**Chapter one: crash landing**

**(This part coincides in the same time that the pegasus is escaping the shadow)**

The sun was high in the sky, birds were singing, a refreshing breeze gently blew, and every pony in Ponyville were out enjoying a new and wonderful day. One of these ponies was the purple unicorn Twilight Sparkle, enjoying a little light reading on a sunny patch of grass in the village park. Her assistant and lifelong friend Spike, lay across from her, resting his head on her side as he snoozed in the warm weather. She was reading a third article of her favorite story, “The adventures of Star Swirl the Bearded”, and as she read, she calmly thought to herself, *I bet there has never been a more perfect day than this, the weather is beautiful, nothing bad has happened for two whole months now, and everypony is out having a wonderful time.* She became lost in her thoughts as she looked around the park, giggling as she saw the three young fillies Scootaloo, Sweetie Belle, and Applebloom playing a game of tag, all three laughing as they skittered away from who was ‘it’. Her gentle giggle was enough to rouse the baby dragon, who sat up and stretched his arms high over his head as he yawned deeply. “Oops, sorry Spike” said Twilight apologetically, Spike merely smiled shaking his head as he sleepily said, “Don’t sweat it, I needed to wake up anyway. It’s a beautiful day today isn’t it?”. Twilight nodded in agreement as she continued reading, “It sure is, I’m just glad it’s been like this for as long as it has, it’s been so peaceful here”. Spike nodded, but looked to the ground in a disappointed manner, “Yeah, but I kinda wish something would happen you know? I miss the action and adventures and I kinda wish they’d come back, if only for a little while”. Twilight merely giggled, not wanting to reveal that deep inside, she felt the same way. She continued to read until a sudden shadow popped up in front of her, covering her pages, she looked up and saw the bright blue eyes and beaming smile of the towns pink party pony Pinkie Pie mere inches from Twilight. “Hiya Twilight! Whatcha up to? I haven’t been up to too much just planning my usual Pinkie Parties! Hey are you gonna stay and watch Rainbow Dash’s performance it’ll start in a little bit! Guess what? I’m assisting her today! That’s right I’m her Right Hoove Mare, helping her to do the unthinkable!”. Pinkie Pie stopped, realizing she was out of breath and began wheezing for oxygen, Twilight stood up, laughing at her energetic friend and replying, “I wasn’t aware of that I’d love to stay and watch! Are the others coming too?”. In reply to her question, she heard the happy country twanged voice of AppleJack behind her, “Ya darn tootin’ right we heard, an’ we came on over as soon as we did!” in agreement to her statement, the yellow furred Fluttershy spoke up, though not too loudly, “It’s always fun to watch Rainbow Dash perform”. Next to Fluttershy, the brilliant white Fashionista Rarity chimed, “And this gives me the opportunity to show off my new Spring hat! I just made it yesterday”, she placed a hoof gently over the brim of her hat, to show the wide array of flowers and rubies that complimented it. As the others admired the hat, a loud WHOOSH could be heard and up above, a rainbow colored blur could be seen, causing the other ponies to cheer and holler, “Whoops! That’s my cue!” said Pinkie as she bounced off toward the speeding Pegasus. The crowd cheered again as Rainbow Dash zoomed passed them, lowering to the ground without slowing and performing her super speed strut and zooming back up to the sky. Pinkie Pie then hopped to the center of the field with five hoops, as Rainbow Dash began to speed over the pony, she threw the hoops up into the air. With pinpoint precision, Rainbow Dash sped through each hoop just as they reached the peak of their assent. The spectating ponies whooped and cheered, begging for more. At that time, Pinkie Pie stood straight up on her hind legs, holding her forelegs as high as she could reach, and almost instantly, Rainbow Dash grabbed her reaching forelegs, using her momentum to flip the pink pony into the air and land almost effortlessly on her back, where she balanced only on one leg as Dash began to gain altitude again. “What in tarnation do those two think they’re doin?” asked Applejack out loud, “I don’t know, oh I just hope they’re careful up there” said Rarity, worry easily heard in her voice, “I’m sure Rainbow knows what she’s doing, or else she wouldn’t put Pinkie at risk” Fluttershy assured the group. They looked back up and saw that Rainbow and Pinkie had gained a lot of altitude, and to their shock, Rainbow Dash back flipped, causing the pink pony to fall off her back and plummet toward the ground. The ponies that didn’t know that this was part of the act gasped in shock, Pinkie was falling fast to the ground, her forelegs held outward to her sides, everypony watched as she got closer and closer to the ground, some beginning to cover their eyes, not sure they wanted to see what would happen next. Suddenly, there was a gust of wind, a rainbow colored wind stream, and everypony cheered excitedly as Rainbow Dash caught Pinkie, just in the nick of time. Twilight, Rarity, Fluttershy, and Applejack all let out a collective sigh of relief, and joined in on the cheering. Rainbow Dash let Pinkie down to the grass once again and began to zoom back up, high into the sky. “And now!” yelled Pinkie Pie over the cheering ponies, “Rainbow Dash will top off this performance with her very own, signature, SONIC RAINBOOM!!” and all the ponies cheered for the grand finale. Rainbow Dash climbed higher and higher until she reached her top altitude, before diving, she took a few seconds to take in the view, she breathed in the high altitude air and exhaled, this is where she belonged, this was her home, her domain, and nopony could take that from her. With a new rush of exhilaration, she dove down, rapidly increasing her velocity as she neared the waiting ponies. As she started to reach maximum velocity, the air around her began to form a cone in front of her, steadily becoming narrower and narrower as she began to enter Mach speed, close to breaking the sound barrier. But as she reached her halfway point, a bright light to the east of her caught her attention, as she continued to look, she noticed that it was… lightning? Yes, a large bolt of lightning, and she was in a collision course right for it! Some of the ponies, including Twilight Sparkle, noticed where she was looking and also began to see the lightning bolt. Rainbow Dash knew she had to act fast to avoid getting electrocuted, so she instantly opened up her wings and spread herself out to catch as much air as she could to slow her down faster, her wings hurt with the strain that they were put in, but she didn’t dare stop, and with one mighty heave, she flapped her wings hard and pulled up just as the bolt flew under her. She breathed a sigh of relief, only to gasp again as she saw that the bolt was heading straight to the town square, and in an instant, the bolt hit the ground. An earsplitting crash could be heard as the bolt met its mark, a huge mushroom cloud of dirt showing where it made contact to the ground. Everypony in the park immediately ran back to the town, to see what damage had been caused to the town square. Rainbow Dash was the first to reach the scene, followed by AppleJack, Twilight, Rarity, Fluttershy, and Pinkie Pie. They all gasped as they saw the damage the impact had caused. Food stands lay in splintered piles, many of the smaller trees were uprooted and smoldering in piles, many of the shops were badly damaged. Luckily, everypony was at the park watching Rainbow Dash, so there was little chance of anypony getting hurt. Their eyes soon wandered to the huge burning crater that was in the middle of the square, Applebloom, one of the braver fillies, slowly crept out to the edge of the crater and peered in. Her eyes went from a look of curiosity, to a look of horror as she gasped and yelled out, “Somepony come quick! There’s somepony down there!”. Many of the other ponies gasped, while many others, including rainbow Dash and the rest of her friends, raced to the crater. True enough, there lay a dark blue pegasus, right in the middle of the crater. Rainbow Dash and a couple other pegasi flew down and dragged the unconscious Pegasus out of the crater. “Is he alive?” was asked by many of the by standing ponies, Nurse RedHeart, the local doctor immediately went to the downed Pegasus and check for a pulse. Twilight and the other five looked closely, upon further examination, he had a pitch black mane, cut very short down the back of his neck, thickening at the top of his head until it ended in an unruly patch of hair, sticking out in different directions. As Nurse RedHeart neared him, she immediately snatched back her hooves as small sparks of electricity zapped from his body, and a faint glow drew their attention to his flank, which showed a light blue cutiemark in the shape of a lightning bolt that glowed slightly. As the glow faded, the Pegasus unexpectedly let out a racking cough, and started to breathe! “He’s still alive!” exclaimed Rainbow Dash, and immediately sped to help the nurse pony in trying to wake him. “Hello?” she said, “Umm, anypony in there? If you can hear me then do something, move, talk, anything”. As if in response to her command, the pegasus stirred, slowly opening his silver colored eyes, causing a small smile to creep across Rainbow’s face. “Sir” said Nurse RedHeart in a serious tone, “If you can hear me, I need you to try and move, does anything feel broken? If you can move, then we need to get you to the hospital stat. The pegasus roused his body, shakily but surely getting up onto his hooves. He was obviously straining to stand on his own, and he began to shake his head. “I can’t… go to any hospital… right now” he spoke, his voice low and strong sounding, “not until… I get an audience with Princess… Celestia, which way is it to Canterlot?” The reply seemed to surprise the nurse, but she shook it away and replied, “I’m sorry, but in your current condition I cannot allow you to leave. You need to rest, and you may have some kind of internal injuries”. The blue pegasus shook his head again, clearly beginning to regain his composure (Which baffled Rainbow Dash immensely). “I’m afraid you don’t understand, the fate of Equestria lies in the information I have and wether or not she hears it as soon as possible. Many of the listening ponies gasped and their eyes widened, Twilight, still surprised how a pegasus still managed to survive a crash like that, began to look for Spike so she could send Celestia a message. She didn’t know who this pegasus was, but the serious tone in his voice was enough to convince her he was telling the truth. *Well Spike,* she said mentally, *looks like your wish came true, whatever information this stranger had, it most likely means that the Elements of Harmony would be called back into action once again. I just wish we knew what this new enemy was…*