

MY LITTLE PONY: EQUESTRIA GIRLS

Batch 5: 6x7 Minute Shorts

#416-252 - OUTLINE

"Bark! The Forest Animals Sing"

11-7-17

Written by Anna Christopher

INT. CANTERLOT HIGH - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Smiling from the stage, Fluttershy says it warms her heart to see so many brave, talented, and adorable singers interested in trying out for her holiday caroling chorus. She blushes, "Gosh, I hope you are as excited as I am!" In response, she's met by a wave of <SQUEAKS>, <CHIRPS>, and <PEEPS>, revealing the auditorium full of WOODLAND CREATURES who want to audition! Fluttershy goes on to kindly remind the hopefuls that the competition is incredibly fierce and that she only has a few spots to fill in this year's chorus. In the crowd, we zero in on our heroine, a young squirrel named GRETA, who has stars in her eyes and hangs on Fluttershy's every word. Fluttershy tells everyone who wants to audition to sign up now and come back on Friday at their appointed times. She smiles at Greta and wishes them all good luck.

FROM HERE ONWARD, THE STORY IS FROM THE POV OF GRETA, THE SQUIRREL. ANIMALS' DIALOGUE WILL BE IN "SQUIRREL", I.E. SQUEAKS AND SQUEALS.

EXT. FOREST FLOOR - DAY

As Greta walks home, she daydreams of being in Fluttershy's chorus... IN A DREAM BUBBLE, we see her fantasy: singing alongside the other great singers of the forest with Fluttershy conducting as they spread holiday cheer from door-to-door. Thrilled by her daydream, Greta grins and starts to run home.

INT. GRETA'S BURROW - DAY

Greta races in the door, and, bubbling with excitement, she <SQUEAKS> to her DAD, a hardworking Nut Gatherer, about the audition. Dad barely responds. His hard hat (for nut gathering) is off, and he's engrossed in the newspaper. He shoos her away. Undeterred, she bounds off to her bedroom...

EXT./INT. GRETA'S BURROW - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

Greta's bedroom's walls are covered in POSTERS of famous squirrel and woodland creature performers. She stares up at her idols as she begins practicing her audition song, kickstarting a "Preparing for the Big Audition" MONTAGE. We see her practice in the shower, at breakfast, helping her dad with yard work, etc. The more she practices the more her Dad becomes visibly annoyed. The montage ends with him yelling at her (in <SQUEAKS>), telling her that she's

destined to be a Nut Gatherer like him not a singer. To make his point, he rips a twig/microphone from her hand and puts his hard hat on her. Greta blinks back tears.

INT. CANTERLOT HIGH - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Greta is about to scratch her name off the audition sheet when Fluttershy spots her. Fluttershy can see she's upset and asks her what's wrong. Greta explains (in <SQUEAKS>) that her dad doesn't want her to pursue music so she has to withdraw from auditions. With kindness, Fluttershy says that she understands, but that she also thinks that Greta should follow her heart, which might mean not becoming a Nut Gatherer like her dad. Fluttershy leaves Greta to make a decision. PUSH IN on her name on the audition sheet...

INT. GRETA'S BURROW - GRETA'S CLOSET - NIGHT

Greta practices singing softly in the closet with a flashlight. Suddenly, the door FLIES open. Her dad has found her and he's not happy. He shakes his head, disappointed. He points to the posters of famous singing squirrels - she can't be one of those squirrels! He pulls one of the posters off the wall. But Greta doesn't cry or yelp. She stands up and tells her dad that she's going to audition no matter what he says. She loves him, but she also loves music and singing. He is taken aback at the passion and strength he sees in his daughter. She hangs the poster back up and asks Dad to leave her alone to rehearse. He stares at her and then backs out of the room -- furious or... impressed?

INT. CANTERLOT HIGH - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Nervous, Greta takes the stage for her audition. Fluttershy beams at her, overjoyed that she didn't quit her dream. Greta begins to sing her audition song, and it's awesome. She feels so confident and alive. From the stage, she sees the auditorium door open, and HER DAD slip into the auditorium! Determined, she continues singing. He listens and is visibly moved by her voice. She finishes her piece, and her Dad APPLAUDS. Greta looks to Fluttershy, squeaking with a confused face, clearly asking what he Dad is doing here?! Fluttershy smiles warmly, saying, "I suppose someone might have told him how much it would mean to you." Greta understands her meaning and thanks her, so grateful. Meanwhile, Dad, still applauding in the back, points up at Greta and squeak-brags to every animal waiting: That's his kid up there! That's his kid!!!

END OF SHOW