THE EQUESTRIA GIRLS
BETTER TOGETHER SERIES

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

"Constructive Criticism"
Short #403-042

Written by
Jim Martin

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SET UP

INT. AUDITORIUM / BACKSTAGE - DAY *

The auditorium bustles with activity as students prepare for "DAZZLED! THE MUSICAL!" Find APPLEJACK, wearing GOGGLES and a HARD HAT, surrounded by lumber, beams, and tools. She's standing over a BLUEPRINT of the set of CLUB 57's dance floor. SUNSET SHIMMER approaches with a clipboard.

1 SUNSET SHIMMER
I'm so glad we picked you to be Set *
Designer, Applejack. *

2 APPLEJACK
I'm the only one who applied, so-- *

3 SUNSET SHIMMER
--and the plans look fantastic. *
Just one thing, little, kind of
huge important thing... Is this *
going to be built in time? *

4 APPLEJACK
Absolutely! Construction's the quick *
part! Like I always say: "Measure *
twice, cut once, but only after you
measured three more times." *

Applejack starts <HAMMERING> gleefully.

5 SUNSET SHIMMER
(yelling over the noise)
Glad that's not my job! I'd be afraid
I'd hammer my finger or something!

6 APPLEJACK
(can't hear)
What?!

7 SUNSET SHIMMER
(over the noise)
I SAID, I'D BE AFRAID I'D HAMMER MY
FINGER OR SOMETHING!

8 APPLEJACK
WHAT?!!!

9 SUNSET SHIMMER
I SAID--

<THUD> sound. AJ's eyes go wide and her face goes red as she <HOLLERS>! CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM / BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER *

NURSE REDHEART finishes bandaging up Applejack's hand. Sunset watches, concerned.

10 NURSE REDHEART
You're going to be fine. *
(off AJ's <WHEW>) *
...Just stay away from lifting, *
hammering, cutting-- anything set- *
building-related. *

Nurse Redheart packs up. Applejack blinks, shocked.

11 APPLEJACK
But the play's this Friday! Don't *
worry, Sunset-- I still got this... *
(lifting the hammer) *
OW!!! *

12 SUNSET SHIMMER *
How about we get you an assistant *
set designer. *

Showing off her bandaged hand... *

13 APPLEJACK *
I guess I could use a hand... *

As Applejack looks around the auditorium she sees three options appear: RAINBOW DASH, PINKIE PIE, and PHOTO FINISH.

ENDING A: RAINBOW DASH

INT. AUDITORIUM / BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack shows RAINBOW DASH her blueprints of the set.

14 APPLEJACK
Thanks a bushel for helpin' me *
build the set, Rainbow Dash. *

15 RAINBOW DASH
You got it, AJ! This is gonna be done before you can say "take a look at this blueprint."

Rainbow Dash throws on GOGGLES and a HARD HAT, grabs a DRILL and rushes over to start building.

16 APPLEJACK
Well, actually Rainbow Dash, you really should take a look at this blueprint.

17 RAINBOW DASH
Already did-- got it up here.

RD points to her head with one hand and <DRILLS> with the other.

18 APPLEJACK
Slow down-- *

19 RAINBOW DASH *
No time! *

As Rainbow Dash hammers and drills and saws, her PENDANT GLOWS. She starts ZIPPING AROUND building an amazing stage in double time! Applejack watches in frustration. Rainbow Dash goes so fast she disappears in a blur of dust. All AJ can hear is <CONSTRUCTION SOUNDS>.

20 APPLEJACK
But you need to measure more and cut *
less! You're not measuring enough! *
STOP! *

Rainbow Dash STOPS right next to AJ as a cloud of speed-dust begins to settle. *

21 RAINBOW DASH
What's up?
(blasé, checking her nails)
I'm done by the way.

Applejack <BLINKS>, she can't believe it. The set for Club 57 is completely built and it looks amazing. *

22 APPLEJACK *
(judging the set)
Hmmm. This doesn't look like the *
blueprints. It's... even better! *

Rainbow Dash holds up a large GREEN POSTER with SKETCHES.

23 RAINBOW DASH
Ooh. I guess I was looking at the Greenprints? Is that what these are? Sorry. *

24 APPLEJACK
That ain't a green print-- that's my "vision board" on green paper! *

25 RAINBOW DASH *
Say what now? *

26 APPLEJACK
Green is my power color. I sketched *
out all the stuff I wished I could *
build, but knew I'd never have time. *
(amazed and glad)
...and you just built it all.

27 RAINBOW DASH
Only because I followed your *
amazing ideas.

Applejack is so happy. *

28 APPLEJACK
...Where'd you even find this?

29 RAINBOW DASH
Ran to your house while I was *
building.
(no big deal)
Had a little extra time.

AJ is confused and kind of weirded out, but then they both *
laugh. *(Alt ending...)* *

30 *RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)* *
(alt additional line) *
Your room is a MESS. And your diary *
was unlocked. I didn't read it. *
(long pause) *
I read it. *

IRIS OUT.

ENDING B: PINKIE PIE

EXT. AUDITORIUM / PIT - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack is with PINKIE PIE who is tweaking her drums.

31 APPLEJACK
Are you sure you have time to help,
Pinkie Pie? Don't you need to
practice your drum solo?

32 PINKIE PIE
I am going to practice my drum
solo, silly! *

Pinkie Pie crosses her drumsticks above her head. *

33 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) *
ONE TWO THREE FOUR!

Pinkie Pie starts a drum solo. AJ cups her hands, yelling: *

34 APPLEJACK
So you can't help me...!? *

Pinkie Pie begins one-handed drumming, using the other to throw on GOGGLES and a HARD HAT. In mid-solo, she swaps out her sticks for two hammers!

35 PINKIE PIE
(shouting)
I can't hear you! I'm busy helping! *

Pinkie Pie keeps <HAMMERING> away as if she's <DRUMMING>. Applejack looks around and notices... Sunset Shimmer and others begin tapping their feet. Suddenly AJ gets it! *

36 APPLEJACK
Pinkie! Drum over here!

37 PINKIE PIE
OKAY!

38 APPLEJACK
And over here!

39 PINKIE PIE
YOU GOT IT!!!

As AJ point around, Pinkie Pie's hammers whack parts of the *
set. Finally, she finishes off everything and slams the final *
pieces into place. Then she BACKFLIPS and lands in front of
Applejack, breathing heavily. <APPLAUSE>! *

40 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Thank you Canterlot High School! *
(then, to AJ) *
Hey, you're a pretty good *
band leader! *
(looking around)
What do you think?

AJ looks around, considering it skeptically. PP starts doing *
<A DRUMROLL> to build up AJ's decision. WIDE: AJ is standing *
in a perfectly constructed Club 57 set. *

41 APPLEJACK
I'll be honest. I think... you "drummed" up one heck of a set, Pinkie Pie.

At the drum set, Pinkie Pie grins and plays "bah-dum PSH!"

IRIS OUT.

ENDING C: PHOTO FINISH

INT. AUDITORIUM / BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack shows PHOTO FINISH, wearing safety gear, the two-by-fours, the steel beams and all her tools.

42 APPLEJACK
All right, so what we got is a basic disco layout with a light-up dance floor and recessed cans to backlight the performers. *

43 PHOTO FINISH
Bup-bup-bup! Mouth closed, please! *

44 APPLEJACK
(murmured through closed mouth)
But how'm I supposed to tell you what to do...?

45 PHOTO FINISH
With your heart, Applejack. Open it and let Photo Finish feel where zee light needs to be... and then zee set will be built where zee lights... are not.

46 APPLEJACK
(after a long confused beat)
Sooooooooo... what do I do?

47 PHOTO FINISH
You're already doing it. *

Photo Finish walks around with her hands up like a director, scoping out the stage.

48 PHOTO FINISH (CONT'D)
(inhaling)
Yes. Can you feel it?

49 APPLEJACK
Feel what?

50 PHOTO FINISH
ZEE PASSION!

QUICK POPS: Photo Finish hangs a mirror... then angles it DIRECTLY at a wall. Applejack cocks her head. Photo Finish straps little hanging mirrors to a CEILING FAN. Applejack facepalms. Photo Finish mounts mirrors on the hanging strings. Applejack tries to offer advice but Photo Finish puts her finger to Applejack's mouth.

51 PHOTO FINISH (CONT'D)
--Shhh. It is time.

Photo Finish gestures to... three blank walls of the set. Little mirrors adorn the stage, but there's no rhyme or reason to their placement.

52 APPLEJACK
This doesn't look anything like it's supposed to!

53 PHOTO FINISH
You are looking with your EYEZ. *
(intense whisper) *
Look with your HEART! *

54 APPLEJACK
You're makin' less sense than a Jack Rabbit on Rollerskates.

At that exact moment, Fluttershy enters the auditorium * carrying a jackrabbit wearing rollerskates, hears AJ, * BLUSHES, then turns 180 and walks back out. Back on stage: *

55 PHOTO FINISH
Behold.

Photo Finish turns on a power strip and A SPOTLIGHT TURNS ON. The beam of light ZAPS into a mirror! It bounces to ANOTHER MIRROR! It hits a bunch of TINY MIRRORS and splits! (etc.)

...and it somehow LOOKS LIKE THE SET APPLEJACK DESIGNED! *

56 APPLEJACK
(in awe)
Whoa... thank you so much...! *

Applejack looks amazed. FLASH <POP>! Photo Finish takes her * picture. *

57 PHOTO FINISH *
ZAT LOOK-- zat is why I do zis. *
...I GO! *

Photo Finish rushes off. *

CUT TO BLACK.