THE EQUESTRIA GIRLS
BETTER TOGETHER SERIES

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

"Opening Fright"
Short #403-043

Written by
Kelly D'Angelo

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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've got to leave this hum-drum, do-nothing, lump-of-coal town. I'm going to be 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
Bury those silly dreams in the slagheap, Selphy. Ain't nobody from this side of the mountain 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, SO OVERDRAMATIC.

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, suspended by janky wire). An angelic choir hums in the background.

4 RAINBOW DASH
Your canary tears have summoned me, my child. It is I... your Fairy Bootmother!

5 AUDIENCE
Ooooooooohhhhh!

6 RAINBOW DASH
Do not despair, for all coal turns to DIAMONDS!

Rainbow Dash WAVES HER WAND. Glitter falls, revealing a pair of MAGICAL BEDAZZLED DANCING BOOTS! Rarity BEAMS.

C) Rarity nervously walks down the streets of SHINY CITY, wearing the bedazzled boots. The chorus breaks out into a DANCE! Step and point! Step and point!

INT. BACKSTAGE - LATER

FLUTTERSHY (as COAL MINER #2) is in the wings. She's focused on her script, pacing nervously. In the b.g., SNIPS & SNAILS PUNCH each other in the shoulders. APPLEJACK approaches.

7 APPLEJACK
How's Coal Miner Number Two doing?

8 FLUTTERSHY
There's a coal miner here? Great, he can do my line for me.

9 APPLEJACK
Don't be nervous! It's only one line. All you have to do is ring that bell and say: "The mine is closed!"

10 FLUTTERSHY
The mine is closed.

11 APPLEJACK
Yeah, that, but maybe a *little* louder.

A <MUSICAL HIT> swells.

12 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Go get 'em!

Applejack gives Fluttershy a gentle PUSH onto the stage.

INT. AUDITORIUM - ON STAGE/BACKSTAGE (INTERCUT)

The stage: outside the mine. Fluttershy approaches a prop bell tower. Rarity (Selphy) is across the stage in a prop traincar, as TS (Ma) and FS (Pa) wave goodbye. RD (Bootmother) is suspended by wire, floating above the train. Back on the other side of the stage, 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. The audience <GASPS>! Snips and Snails <GASP>! Applejack <GASPS>.

13 FLUTTERSHY
Uh... Uh...

BACKSTAGE: Applejack.

14 APPLEJACK
Fluttershy needs our help!

Three options appear: Applejack, Twilight, and Sunset.

<u>ENDING A: APPLEJACK</u>

INT. AUDITORIUM - EVENING

Applejack turns to Snips and Snails.

15 APPLEJACK
Quick! I need a costume!

Snips and Snails exchange glances.

16 SNAILS
Uh, we only have one...

They POINT over to the corner. Applejack looks, deflates, but she's gotta do what she's gotta 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.

17 APPLEJACK
Oh, HELLO COAL MINE. Just me! The magical talking apple tree! Remember, Fairy Bootmother? You enchanted me? So now I can walk, talk, and help out when things go wrong?

18 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.

19 APPLEJACK
Whoops! Sorry, there. Pardon me.
Talkin' apple tree, coming through.

An apple PLOPS down on MUFFINS' head. Her eyes UN-CROSS and she looks around, confused, until she's relieved when another apple knocks them back the way they were.

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

20 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Wouldja look at that! The bell's back where it needs to be. Someone should REALLY ring it! ...Just <u>flutter</u> on over... don't be <u>shy</u>.

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

21 FLUTTERSHY
The mine... is closed!

Everyone on stage TOSSES their coal-mining hats into the air and CHEERS! The audience ERUPTS into applause. The hard hats land with a <THUNK THUNK THUNK THUNK>, startling everyone.

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

FADE OUT.

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

INT. AUDITORIUM - EVENING

Fluttershy GULPS and STAMMERS, searching for words. Twilight cranes her neck to see past Flash Sentry and Rainbow Dash, who block her view of Fluttershy and the fallen bell.

22 FLUTTERSHY
Um... I...

<u>OFF STAGE:</u> Applejack catches TS's eye and makes a special-ops-esque series of hand gestures. Twilight signals back with a question. Applejack signals more, clarifying. Twilight signals back, telling a crazy story about lunch. They both laugh silently.

23 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Ummmmm...

Applejack and Twilight snap out of it. They share a nod. Twilight focuses her attention on THE BELL. It begins to RATTLE. Fluttershy fails to notice, too scared.

24 AUDIENCE
Oooooh!

Applejack gestures-- up, up. Twilight concentrates. More MURMURS from the crowd as the bell RISES in the air.

25 AUDIENCE (CONT'D)
<CONFUSED MURMERS>?

Hanging by wire, Rainbow Dash waves her Bootmother wand.

26 RAINBOW DASH
(covering)
Just using my magic here-- classic Bootmother.

27 AUDIENCE
(getting it)
Ahhhhhhhh.

The hovering bell WOBBLES with sparkling magical energy. Applejack gestures-- sideways! Twilight flicks her body to move the bell sideways-- TOO FAR! It bonks Fluttershy.

28 FLUTTERSHY
Ah!

29 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Sorry, sorry--!
(catching herself, covering, to Rarity)
--to see you go, my sweet daughter. Dazzle them in the city.

Fluttershy is confused. Applejack gives a final-- up, over, down, over gesture. Twilight concentrates hard. The Bell zigs and zags until it LATCHES PERFECTLY into the bell tower! The audience does a LIGHT APPLAUSE.

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

30 FLUTTERSHY
The mine... is closed!

Everyone on stage CELEBRATES. The audience breaks out into APPLAUSE as Fluttershy BEAMS at Twilight, whose geode finishes GLOWING.

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.

31 SUNSET SHIMMER
Oh, Coal Miner number two! It is I, the assistant director. Um, of the play... of life!

Fluttershy takes a delicate step towards Sunset.

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

33 SUNSET SHIMMER
(whispering)
Follow my lead!

Sunset WINKS at Fluttershy.

34 SUNSET SHIMMER (CONT'D)
You're a genius! You crashed this bell *on purpose,* for this bell is a metaphor, is it not?

35 FLUTTERSHY
It is...?

Sunset picks up a lump of coal, a la Yorick.

36 SUNSET SHIMMER
Whether it's our family's expectations to work in the coal mine--- Or if it's a fear of the spotlight, we all need to let go of what's holding us back. The pressures of life turn us <u>all</u> into diamonds.

She SQUEEZES THE COAL. Rarity concentrates, her geode glows, and the coal in Sunset's fist CRUNCHES into... A DIAMOND! FS and SS smile.

37 AUDIENCE
Awwwwwwww.

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

39 TS/RD/RY/AJ
Ding-dong! Ding-dong! (etc.)

40 AUDIENCE
Ding-dong! Ding-dong!

41 SNIPS/SNAILS
Dong-ding! Dong-ding!

Fluttershy STANDS TALL and STEPS FORWARD into the spotlight.

42 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.

43 SNIPS
Do you believe in me, buddy?

44 SNAILS
I DO!

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

FADE OUT.