

**THE EQUESTRIA GIRLS
BETTER TOGETHER SERIES
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE**

**"Stressed in Show"
(f.k.a. "Girls Just Wanna Have Fundraisers")
Short #403-037**

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SET UP

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

On stage, RARITY, TWILIGHT SPARKLE, FLUTTERSHY, and RAINBOW DASH hold scripts. Twilight's zoned out. SUNSET SHIMMER watches from an empty row in the front.

1 RARITY

(reciting)

"Mother? I fear I do not share your dreams of coal. Instead, my heartbeat calls for me to dance."

(off silence)

Ahem. "Calls for me to DANCE!"

Twilight SNAPS out of it.

2 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Oh, Sorry. Uh...

(reading)

"But Selphy Soot, my dear! Without your help, I can't begin to dig the mine in time."

(going off-book)

...Or finish my science fair project in time? Or take Spike for a walk in time? OR FIND TIME FOR TIME AT ALL?!

Everyone stares down at their scripts.

3 RAINBOW DASH

Uh, what page are we on...?

4 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I know it looks like I'm having a meltdown but the truth is I'm just tired because I volunteered to help Applejack with the set design and stayed up all night painting light chunks of coal to look like dark chunks of coal because insecurity plus ambition equals a pathological inability to say no to people!

5 FLUTTERSHY

(sotto, to Rarity)

If that's not a meltdown I'd hate to see a meltdown.

Sunset Shimmer climbs on stage and reassures Twilight...

6 SUNSET SHIMMER
 (reassuring TS)
 ...Everything's fine.

*
*

Sunset touches her arm and <WHOOSH>, she has an empathy flash.

INT. TWILIGHT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Twilight at a desk, working late night. A PILE OF COAL LUMPS on her left, a slightly larger PILE on her right, and in the middle, she works with a paintbrush and magnifying glass.

7 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
 So much pressure, so much pressure,
 so much <YAWN>...

*
*

She face-plants asleep into some coal at her desk with a <THUNK>. BACK TO:

*
*

INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME

Sunset recoils her hand, considering frazzled Twilight...

8 SUNSET SHIMMER
 Umm... Maybe everything's not fine.
 Why don't you take a break to clear
 your head before next rehearsal?
 We're here for you, right
 everybody?

*
*
*
*

9 RAINBOW DASH
 Of course!

Fluttershy nods. Suddenly, Pinkie Pie's head pops through the auditorium door.

*

10 PINKIE PIE
 Me too!

Twilight nods with quiet relief.

11 SUNSET SHIMMER
 See? Don't worry about a thing. Let
 one of us help get this play off
 your mind...

Three options appear: Fluttershy, Rainbow Dash, and Pinkie Pie.

ENDING A: FLUTTERSHY

EXT. FOREST BEHIND SCHOOL - DAY

Fluttershy moves a blindfolded Twilight Sparkle into a path and then gently lifts off the blindfold.

12 FLUTTERSHY

Ta-da! Just what you needed... an escape to nature!

*

Birds CHIRP in the distance, chipmunks CRUNCH on nuts, water FLOWS. Twilight takes a sigh of relief. A <SQUISH> of mud. Fluttershy takes off her shoe.

*

13 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

Oh dear, I got mud on my boots...

Twilight's eye twitches.

14 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Boots? That reminds me, I need to help Rarity design Selphy Soot's magic boots for the play!

15 FLUTTERSHY

Oh! Oh, no. Don't think about all that! Think about... this!

*

Fluttershy scoops up a close-hopping BUNNY. Her necklace GLOWS.

16 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Be as cute as you can possibly be.

The bunny nods with stern determination. His eyes get watery and big. He rabbit-purrs. Fluttershy hands him to Twilight.

17 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Aw, he's adorable!

18 FLUTTERSHY

It's why I love nature so much more than big cities.

TS's eye twitches... AGAIN!

19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Cities?! Like Shiny City, Applejack is building the city sets while we're out here lost in the woods--

*

Fluttershy makes a nervous <SQUEAL> as her necklace SHINES.

20 FLUTTERSHY
ANIMALS, UNITE!

In a mad dash, forest animals line up, military style,
awaiting command.

21 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
(hushed whisper)
Dazzle her with your tranquility.

Twilight covers her head--

22 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Dazzled is the name of the play!

The animals go into ACTION! A woodpecker gives Twilight a
back massage, squirrels style her hair with **COLORFUL LEAVES**,
a quartet of birds sing in perfect four-part harmony. *

Twilight pulls some of the **LEAVES** out her hair. *

23 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Wait, these are the exact sort of
leaves I need for my science fair
project! Amazing! And...
(dozing off)
Oh! This... This is **all so** nice. So
relaxing. So calm. So... *

Twilight slowly drifts off to sleep, **curling up with a bundle**
of leaves. Fluttershy smiles. *

24 FLUTTERSHY
Shhhh! Let her take a little nap,
everyone. All we need now is some
volunteers to keep her warm! Spunky
and Plunky, are you up to the task?

Two nearby skunks SMILE and NOD in agreement.

IRIS OUT.

ENDING B: RAINBOW DASH

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Rainbow Dash jogs next to Twilight. RD's gem GLOWS as she
sprints away, a blur, running a lap around the field in less
than a second. As she comes up behind Twilight again...

25 RAINBOW DASH
Come on, Twilight! Only ten laps to go.

26 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
(out of breath)
I'm *fasting* as *lap* as I can.

27 RAINBOW DASH
A *great practice* always clears my head. I promise, you'll feel great soon. Right, *guys*?

REVEAL: Sunset Shimmer and SPIKE, trailing *super behind*, catching *their* breath.

28 SUNSET SHIMMER
We'll catch up...

29 SPIKE
Just taking in the smells!
(sniff)
Oh, is that morning-dew-soccer-shoe?

TRAINING MONTAGE!

INSPIRING 80'S ANTHEMIC MUSIC moves the scenes along.

EXT. TENNIS COURTS - DAY

Rainbow Dash *SERVES* a tennis ball-- <WHACK>! It ZIPS right past Twilight, *Spike, and Sunset* who *dodge* in fear. The ball BOUNCES off the back. Rainbow Dash WHACKS it again and again. *They* cower.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Spike *PASSES* Twilight a basketball. Rainbow Dash *RUSHES FORWARD*. Twilight <SQUEALS> and places the ball on the ground. Rainbow *SNATCHES* the ball and does a *SICK LAYUP!* Sunset presses a button and a *BUZZER* goes off. REVEAL: the scoreboard, 99 TO 0.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Twilight holds a panel of wood as RD *BREAKS* it with her *BARE FEET*, karate-style. RD holds out a panel for Twilight. Twilight kicks it and <YELPS> in pain, stubbing her toe.

EXT. TENNIS COURTS - DAY

Twilight WHACKS the tennis ball back at RD, who ducks! Proud!

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

TS finally THROWS the ball in the air! <SWISH> in the basket!
Rainbow Dash BEAMS as the basketball PLOPS down on her head.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - END OF THE DAY

The montage music fades down as Twilight Sparkle runs up the bleachers. She reaches the top and raises her arms in VICTORY. RD catches up.

30 RAINBOW DASH
Look at that. You beat me! And I
only sort of let you win!

Twilight takes a moment.

31 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I feel amazing. AND we managed to
give Spike some exercise too!

REVEAL: Sunset Shimmer and Spike lay face-up in the field of grass, staring off into space, EXHAUSTED.

32 SUNSET SHIMMER
Glad you're...

33 SPIKE
...Feeling better!

IRIS OUT.

ENDING C: PINKIE PIE

INT. SCIENCE CLASS - DAY

Pinkie Pie BOUNCES down the busy hallway, jumping on every side of the STRESSED Twilight.

34 PINKIE PIE
Ooo! I know what we could do to get
your mind off the play! We could
ask Rarity for a makeover... Oh! Or
ask Bulk Bicep for massage. He
gives such GOOD massages.
(MORE)

PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
ORRRR we could ask Applejack to
whip you up an apple face mask.
There's so many options! Maybe TOO
many options. It's kinda stressful
just thinking about it! RIGHT?

*

Pinkie Pie looks arond, confused. Twilight's nowhere to be
found.

*

*

35 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Where'd you go...?

*

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

*

Twilight arranges her lunch tray, making sure the milk and
food are perfectly lined up. The moment she takes a step--

*

36 PINKIE PIE
TWILIGHT! There you are. I've been
looking ALL OVER for you! Take a
look at THIS.

Pinkie rolls out a LARGE ROLL OF PAPER.

37 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I made an anti-stress list! You
love lists, don't you? Well, to
start, this is a list of lists we
could make! We could make lists
about color, lists about numbers,
lists about buckets, lists...
Twilight? Twiiiiilight...

Again, Twilight has disappeared.

*

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

*

The class bell RINGS. Twilight takes a DEEP BREATH and
prepares herself for the worst. She exits the classroom into
the hallway and...

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Nothing. It's completely still. Not a soul in sight. Twilight
EXHALES and opens her locker to--

*

38 PINKIE PIE
TWILIGHT!

39 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Twilight STUMBLES backward, her notes and books scattering about. Pinkie steps out of her locker.

*

40 PINKIE PIE

I had a FEELING you'd be here!

41 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Pinkie, listen, I really appreciate what you're trying to do and everything, but it's too much! All day, all I've been able to think about is "Where's Pinkie Pie!? Where's Pinkie Pie!???" I haven't even had one moment to...

*

Pinkie Pie slowly smiles a HUGE SMILE as TS gets it...

42 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)

...think about the play. Which means I can just go do my chem lab, no problem.

*

*

*

43 PINKIE PIE

YOU'RE WELCOME!!!

CUT TO BLACK.