Today was going to be the day. She could just feel it. She was at a show, waiting for the Wonder Bolts to swoop in and show off their amazing flying skills. She knew that today would be the day when they finally accepted her as one of them, she had even set a little something up so that she could prove that she was good enough to be one of the Wonder Bolts. She watched them fly around for a little bit before she was ready to do her own trick. She slowly rose up from the crowd and went a bit higher up than the Wonder Bolts, taking care not to be seen until she started her trick. Suddenly, she flew around in circles, going faster and faster until she was just a rainbow colored blur in the sky. She then flew downwards, to pick up even more speed. It seemed like she was able to go even faster than ever before, and she could barely feel and resistance from the wind. It was strange, but she didn’t mind. It wasn’t long before her Sonic Rainboom was going to happen, she could tell that, so she sped up and flew as close as she could to the Wonder Bolts, making sure that they and everyone else could see her. Just when they began to take notice of her, there was a loud explosion and a huge burst of rainbow came from the spot where Rainbow Dash had just been. She looked behind her and saw the Wonder Bolts staring at her in awe and the crowd cheering madly. She flew up to the Wonder Bolts and they asked her how she did that.

“What, that? That was easy.” She said, feeling confident that they would let her join them now.

“Do you think you might want to train with us sometime, and we could see if you can join our team?” One of them asked.

“Yes, I’d love to.” Rainbow said, trying not to cry out in joy.

She was doing a lap around the stadium that they were in with the Wonder Bolts and then she woke up. She sighed heavily and wished that it would actually happen, instead of just dreaming about it all the time. She knew she was good enough to join the Wonder Bolts and she would prove it. But, to do that, she would need to come up with some good tricks. So she thought of a few and started practicing.

It was a bright, sunny day and Rainbow Dash was practicing a new trick that she had just come up with when Scootaloo came out of nowhere, riding her scooter as fast as she could.

She hopped off her scooter and said excitedly, “Omigoshomigoshomigosh that was so cool!”

Rainbow grinned and said smugly, “Well, I know that, but it isn’t done yet. Just you wait until it’s done, then you’ll be in for a real treat. But, since I can’t finish it yet, I’ll have to just show you the best trick you’ll ever see, one that I have finished and perfected.”

Scootaloo gasped and her eyes grew wide, “You don’t mean… You’re gonna show me the Sonic Rainboom!?” She practically yelled, her excitement getting the best of her. However, she had spoken to the empty air, because Rainbow was already soaring through the air, gaining speed and altitude quickly. She was soon at just the perfect distance away from Scootaloo, close enough so that she could be seen well, but she was also far enough away so that she could gain enough speed to do her trick, at least, that was what she hoped.

Rainbow set up a few clouds, pushing them as quickly as she could, sensing the adrenaline rush that was coming on. She could feel the rush of wind against her mane, making it flow, lightly at first, then faster and faster until her sleek mane was whipping around her hair in a flurry of color. She then began to weave in and out of the first few clouds that she had set up, quickly moving on to the trio of clouds that were set up in a triangle formation. She went first to the one at the top of the triangle and flew around it, flying so fast that the cloud began to spin. Slowly at first, but within about five seconds (six or seven times around the cloud) it was spinning quite fast. She spun around it about ten times, leaving it there to spin on its own, then repeated the process with the other two clouds. They were all spinning at an incredible rate, it was a breathtaking sight. Then, she flew even higher and then flew straight down. She flapped her wings incredibly quickly, so fast that to anypony who was watching it would look like she was only flapping them a little bit, but the truth was that she was flapping them so fast that eyes couldn’t follow it, so it looked like one flap for every ten or so that she actually took. She went faster and faster, but she could now feel the familiar pressure of air pushing against her, almost like a barrier. She could feel it trying to stop her, slow her down, but she wouldn’t let it. She flapped her wings even harder, trying to go faster, despite the immense strength of the air pushing against her. She bared her teeth in concentration, visibly straining, but she was still going faster and faster. She could feel the air relenting a bit, and she knew that she was close. When she broke the air barrier, it would create a Sonic Rainboom and she could have successfully completed it for the third time. She thought about how impressed the Wonder Bolts would be if they knew that she could do that whenever she wanted to, and let that thought lend her strength. She pictured herself in one of their outfits, imagining that she was with the Wonder Bolts, showing off her talents at one of their big shows and she could tell that the Sonic Rainboom was about to happen, it was in her grasp now. If only she could push a little bit faster, then she could be able to make it and everypony would be cheering for her. She pushed harder, flapped her wings faster and it was so close, just about to happen. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath, bracing herself for the explosion. But it never came. Instead, she stopped abruptly and felt a flare of pain in her head.

Applejack was helping Applebloom find the rest of the Cutie Mark Crusaders, walking her little sister through town to see if either of them could spot Scootaloo or Sweetie Belle but so far they hadn’t had any luck. Applejack saw a small figure in the distance and sped up to a trot, thinking that it looked a bit like Scootaloo.

“Come on Applebloom, Ah think Ah can see yer lil’ friend Scootaloo over there.” She told her little sister encouragingly.

When they reached Scootaloo they could see that she was staring straight up, her mouth open wide in awe.

“What’re y’all lookin’ at?” Applejack asked Scootaloo, but she never got an answer.

Instead, her answer came in the form of a certain pony crashing into the ground headfirst at full speed. All she saw before the huge cloud of dust was a streak of rainbow flying in front of her.

She laughed and said, “Now see, that’s what y’all get fer showin’ off so much to this here lil’ filly.”

Rainbow sat up, looking dazed and said, “Hey, I was not showing off, I was just…” She trailed off as she realised who it was who had said that and then began to blush fiercely. She muttered something about tricks and looked down, fighting to keep her face from becoming even more red.

Applejack laughed once more and said, smiling, “Don’t worry ‘bout that Sugarcube, it’s okay to want to show off once in a while to yer lil’ admirer here, but when you try to get too fancy like that, most of tha time nothin’ good comes of it.”

Rainbow had finally gotten control of the flush that had been spreading across her face and said, “Oh, please. You think that’s too fancy for me? Who was the one who saved Rarity and the Wonder Bolts with that ‘too fancy’ move last summer? Me. Who was the one who got her Cutie Mark by doing that ‘too fancy’ move? Me. And, come to think of it, didn’t my doing that ‘too fancy’move get you your Cutie Mark as well?”

“I see yer point. Well, just don’t go around trying to do it every time somepony wants to see a trick, y’all have got plenty more tricks where that one came from. Ones that won’t give you a huge bump on the head.” Applejack said, smiling slightly and looking pointedly and a large lump that was rapidly forming on Rainbow Dash’s head.

Rainbow blushed and said sheepishly, “Yeah, I guess you’re right.”

Just then, Applebloom and Scootaloo started walking away and Applebloom announced “We’re goin’ ta see if we can find Sweetie Belle.”

“Okay, but be careful Applebloom.” Applejack called out to the young fillies.

Rainbow Dash looked up at Applejack from where she was sitting on the floor and asked, “So, what should we do now? Wanna go and visit Twilight? Or Pinkie? Or… Someone?”

Applejack looked at her and smiled sweetly, “Nah, Ah think that we should spend some time together.” She said happily.

“Um, okay, but… Why? We’ve never done anything like this before.” Rainbow asked, still blushing a little bit.

“Do we need an excuse to hang out together? Ah don’t think that we do.” Applejack said kindly, looking at Rainbow in a way that no one had ever done before, and it was making her blush even more.

“Well no, I guess not. So… what should we do? Wanna have another race? I could beat you anytime.” Rainbow said, not being unfriendly.

“Well Sugarcube, that ain’t exactly what Ah had in mind.” Applejack said, still smiling and giving her that look.

Rainbow was getting odd feelings that she couldn’t identify, and that strange look that Applejack was giving her was not helping. She kept thinking about how beautiful Applejack was. She knew at this point that she had feelings for Applejack that were more than that of a friend. She was wondering what that look Applejack was giving her could possibly mean, but she could only draw one conclusion from it, no matter how hard she tried to think of other things, but that one thing was just her mind being hopeful, she thought sadly.

“Okay, then what did you have in mind?” Rainbow asked curiously.

“You’ll find out soon enough, if you be patient and come with me, maybe we can find something to do while I wait.” Applejack replied slyly.

With that, Applejack started walking and Rainbow had no choice but to follow her.

--

Twilight was re-organising all her books after the last time Rainbow had visited and knocked a few out of the shelves, which meant that she would have to re-organize everything once again. Suddenly, the door flew open with a loud bang and Pinkie Pie was standing in the doorway.

“Hey Twilight, I’m throwing another party for Gummy because he’s feeling sad and we need to cheer him up! It’s tonight and it’s gonna be great! So you gonna come?” Pinkie asked ecstatically.

“Well, I’d love to go, bu-“ Twilight was cut off mid-sentence by Pinkie.

“You’d love to go? Well then it’s settled. We’ve gonna have sooo much fun! There’ll be cake and punch and balloons-“

“Pinkie.” Twilight said, looking slightly annoyed at being cut off.

“and streamers and-“

“Pinkie!” Twilight yelled, tired of Pinkie not listening to her.

“Yes, Twilight?” Pinkie asked, looked just as happy as ever.

“I can’t go to the party, I’m busy tonight. I’m going stargazing. Sorry about that.” Twilight said with a small apologetic smile.

“That’s fine, you’ll just have to come later.” Pinkie said, looking a bit sad, but she immediately brightened up.

“Thank you Pinkie, I think that I will.” Twilight replied, smiling and marvelling at how happy and excited Pinkie could be all the time, seemingly without ever getting tired.

“Bye Twilight.” Pinkie said with a little wave, then she hopped out of the library.

“Bye Pinkie. Now, Spike,” Twilight said, preparing a bag for that night, “I need you to pack me some food while I pack the telescope and go find Rarity to see if she has a warm jacket that I could borrow.”

“Alright, will do.” Spike said, looking around for some food to pack.

--

“Why are we going to the mountains?” Rainbow Dash asked, confused.

“Ah find it peaceful there. Ah can think clearly, and it’s a very pretty sight at night. It helps calm me down, no matter what I’m feeling at that moment.” Applejack said, adding in her head that now was definitely a time when she needed to clear her head, especially of those thoughts that had seemingly came out of nowhere, the thoughts about Rainbow.

Rainbow flew alongside Applejack and thought for a while, then remembered a small fact about those particular mountains that caused her to blush profusely. It was considered one of the, if not the, most romantic place to go on a date. It was said that anypony who went there with somepony who they were in love with would have extremely good luck in relationships with that pony. She flew higher into the air, so that Applejack would not be able to see her face, but little did she know that Applejack never would have looked up at that time. She never would have looked up because she knew that fact as well and didn’t want Rainbow to see the look on her face, the look that would betray the fact that she was hoping that the legends about those mountains were true.

After a few minutes, when the flush had finally subsided from her face, Rainbow Dash flew lower again, so she was flying just a few feet above Applejack.

“Hey, AJ, what were you talking about? When you said that you were waiting for something, what did you mean?” Rainbow asked, hoping that it was what she thought it was, but not actually thinking that it would be.

“You’ll find out when it happens Sugarcube. Just be patient. I know that isn’t exactly one of your strengths, but it’ll only take a bit longer.” Applejack told her, smiling encouragingly.

After about fifteen minutes of walking, they arrived at the base of the mountain, looking up at it. I could just fly up there, thought Rainbow, but if I did that, it would mean that I would have to leave Applejack down here, to climb up alone and that is not cool.

Applejack looked up at her and asked, “Do ya think y’all could come down here and walk with me?”

“Uh, sure, I could use a bit of walking I suppose.” Replied Rainbow, happy that she would get to be closer to Applejack. She hoped that Applejack could not see her face properly because of the fading light because if she was able to, she would be able to tell exactly how Rainbow felt about her easily. As it turned out, Applejack was able to see her face, but she thought that it was just wishful thinking, because she hoped that Rainbow felt that way, and she knew that she did.

--

Twilight was finally ready to go, just a few minutes before sundown. She looked out of one of the windows in the library at the sky, and realised how late it was already, and that she had not yet left.

“Bye Spike, I’ll see you tomorrow when you wake up!” She called out as she galloped out the door, rushing to make it to the mountains before it was dark and she could no longer see the paths that had been made in the mountain to make sure that nopony slipped and fell or got lost or hurt. As she hurried along, she noticed the sky. It was turning beautiful shades of brilliant, vibrant orange and deep, blood red. She almost stopped to admire the sheer beauty of it all and then realised that it meant that she had even less time to get there than she had hoped. As she galloped off towards the mountains once again, she found herself thinking about Fluttershy and how she wished that she had invited her to watch the starts together. She wasn`t exactly sure when those thoughts had come from, but she knew that they made her feel happy, for some reason. There was only one explanation that she could think of, something that she had read all too many times about, but could not possibly believe that it had happened to her. So she didn`t believe it, she wasn`t ready to accept it yet, even if she knew it was the only possible explanation.

--

By the time Rainbow Dash and Applejack reached the top of the mountain the sun was just disappearing from the sky. They saw a small, nice looking clearing at the summit of the mountain and decided to sit down there to watch the stars. This feels… right, somehow, thought Rainbow, inching closer to Applejack. As they had climbed, the temperature had dropped, and when they finally reached the summit, it was nearly below zero. They had made the mistake of not bringing blankets or coats from Rarity’s new line of winter products, which were surprisingly warm. Since they had no way of keeping warm with an object, they had to think of another way.

“Do you th-think that w-we c-could get a b-bit c-closer to k-keep w-warm?” Rainbow asked, her teeth chattering from the cold.

In response, Applejack pulled Rainbow closer and they huddled together, watching the sky and enjoying the feeling not only of the warmth that was radiating off them, but also of the closeness, the fact that they were huddled together, their bodies pressed against each other.

--

Twilight was nearly at the summit of the mountain and the sun had gone down a few minutes before. She wanted to be able to find the clearing that she always went to when she wanted to watch the stars better than through her telescope at the library, the clearing that she had come to consider almost hers. She had brought a blanket with her, since she had done this many times before and knew that it would be very cold. She was thinking about Fluttershy, and she still could not understand why she had been thinking of her all day. Even though the answer was so obvious and it was in the back of her mind, although she wouldn’t know that. She couldn’t figure out why because her body knew, but he mind refused to accept it. As she entered the clearing she could see the figures of two ponies cuddling and watching the stars, she could hear them laughing and whispering to each other. She figured that they were just a couple on a date and she didn’t want to bother them, so she tried to walk into the clearing as quietly as possible. They didn’t notice her, and she decided to get herself set up for the next few hours. She put down her blanket and lay down on it, pulling it over herself at the same time so that she wouldn’t be lying down on the cold ground and she had something warm to cover herself in. She also set her basket of food down in front of her, so that everything was organised and prepared in case she got hungry.

--

Applejack was sitting with Rainbow Dash, their bodies pressed closely together, keeping them warm. Their eyes were focused on the sky, but every now and then one of them would steal a glance at the other just to watch them for a moment, or sometimes to try to find out what the other is thinking. They wasted time trying to see if they could find and name some constellations, the ones that Twilight had shown them. They talked and laughed, acting the way they normally did with each other, only this time was different. You wouldn’t be able to tell just by looking at them, but if you knew them well enough, and watched them closely enough, you’d be able to tell something that they both felt, and also thought that the other didn’t feel. However, neither of them were willing to admit this, not to anyone. Even though they were alone (or so they thought) in a small, remote clearing at the summit of a mountain in the middle of the night, they possibly never would have been able to admit it to each other, or prove it to each other if the thing that happened next had never happened. A bright light lit up the sky and the most beautiful, large shooting star that either of them had ever seen shot across the night sky, leaving them staring in wonder. But, before the star was able to leave either of their fields of vision, they both closed their eyes, making a wish. Applejack wished, wished with all her heart, and when she opened them, it seemed that her wish had come true. She barely had time to react before Rainbow’s lips lightly brushed hers. Rainbow became uncertain after a second or so, and began to pull back, already trying to make an excuse her what she had done, when Applejack kissed her back, but without the hesitation that she had the first time, because she now knew that it was alright to do so. Rainbow closed her eyes and she could feel her heart racing and thudding in her chest. When they both opened their eyes, they were in for a surprise.

--

Twilight was focused intently on the stars, trying to find anything that she had never seen before, but was not able to concentrate the way she usually could. There was just something about those ponies across the clearing from her, something about them that bothered her. Something that was too familiar. The shape of their outlines in the darkness, the faint sound of their voices, they reminded her of something, but she couldn’t quite put her hoof on it. She decided to go check it out, and see them. If she didn’t know them, then she would apologize and be on her way, and if she did know them, then she might just stay with them. She used magic to make her horn brighter so that she could see a bit better, and walked towards them. She slowly walked, her heart was thudding, although she didn’t know why. After about five seconds, she got close enough to see a bit of them, and she could see that they were kissing, obviously too lost in their own personal world to notice her. She got a bit closer and gasped, for two reasons. One, because she realised who they were, and she had just seen two of her best friends, Rainbow Dash and Applejack, kissing passionately in her clearing at night, and two, because she realised. She realised exactly what had been wrong with her today. She turned around and galloped off, back towards Ponyville.

--

Rainbow Dash and Applejack were so lost in their own embrace that they had not noticed the other pony approach them at all, but, as she turned and galloped away, there was too much noise made by her for them not to notice it. They heard a loud gasp, and, right before they lost sight of her, they saw a purple unicorn galloping off.

“Oh no, that was Twilight,” Rainbow said, looking worried, “And she just ran away because she saw us kissing. Do you think she doesn’t like us anymore?”

“Now Dashie,” Applejack said, using the pet name that Pinkie Pie had made up for her, “Don’t y’all get worried about that, Twilight would never stop being friends with us because we love each other.”

She just said that she was in love with me, Rainbow thought happily, then said “Yeah, you’re right. I wonder what she’s up to though, running away like that.”

“I’m not sure, but I think we ought to go back to Ponyville and see her.” Applejack suggested, still smiling happily from the kiss.

“That’s probably a good idea.” Rainbow agreed, with the same happy expression on her face.

They left for Ponyville, not talking much, trying to take in all that had happened and, a few times, trying to make sure it wasn’t a dream, and if it was a dream, that they wouldn’t wake up for as long as possible.

--

Twilight galloped to Ponyville, because the second that she had seen the two of them, Rainbow Dash and Applejack kissing, she had realised why she had been thinking about Fluttershy all day. I… I’m in love with her. I’m in love with Fluttershy, Twilight thought, shocked but happy. Happy that she had finally figured out why she had been thinking about Fluttershy all day, and that she was in love with someone. She had never felt this way with anybody, not even close. The day she realised that she had made friends, true friends with Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, Applejack, Pinkie Pie and Rarity was the only feeling that she had ever felt that was similar to this, and that was only similar because of the happiness she had felt. The amount of happiness that she had felt then was nowhere near this, and she never thought she’d feel happiness that way again. As she galloped towards Fluttershy’s cottage, she began to think about what would happen if Fluttershy didn’t feel the same way about her.

“No, I can’t think that way,” she told herself quietly but sternly, “Besides, even if she doesn’t feel the same way, at least I’ll have tried and I can move on. She would forgive me… right?”

She began to grow uncertain, but still went on, trying not to pay attention to the part of her mind that was screaming at her that she’d ruin her friendship, and that there was no way that somepony as amazing as Fluttershy could fall for somepony and boring as her. She pushed these thoughts to the back of her mind, but couldn’t shut them up completely. She tried her best however, and went to see Fluttershy. She barged in, panting from running so long, and right away saw Fluttershy talking to a small blue bird. It’s wing was bandaged and it seemed like Fluttershy was trying to convince it to eat some of this red soup that she was pushing in front of it.

Fluttershy turned and said, “Oh, hi Twilight. I didn’t expect to see you this late at night.”

A bright red flush slowly spread across Twilights face as she realised how late it was. She was trying to say something, anything, but all that was coming out were small squeaking noises. She remembered how Fluttershy had acted when they had first met, and Twilight had asked Fluttershy what her name was and she had just ended up squeaking. This memory made her giggle, and she couldn’t stop. She went on laughing for another minute or so while Fluttershy waited patiently for her fit of giggles to be over. When she had finally stopped laughing, she realised that it had relieved some of the stress and she was able to talk again.

“Hey Fluttershy, sorry about coming to visit so late. And about laughing for so long, I’m not sure what came over me.” Twilight said, trying to fight back the urge to start laughing all over again.

“That’s okay Twilight. Is there something that you want to talk to me about, or is this just a friendly visit at about three in the morning?” Fluttershy asked her, seeming to actually be serious. Twilight was wondering if she really was serious and actually thought that maybe she had come for a friendly visit at three in the morning.

“Actually there is something that I need to talk to you about.” Twilight said nervously, the words almost getting caught in her throat again.

“Well, what is it? Is there something wrong?” Fluttershy asked, looking worried.

“No, nothing’s wrong. I suppose you could actually say that something is right. You see, I… Do you think I could spend the night, or rather morning, here? We could have a sleepover, if you want.” Twilight suggested hopefully.

“Sure, that sounds like fun.” Fluttershy replied shyly, blushing slightly and looking down at her hooves. She smiled slightly at the memory that this conversation had caused. She was remembering the last time that she had had a sleep over, when she had babysat the Cutie Mark Crusaders for Rarity. They had had so much fun, and now they always listened to her, no matter what.

“I guess that you could sleep on the couch, or the floor next to me. I mean, um, if that’s okay with you.” Fluttershy said quietly, looking up at Twilight, her mane just barely covering the right half of her right eye.

Twilight smiled gently and said, “Thanks, I’d love that.”

Fluttershy blushed slightly and looked back down at her hooves, causing her mane to cover her whole face.