? I was wondering... with the Sonic Rainboom and, you know, the tornado jumping, have you given any thought about bringing Dash onto our team? Not as a full member yet of course, just for a bit of training here and there. She certainly has the skills for it."

Spitfire sighed. "Of course she has the skills for it, nopony was ever doubting that. What's holding her back is her lack of teamwork, lack of calmness when it's required, lack of ability to synchronize with the people around her, and her general brashness towards any challenging situation. I bet even half the time she dreams of flying with us it's her showing us all up and standing out from the rest of us. She's not ready to even be considered on becoming a Wonderbolt."

"But she will be," said Misty softly, seemingly appearing out of thin air. "I noticed the passion in her wings... and the loyalty in her heart. She will be."

"Alright, fine, she will be," admitted Spitfire. "But... not yet. I think her weather job in Ponyville is doing a lot of good for her. She's made some good friends and found responsibility as a leader. One day she will be, and then she'll have to take the choice we all took, on whether to follow her dreams or stick close by the friends she's made. She's loyal, but time will test where her loyalties lie." She was quiet for a moment. "Okay, and even I can admit that trick with the tornado was impressive."

Soarin' sighed. "You two have a much better eye for this sorta thing than I do. I was just throwin' out my thoughts. Let's hurry on back, we got a performance in a couple days."

Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash was moving her delicate cloud home back into its original position in the southeast. She had placed it outside the borders of Ponyville before the storm to prevent it being shredded by the storm, and now that the heat wave was over, there was no need to keep it up north. She had been helping with the reconstruction, and found her own desire to shift around her house a little bit.

After a couple hours, she heard two large thumps, but didn't think anything of it at the time.

"Rainbow! Are you up there?" Twilight called out an hour later. "What are these sacks doing by your house?"

“What sacks?” she called back to her friend. “I’ll be right down!” With that, Rainbow glided down to the ground to meet the unicorn.

Twilight smiled. “I just came over to say thanks for doing all of this. I know it was difficult dealing with me for the time, and I realized I never got a chance to share my appreciation.”

Rainbow grinned in kind. “Hey, don’t sweat it. You hadn’t gotten much sleep trying to do my work for me. Besides, I know I wasn’t the friendliest pony to work with either. Now, what’s in those large bags?”

“Not sure. Mind if I take a look?”

“Go right ahead,” replied Rainbow.

A full minute of silence passed between them once Twilight stuck her head in the bag. The tension that rose could be cut with a pointed horn.

“Rainbow Dash... when you moved your house up north, did you ever let Ditzzy Doo know where your house was located?”

“Well... no... but it’s a giant white and rainbow flying house. *Kind* of hard to miss. And doesn’t one of her eyes always point upwards anyways?”

“And did you or did you not find it the least bit odd that you received no mail, nor that any of your outgoing mail was taken?”

“Well... a little... I mean, I never receive mail, but Der... I mean Ditzzy Doo,” Rainbow knew how much Twilight hated that nickname, “well, she doesn’t really take days off. But hey, it was really hot so I didn’t think much of it. So there’s mail there, right? Who’s it from?”

“Oh, it’s all from one place, the weather factory up in Cloudsdale.” With that, Twilight pulled out a letter dated almost a month ago when the heat wave started. Twilight’s horn shimmered as she ripped off the top. “Hey, you can’t do-“ Rainbow stammered. But Twilight interrupted her as she started to read.

Dear Ms. Rainbow Dash,

We have found some irregularities in the weather patterns surrounding your area. As such, we advise changing the weather schedule to match the following:

Twilight read the rest of the report out loud, detailing various small changes that would need to be done to keep the weather stable. Twilight pulled out another letter, dated two a week

and a half weeks ago.

Dear Ms. Rainbow Dash,

Since you have not replied to our repeated messages, nor have you sent any new reports, we can only surmise that the previous instructions were ignored or lost. At this time, a more drastic attempt will be needed. You must manipulate the weather like so...

Twilight skipped the instructions and moved onto the next letter, dated a few days ago. Rainbow's eye started to twitch as she began to panic.

Dear Ms. Rainbow Dash,

Since no letters have been received from your location, we must assume the progress of the Everfree Forest has advanced more rapidly than expected, and that you are indeed lost to us. If this is not the case, you will need to somehow put together a tornado of sufficient magnitude to regain control of the weather. An attached map of a suggested path through the area is provided. A certified tornado team will be put together and sent out in a few days to reclaim what is left of the town. We suggest evacuating Ponyville until the situation has dealt with.

As they looked back up into the sky, Twilight and Rainbow saw a team of over thirty pegasi as they made their way towards Ponyville, all in perfect synchronization.

Rainbow rubbed her head with her hooves. "I...think I need to go make some apologies to both them and those... *researchers* in Cloudsdale. See ya in a few days, Twilight." Rainbow Dash quickly turned around and took off towards the incoming pegasi team.

Twilight contorted with anger as she realized the situation. She yelled after the pegasus, "YOU MEAN WE COULD HAVE AVOIDED THIS WHOLE MESS IF YOU HAD JUST FOLLOWED UP ON YOUR MAIL?!?!?"

Rainbow Dash had a fairly easy job in Ponyville... most of the time.

## EPILOGUE

It was about five days after the tornado had worked its way through Ponyville. The finishing touches were being put on the destroyed houses, and plans to rebuild the windmill

more efficiently were already underway. Pinkie Pie had fallen off a thatched roof as the tornado reached the town, and was in the town hospital from injuries for a couple days. Luckily, there was no long-term damage, and she still considered her “tornado party” to be a complete success. However, she did seem less hyper than normal as the current minimal electricity restrictions put a ban on baking the sweet treats of Sugarcube Corner.

Twilight finally got home after a tiring day. Spike was just finishing up dinner for the evening. “Spike, take a letter.”

Spike put aside the food he was making and ran to his paper and quill.

*Dear Princess Celestia,*

*Alongside the announcement that our weather problem has been completely taken care of, I am happy to inform you that I have learned yet another lesson on the magic of friendship. Sometimes friends might do some things which annoy and irritate you, simply because you would do it differently, a way that you believe to be right. However, it's important to see past such quick judgments and truly appreciate the differences between you and your friends. When the big stuff happens that you truly need help on, it's the differences and trust between you and your friends that help make even the seemingly impossible, possible.*

*P.S. There is also a time to stand firm in what you believe in to create a good habit, which I will soon be demonstrating to my friend.*

As soon as Spike blew the paper out the window, a loud, rapid knock was heard at the door. “Oh, I wonder who that could be at this time of day?” commented Twilight.

Twilight opened the door to a very panicked and tired Rainbow Dash.

“Okay, Twilight. Your letter said you wanted to see me about the weather reports. What now? Do we need to flood Ponyville with heavy rain? Dump a blizzard on it in the middle of the summer? What?”

Twilight softly giggled. “Calm down, Dash. We don't need to destroy Ponyville. I just wanted to show you the work I've been doing on organizing your weather reports.”

Twilight led her downstairs under the library to a large room filled with old, dusty books. The walls were held in place by large stones in the dirt, and some of the larger roots from the tree above them became large pillars. All of the books were extensively organized, with a date or a year on each binding. Even though it appeared the room had more books than the rest of



the library combined, less than half of the shelves were filled.

“This...is the library’s Reference section of Ponyville, though you would probably call it a ‘Records Room.’ It has all the records from Ponyville’s foundation until now. However, these shelves get filled quite slowly, so I moved all your weather reports down here in neat binders. I expect a short stack of papers each week detailing the recent weather. Furthermore, I’m expecting you to fill up each comment page for each and every day with notes, for maximum accountability.”

Rainbow took a few steps back at the thought. “Hold on Twilight! I’m happy you decided to put all of this together for me. And yes, after that craziness I can be okay with turning the report copies into you for safe keeping. But if you expect me to actually put more of my valuable time and effort into these things, you got another thing coming!”

Twilight smirked slyly. “That’s your choice, of course. By the way, I couldn’t help but take amusement from your *many* interesting drawings written on the sides of your reports.”

Rainbow’s body tensed up. “Um... drawings?”

“I mean the scribbles on the page margins! Don’t worry, I removed all of your doodles when I organized them. But still, I didn’t expect you to have any feelings for *that* pony...”

Rainbow grabbed the unicorn. “Twilight, you can’t tell *anypony* about this! The whole town speculates on my romantic interests! If this got out, it would spread faster than a Sonic Rainboom!”

“Then if I were you, I would get the reports in fully and on time. This will be the *only* thing I ever hold to that.”

“But... wait... ugg... how... why... ARRRRGGGG!” Rainbow rushed up and out of the library, slamming the door behind her.

Twilight was bluffing, of course. There’d be no way she’d spill a secret and hurt her friend like that. Especially since that last time with Pinkie... nopony dared spill secrets with her watching. Rainbow Dash also knew she probably wouldn’t, but nevertheless, a full stack of papers appeared at Twilight’s doorstep at the end of the week, completely filled out.

Author’s Notes:

If you were wondering what kind of map I'm using, I'm using <http://aurebesh.deviantart.com/art/Rough-Map-of-Ponyville-Labeled-215925777> . I know it's not perfect, but I wanted the logistics of the tornado path and this is the best thing I could find at the moment. Up = North because I say so and that's what they used. Credit where credit is due.

Speaking of references, I also used <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornado>  
<http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/edu/safety/tornadoguide.html>

And <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windmill>

Not for structure purposes, I wanted to know if the windmill could logically provide the electricity for Ponyville. Turns out the concept of farm wind turbines is pretty old! Just before the 1900's even, fitting perfectly with MLP's schizo-tech. Though I would expect additional power could be created from waterwheels considering Ponyville is surrounded by them...(Hence Dash's first question at the end if they have to cause a flood, Ponyville would be washed away.) This made it "minimal power" instead of "power outage."

Despite many stories saying that RD graduated or got kicked out of flight school, I find it was most likely that she dropped out instead. Consider this dialog from Sonic Rainboom:

Score: Well, well, well. If it isn't our old friend, Rainbow Crash.

Hoops: Get kicked out of any flight schools lately?

Dash: I *didn't* get kicked out.

Score: Face it Rainbow Crash, Flight School had too many rules, and not enough nap times for you.

The knowledge of her leaving before graduation is apparent, which Dash doesn't deny. All she specifically denies is to the fact that she got kicked out.

Misty and Tyco were names I took from the MLP:FIM Wiki. I couldn't find the sources for those names, but they seemed to fit well enough for me, so I took them.

This has been my first fanfic of my life. Until this fandom, I always thought of fanfiction as something to be looked down upon, nothing more. And forget crossover fanfics, there was logically no way those could be any good. Bronies taught me to readjust my thinking.

This was my first attempt at getting into characters other than my own. I made it a rule from the get-go that there would be no OCs, and fan-based background ponies would be kept to a minimum. I refused memes of all kinds, and set to simply write. As I removed all the crutches I had been relying on, I found it more difficult to write than I ever have. Hopefully, the story that came out of that struggle was interesting enough for your tastes.

As I final note, I need to thank three more people. Two of them kicked me off my high horse, so to speak, and made this story as clean as it was. TwilightSnarkle, thanks for teaching me how to receive criticism and keep going by showing me my writing had worth. You have earned your

respect from me, and I appreciate all the time you spent looking at this chapter by chapter as I was trying to get this right. You also taught me not to use sentences that contain three verb tenses at once, which I'm sure is appreciated by everyone here. Seattle\_Lite, thanks for beating down my story when I'm standing high, and showing me how to improve for the future. While you only was able to review it once after completion, your impact will be felt in my future works. You're both worth your weight in gold.

And of course, to you, the reader. If you enjoyed reading this short fic, and only you specifically, then all the work I put into here was worth it. Thanks for taking the time to read it. \*brohoof\*