

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

**"Opening Fright"
(f.k.a. "Opening Night")
Short #403-043**

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SET UP

INT. AUDITORIUM - EVENING

It's the night of the BIG SHOW! MISS CHERILEE and SUNSET SHIMMER usher in the audience. The CURTAINS draw back. A HUSH falls over the crowd as the MUSIC starts.

DISSOLVE THROUGH A SERIES OF SHOTS:

We get a quick look at the scenes from DAZZLED:

A) RARITY as SELPHY SOOT, looking coal-mine dirty, yet somehow fabulous as ever, BURSTS through the door.

1 RARITY

Maw! Paw! I'm gonna do it. I'm
gonna become the best disco dancer
that Club 57's ever seen!

TWILIGHT SPARKLE (as MA SOOT) and FLASH SENTRY (as PA SOOT) shake their heads in dismay as Ma cooks their coal-breakfast.

2 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Put away those silly dreams,
Selphy. Ain't nobody from this two-
bit town ever amounted to nothin'
but a miner. Only FOOLS try to make
it big in Shiny City!

B) Rarity COLLAPSES on the floor of a dark, deep cave. She cries into a pile of coal.

3 RARITY

How will I ever become a disco
dancer when all I know is COAL,
COAL, COAL?

The pile of coal BURSTS, exposing a FLOATING, SPARKLING RAINBOW DASH (as the FAIRY BOOTMOTHER). An angelic choir hums in the background.

4 RAINBOW DASH

Do not cry, my child. For all
coal... turns to DIAMONDS!

The Fairy Bootmother WAVES HER WAND, revealing a pair of MAGICAL BEDAZZLED DANCING BOOTS! Selphy BEAMS.

C) Selphy Soot nervously walks down the streets of SHINY CITY carrying the boots along with her. The chorus breaks out into a DANCE! Step and point! Step and point!

INT. BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

FLUTTERSHY (as COAL MINER #2) watches from the wings. She looks down at her script intensely. In the background the crew, SNIPS and SNAILS, PUNCH each other in the shoulders.

5 FLUTTERSHY
"The mine is closed. The mine is closed. The mine is--"

APPLEJACK and Twilight approach from behind.

6 APPLEJACK
There you are, Fluttershy! Or should I say... Coal Miner #2?

7 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
We're so proud of you! You were super nervous to try out and now look at you!

8 APPLEJACK
Still kinda nervous I guess.

9 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But don't be! It's only one line.

Sunset Shimmer's head POPS UP from behind a curtain.

10 SUNSET SHIMMER
But it IS the most important line in the whole show because we can't end the play without it!

She pops her head back. Fluttershy's eyes WIDEN.

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Remember, all you have to do is ring that bell and say: "The mine is closed!"

12 FLUTTERSHY
The mine is closed.

Applejack and Twilight exchange looks.

13 APPLEJACK
Uh... Maybe a *little* bit louder than that, yeah?

A <MUSICAL HIT> swells.

14 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
That's your cue! Get out there and
show 'em what you got!

Applejack gives Fluttershy a gentle PUSH onto the stage.

INT. AUDITORIUM - ON STAGE/BACKSTAGE (INTERCUT)

The bright lights BEAM down on Fluttershy's face. She takes a deep breath and steps towards rope to ring the bell--

BACKSTAGE: Snips punches Snails a little TOO hard. Snails TUMBLES into sandbags, the sandbags RELEASE a rope, the rope UNWINDS from a pulley and--

ON STAGE: --the bell CRASHES to the floor, BREAKING. The audience GASPS! Snips and Snails GASP! Fluttershy <SQUEALS>.

15 FLUTTERSHY
Uh... Uh...

BACKSTAGE: Applejack and Twilight look at each other. Sunset's head POPS back out from the curtain.

16 SUNSET SHIMMER
Fluttershy needs our help! One of
us has to do something!

Three options appear: Applejack, Twilight, and Sunset.

ENDING A: APPLEJACK

INT. AUDITORIUM - EVENING

Applejack turns to Snips and Snails.

17 APPLEJACK
Quick! I need a costume!

Snips and Snails exchange glances.

18 SNAILS
Uh, we only have one...

They POINT over to the corner. Applejack looks, deflates.

19 APPLEJACK
It'll have to do.

INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

On stage, FS quivers in the spotlight. Applejack SHIMMIES her way on stage in a HUGE APPLE TREE COSTUME. The cast stares.

20 APPLEJACK

Oh, HELLO COAL MINE. Just me! The magical talking apple tree.

21 RAINBOW DASH

(under her breath)

The magical talking apple tree?

22 APPLEJACK

The one you ENCHANTED, Fairy Bootmother, to help out when things go wrong?

23 RAINBOW DASH

Oh... Yeah! I did certainly enchant you... that.

Applejack makes her way through the crowded stage. A few APPLES drop off the costume in the process.

24 APPLEJACK

Whoops! Sorry, there. Pardon me. Giant apple tree, coming through.

An apple PLOPS down on MUFFINS' head. Her eyes UN-CROSS and she looks around as though seeing the world for the first time, until another apple knocks them back the way they were.

Applejack's GEM GLOWS. She BENDS DOWN one of her branch arms and uses her SUPER-STRENGTH to pick up the fallen bell.

25 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Wouldja look at that! The bell is back where it needs to be. Someone should REALLY ring it!

26 FLUTTERSHY

Oh, who?

FS looks around as everyone STARES at her. AJ coughs. Fluttershy gets it and DASHES over to the bell and PULLS on the rope. It <RINGS> loud and clear!

27 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

The mine... is closed!

Everyone on stage TOSSES their coal-mining hats into the air and CHEERS! The audience ERUPTS into applause.

Fluttershy RUNS over to Applejack, still in the costume, and gives her trunk a BIG HUG! Success!

FADE OUT.

ENDING B: TWILIGHT SPARKLE

INT. AUDITORIUM - EVENING

Fluttershy GULPS and STAMMERS, searching for words.

28 FLUTTERSHY
The bell... Um.... The...

Suddenly on the ground near her feet, the bell RATTLES. Fluttershy fails to catch this.

29 AUDIENCE
Ooooooh!

30 FLUTTERSHY
Why are you "Oooh"-ing? Oh, no...
Do I have something in my teeth?

More MURMURS from the crowd as the bell RISES in the air.

31 AUDIENCE
Ahhhhh!

32 FLUTTERSHY
(covering her mouth)
...I do, don't I...

The hovering bell PULSES with sparkling magical energy. The audience does a LIGHT APPLAUSE.

33 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Why are you praising my lack of
dental hygiene?

THE BELL swishes left and right, up and down. The audience <WALLAS> in response. With every response, Fluttershy COWERS closer and closer towards the ground, until she's face down on the floor.

34 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
This is what nightmares are made
of.

Fluttershy hears a <PSSST>!

Fluttershy TURNS around. Above her, the bell FLOATS and TWINKLES against the stage lights. The rope attached to it nearly tickles her nose.

A HUGE SMILE breaks over her face as she HOPS UP and PULLS the rope! DING-DONG! DING-DONG! The bell CHIMES.

35 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
The mine... is closed!

Everyone on stage CELEBRATES. The audience breaks out into APPLAUSE as Fluttershy BEAMS at Twilight, whose gem GLOWS.

CUT TO BLACK.

ENDING C: SUNSET SHIMMER

INT. AUDITORIUM - EVENING

Sunset Shimmer JUMPS out into the spotlight, eliciting GASPS from her friends on stage, Fluttershy especially.

36 SUNSET SHIMMER
Oh, Coal Miner number two! You're a genius! This bell is a metaphor, is it not?

Fluttershy takes a delicate step towards Sunset.

37 FLUTTERSHY
That isn't in the script...

38 SUNSET SHIMMER
(whispering)
Follow my lead!

Sunset WINKS at Fluttershy.

39 SUNSET SHIMMER (CONT'D)
For I, the Assistant Director of the play... Um, the play of life... Know that you crashed this bell on purpose.

40 FLUTTERSHY
I did?
(catching on)
Oh! Yes. Yes I did!

41 SUNSET SHIMMER

Who needs a bell to be awakened?
Whether it's our family's
expectations to work in the coal mine-

Sunset touches Fluttershy's shoulder as her GEM GLOWS and
<WHOOSH>, she has an empathy flash.

INT. AUDITORIUM - EARLIER

Fluttershy stands alone on an empty stage. Tons of ADORABLE
ANIMALS sit as placeholders in the audience.

42 FLUTTERSHY

The mine... The mine is... Why are
so many of you looking at me?!

Fluttershy DASHES offstage. A couple of BIRDS and BUNNIES
pull her back on. FS lets out a LONG SIGH.

43 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

I'm such a chicken.

Her GEM GLOWS. A nearby chicken CLUCKS.

44 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)

Sorry!

INT. AUDITORIUM - EVENING

Sunset removes her hand from Fluttershy's shoulder.

45 SUNSET SHIMMER

--Or if it's a fear of looking
foolish in front of a crowd, you
need to let go of what's holding
you back and believe in yourself,
the way we all believe in you.

FS and SS exchange smiles. The rest of the MANE SEVEN smile
in the background too. The audiences AWWWWS.

46 SUNSET SHIMMER (CONT'D)

We are the bell! Ding-dong, ding-
dong! Come on, everybody. If you
believe, join in!

The other MANE SEVEN join in with <DING-DONG>! Then, the
audience chants along, SWAYING together, <DING-DONG>!

Fluttershy STANDS TALL and STEPS FORWARD into the spotlight.

47 FLUTTERSHY
THE MINE IS CLOSED!

A HUGE CHEER throughout the auditorium. Flowers COVER the stage. OFFSTAGE, Snips wipes an emotional tear from his eye and turns to Snails.

48 SNIPS
Do you believe in me, buddy?

49 SNAILS
I DO!

They CRY and EMBRACE. As the STANDING OVATION continues, Fluttershy and Sunset TAKE A BOW! Success!

FADE OUT.