THE EQUESTRIA GIRLS
BETTER TOGETHER SERIES

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

"All The World's Off-Stage"
Short #403-040

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SET UP

INT. AUDITORIUM - SIDE STAGE - DAY

SUNSET SHIMMER is controlling the action backstage with her HEADSET and CLIPBOARD for DAZZLED! She CUES the CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS onto stage - each with a SHOVEL and a HEAD LAMP.

1 SUNSET SHIMMER
Go! Go! And.... Go!

INT. AUDITORIUM - CENTER STAGE - COAL MINE SET

In the COAL MINE SET, the Crusaders do a STOMP-BALLET piece *"Sweet Child o' Mines,"* which in no way infringes on existing IP. Their head lamps weave as the shovels slam the stage.

INT. AUDITORIUM - SIDE STAGE - INTERCUT

Sunset taps her pencil on her clipboard, timing...

2 SUNSET SHIMMER
Ten seconds to set change. Stage crew ready?

Sunset points to SNIPS & SNAILS holding a complete mess of PULLEYS AND LINES. Despite struggling like flies in a spider web, they nod.

3 SUNSET SHIMMER (CONT'D)
In five, four, three, PYRO and...

ON STAGE - SMOKE CANNONS fire!

4 SUNSET SHIMMER (CONT'D)
Bring in Shiny City!!

The dancers LEAP across the stage as the SHINY CITY BACK WALL begins to move, following them. Sunset watches, proudly nodding. The set CREAKS LOUDLY. Sunset's smile turns dubious.

WIDE: the set is barely moving, <CREAKING> in the otherwise silent auditorium. The CMCs stop and stare. Snips & Snails STRUGGLE with the weight. The set comes to a FULL STOP halfway across. Snips & Snails collapse. Sunset Shimmer blows her bangs, then walks to center stage, her <FOOTSTEPS> echoing. For the first time we realize the AUDIENCE is EMPTY.

5 SUNSET SHIMMER (CONT'D)
It's called "Shiny City," Not "Barely-moved-at-all City."

6 SNIPS
...Harsh.

7 SUNSET SHIMMER
Guys, the effect is ruined if we don't get the set across stage in time with the dancers.

8 SNIPS
But it's like movin' a ton of bricks that's been built like a city! Can't the dancers walk?

9 SNAILS
Then they wouldn't be dancers.
(for shame)
Don't strip them of their identity.

10 SUNSET SHIMMER
There's got to be a better way to move this thing...
(sotto)
...than relying on you two.

In the audience, TWILIGHT SPARKLE and PINKIE PIE offer help!

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Don't worry Sunset, I've got an idea!

12 PINKIE PIE
Me too! Pick me! Pick me! Pick me!

<KER-CHUNK>! All the stage lights turn and shine on MICRO CHIPS, who is wayyyyy in the back at the lighting booth.

13 MICRO CHIPS
(cupping hands, yelling)
Surely brains, not brawn, are the secret formula for backstage success!

As Sunset thinks it over, THREE OPTIONS APPEAR: Twilight, Pinkie Pie, and Micro Chips.

<u>ENDING A: TWILIGHT SPARKLE</u>

INT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

Sunset looks at the half-way stuck set.

14 SUNSET SHIMMER
Thanks, Twilight. Your geode powers'll make moving this set a cinch! Ready...? Magic, GO!

Long beat. Sunset looks around. There's no one there.

15 SUNSET SHIMMER (CONT'D)
Twilighhh--YEOW--!

<WHIRRRRRRRR>. Sunset reacts to something RUNNING OVER HER FOOT! We PAN DOWN to a CIRCULAR VACUUM-STYLE ROBOT puttering on stage. Sunset looks over and sees Twilight, in safety glasses, following it with a remote.

16 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
This is the perfect chance to test my robotics club project!

17 SUNSET SHIMMER
I woulda gone with super-amazing perfect-for-this-specific-problem Equestrian magic. But, okay...(ALTS: "I woulda just used your levitation magic but, ok…)

Snips and Snails, meanwhile, come over to taunt it.

18 SNIPS
Oh great, there go the robots takin' all our high-payin' jobs again!

19 SNAILS
We're getting paid for this...?

Sunset shakes her head with a <SIGH>. The robot BUMPS the set a couple times, worrying her. She decides to make the best of it, looks off-screen, and taps her pencil on her clipboard, timing as, *Sweet Child O' Mines* playing in the background.

20 SUNSET SHIMMER
And... Bring in Shiny City!!

The little robot <WHIRRS> over to the set wall and <BUMPS> it repeatedly like broken *Roomba*. Sunset raises an eyebrow to TS.

Twilight grins, then presses a RED BUTTON on the remote. AN EASY-TO-DESIGN GIGANTIC ROBOT ARM comically unfolds out the top. Snips and Snails are awestruck. The arm grabs the ropes from them and pulls the set in time with the dancers. It makes it! <APPLAUSE>!

21 SUNSET SHIMMER (CONT'D)
Twilight! Your robot's amazing!
Let's do it one more time!

Twilight's geode GLOWS and she levitates the set back to its starting point. The robot follows on the ground.

22 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Ready when you are!

Sunset raises an eyebrow, then laughs...

IRIS OUT.

ENDING B: PINKIE PIE

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Pinky Pie inflates balloons with a helium tank. <SSSSSSSttt>...

23 SUNSET SHIMMER
Pinkie Pie! What are these?

24 PINKIE PIE
Party balloons!

She ties the balloon off and hands it to Sunset. Beat.

25 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Now, isn't that better?

26 SUNSET SHIMMER
I'm not sure we have time for balloons...

27 PINKIE PIE
(in Sunset's face)
YOU WILL MAKE TIME, SUNSET!!!
(then, calm)
I mean... there's always time for balloons!

28 SNAILS
(afraid)
I love balloons, they're not scary.

He backs away, scared, as Snips pets one like a cat.

29 SNIPS
Little balls of joy.

The balloon <POPS>! Startled, Snips leaps into Snails' arms.

30 SNIPS (CONT'D)
TRAITOR!

31 SNAILS
I told you...!

32 PINKIE PIE
...actually, they're the set.

33 SUNSET SHIMMER
You mean they're "for" the set.

34 PINKIE PIE
Nope.

Long pause.

35 SUNSET SHIMMER
I feel like you're gonna have to explain this.

36 PINKIE PIE
Nope.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - SIDE STAGE - INTERCUT

Sweet Child O' Mines playing in the background. Sunset points at Pinkie Pie.

37 SUNSET SHIMMER
Bring in Shiny City!!

Pinkie Pie TURNS ON A FAN! It blows on... the Shiny City backdrop MADE OUT OF BALLOONS! The balloon set gracefully floats across the stage.

38 PINKIE PIE
See...? Balloons can do anything!

Sunset puts her arm around PP and they admire it together.

IRIS OUT.

<u>ENDING C: MICRO CHIPS</u>

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Micro Chips inspects the ropes and pulleys on stage, then proudly adjusts his glasses.

39 MICRO CHIPS
While simple machines do provide a mechanical advantage by multiplying force against a single load-- i.e., this set-- I'm afraid the net loss of force due to friction in the opposite vector has not been overcome.

40 SNIPS
Your face is an opposite vector.

41 MICRO CHIPS
Your face is nothing more than a genetically predetermined arrangement of stratified squamous epithelial cells.

42 SNAILS
(to Snips, LOUD!!!)
OH SNAP, SNIPS! BURN! ...I think?

43 *SNIPS*
(alt)
...Harsh.

Micro Chips TUGS on one of the lines.

44 SUNSET SHIMMER
I'm not sure you'll be able to move that giant, heavy set on your own.

Micro Chips FLEXES his non-existent bicep.

45 MICRO CHIPS
I won't be moving anything.
(points to head, then O.S.)
This muscle is gonna convince those muscles to move it on their own.

Sunset looks O.S.. Micro Chips pulls out a remote and presses a button. <KER-CHUNK>, the lights go out except for a SPOTLIGHT on... BULK BICEPS (previously unseen), who is curling free weights at a mirror.

46 SUNSET SHIMMER
Bulk Biceps? But I already asked him for help-- he's too busy working out for his part in the play... "Lump of Coal"

47 BULK BICEPS
This lumpa coal's gonna be cut like a diamond. Nugh! Nugh! Nugh!

Sunset gives an intrigued look...

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Sunset, nervous, taps her pencil on her clipboard, timing as, *Sweet Child O' Mines* playing in the background.

48 SUNSET SHIMMER
And... Bring in Shiny City!!

Micro Chips is standing next to Bulk Biceps with a STOPWATCH.

49 MICROCHIPS
GO! Muscle, muscle, muscle!

50 BULK BICEPS
Hut hut hut hut!

Bulk Biceps RIPS at the stage-hand ropes, sending the set CRUISING across the stage in perfect timing! Sunset comes over, super-psyched.

51 SUNSET SHIMMER
How'd you convince him to stop and help?

52 MICRO CHIPS
Isn't it obvious? I fabricated a counterfactual peer-reviewed pseudoscientific study in *Insane Lats Magazine* that postulates the only way to make your shirt uncomfortably tight for the summer is Battle Ropes.

53 BULK BICEPS
I BATTLED THE ROPES AND I WON!!!

Sunset gives Micro Chips a respectful look.

54 SUNSET SHIMMER
You are a genius.

Bulk Biceps shoves his way between them and flexes. His sleeved shirt pops into a tank-top.

55 BULK BICEPS
WHAT'S UP, BATHING SUIT SEASON!?

IRIS OUT.