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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"For Whom the Sweetie Belle Toils"
Episode 420
Written by: Dave Polsky

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TEASER**1) INT. RARITY'S WORKSHOP – DAY**

RARITY, chasing a deadline getting outfits ready for Sapphire Shores and her backup singers and dancers, turns her attention to assembling the extravagant and outlandish HEADPIECE that Sapphire Shores herself will use in the show. SWEETIE BELLE helps out, scrambling around and fetching things left and right per Rarity's instructions as Rarity stays laser-focused on getting everything ready ASAP. After all, Sapphire Shores kicks off her Equestria-wide tour with a performance in Canterlot the day after tomorrow, so there's not a moment to lose! Nonetheless, Sweetie Belle – while helping – keeps clamoring for Rarity's attention. Sweetie Belle, after struggling mightily to pull Rarity's focus, finally succeeds and informs Rarity she must leave for rehearsal now. Rarity gasps – she completely forgot about the play Sweetie Belle's putting on with the other Cutie Mark Crusaders! Although reluctant to lose the help of her sister, Rarity apologizes for forgetting and gives Sweetie Belle her blessing to leave. But Sweetie Belle isn't done; she has a favor to ask. Would Rarity be willing to sew some costumes for the three of them to wear in the play? Rarity says she'd be delighted, especially in light of all the help Sweetie Belle has offered of late. When is the opening night? Sweetie Belle: "Um, tomorrow. Remember? You said you'd be there." Rarity's flabbergasted: "But, but – how could I possibly make even more dresses? I have barely enough time to get the costumes ready for Sapphire Shores as it is!" But Rarity can't bear to say no... yes, of course she'll whip up a few things. Sweetie Belle is overjoyed: she has the best sister ever! Rarity thanks Sweetie Belle, then – without missing a beat – asks her to be a dear and do her five more favors before she leaves.

ACT ONE**2) INT. THEATER – BACKSTAGE – EVENING**

The play is well underway, and – judging by the THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE as Sweetie Belle, APPLE BLOOM and SCOOTALOO all exit into the wings for a costume change – it's going great. The CMCs quickly shed the fabulous costumes they have on to put on other fabulous costumes in preparation for the play's big finale. Sweetie Belle gushes about the audience response, which exceeds anything any of them expected. Just this one last scene to perform and then they can go mingle with family and friends and bask in glory! But then Sweetie Belle registers alarm... where's her costume for the final scene? It's not here! Did Rarity forget? The others are ready to make their final entrance, but Sweetie Belle's costume is nowhere to be found! She's on the verge of a full blown panic attack when a breathless Rarity arrives with the last costume. As Sweetie Belle scrambles into it, Rarity apologizes for cutting it so close but she wanted to get it just right. Sweetie Belle thanks her and then rushes onstage to join the others for the finale, while Rarity looks on from the sidelines with pride. But FLUTTERSHY, who now assists Rarity in place of Sweetie Belle, reminds Rarity that there's not time for her to stay and watch, as she's now even further behind on getting the Sapphire Shores outfits finished in time to take with them to Canterlot early tomorrow morning. Rarity sighs and, reluctantly tearing herself away, follows Fluttershy out of the theater.

3) INT. THEATER – STAGE – A LITTLE LATER

The CMCs, in their fabulous final costumes, take their curtain call to the roaring approval of the crowd. Ebullient, Sweetie Belle gives her co-stars a wink of congratulations.

4) INT. THEATER – LOBBY – A LITTLE LATER

The CMCs push open a door slightly to peek into the lobby, where family and friends all mingle over appetizers and punch. Sweetie Belle reminds her fellow CMCs the profuse praise they're about to get should be received graciously, indulging the sweet notion that they may be on the

verge of getting their cutie marks for acting. Then, like three fabulous stars from Old Broadway, the CMCs glide into the room where they are immediately swarmed by family and friends. But, to Sweetie Belle's shock and chagrin, all the audience wants to talk about is... the costumes!! How beautiful they were, how stunning they were! Somehow, the costumes were everypony's favorite part! And everypony was so dazzled by the costumes, they don't seem to remember anything else that happened. When Sweetie Belle mentions specific moments of the play, their friends and family glaze over until they suddenly remember: "Oh, was that the part where you wore the pink taffeta lacey thing with the plunging back?" Maddeningly, none of the CMCs best moments stick in anypony's heads except in connection to what they wore at the time! Apple Bloom and Scootaloo admit they were wondering all along if the play needed a few rewrites... but Sweetie Belle knows who's really to blame... and she's steamed!

5) INT. RARITY'S WORKSHOP – LATER THAT EVENING

Rarity and Fluttershy delicately put in that ONE LAST KEY STITCH to hold all the interlocking pieces of Sapphire Shores' extravagant headpiece together. Then, just as they finish and sigh with relief, Sweetie Belle storms in. Rarity tries asking about the show, but then seeing how upset Sweetie Belle is, she frets that perhaps something went wrong because her costumes weren't good enough. Sweetie Belle snaps back that Rarity's costumes were perfect... and that's exactly the problem! How could Rarity steal the spotlight like that? Rarity's bewilderment grows as Sweetie Belle continues ranting: Rarity always has to be the amazing one, Rarity always has to be the special one! And then, when Sweetie Belle finally has her moment to shine, Rarity takes that away from her, too! Rarity tries to reason with Sweetie Belle, insisting that she put so much effort into the costumes for the play with the sole intent of helping... but Sweetie Belle refuses to believe it: Rarity made them too good on purpose! Rarity – seeing that she's not dealing with a rational pony, and also reminded by Fluttershy that there's still much work left to do before morning – puts her hoof down and ends the discussion. Rarity and Fluttershy both tenderly encourage Sweetie Belle to get a good night's sleep. Perhaps they can discuss this in the morning? Sweetie Belle turns heel, storming off in a huff.

ACT TWO

6) INT. SWEETIE BELLE'S BEDROOM – LATER THAT EVENING

We see a SERIES OF DISSOLVES as Sweetie Belle tosses and turns and paces... basically unable to sleep because she's still so ticked, muttering to herself over how she's been slighted and wronged and how it's always like this with her older sister. Intermittently, she puts her ear to the door and can still hear Rarity and Fluttershy talking and working, late into the night. Finally, during the last dissolve, Sweetie Belle perks up as she hears Rarity and Fluttershy wishing one another a good night and retiring to bed.

7) INT. RARITY'S WORKSHOP – NIGHT

Sweetie Belle slinks out of her room and into the unlit workshop. Fumbling in the dark as quietly as she can, she searches for and finally finds the Sapphire Shores headdress. Eying the key center stitch she registers a look of vengeful delight, and then, ever so carefully, she pulls out the stitch and then places the huge hat carefully back in its box.

8) INT. SWEETIE BELLE'S BEDROOM – A LITTLE LATER

Sweetie Belle chuckles contentedly as she gets back to bed. At least now maybe she can finally drop off to sleep... and then does so once she's barely finished the thought.

9) EXT. SWEETIE BELLE'S DREAMSCAPE – MOMENTS LATER

A relieved Sweetie Belle flits and floats around, as though without a care in the world, but then suddenly LUNA makes a FRIGHTENING APPEARANCE. Sweetie Belle, startled from her reverie, registers terror, and runs away. After running awhile she realizes Luna didn't follow. Sweetie scans every visible horizon but Luna's nowhere to be seen. She frets that perhaps Luna lurks somewhere, but then tries to talk herself down from this paranoia. If Luna meant her harm she'd have gotten her already. Comforted by this thought, and with little else to do, she resumes exploring the dreamscape. In time, she begins to grow lonely, wondering where she is and how she got here. Suddenly, she catches another glimpse of Luna, who stands in the distance. Now, instead of terror, Sweetie Belle experiences hope that maybe Luna can explain to her what is going on. Sweetie Belle trots over to speak with Luna, but this time Luna runs away. Sweetie Belle gives chase. Then, as Luna leaps into a mist, Sweetie Belle leaps after her and...

10) EXT. SWEETIE BELLE'S DREAMSCAPE – RARITY'S HOUSE YEARS AGO

... finds herself in Rarity's home years ago when she was younger. It's Younger Sweetie Belle's birthday, and Younger Apple Bloom and Younger Scootaloo are there as guests. Rarity brings out a birthday cake she made, and all the ponies ooh and aah over how amazing it is. As Sweetie Belle's about to blow out the candles, Rarity pulls out some special party hats she made for the occasion. Everypony loves them. Then, as Sweetie Belle makes ready to blow out the candles again, Rarity interrupts again, mentioning she almost forgot to hand out the special bibs she made. Sweetie Belle: "See? Rarity's been doing this kind of stuff forever!" But nopony hears her... the participants in the dreamscape scene carry on, oblivious to her presence. Sweetie Belle looks around for Luna, but Luna's gone. Sweetie Belle leaps out of the mist in search of her.

11) EXT. SWEETIE BELLE'S DREAMSCAPE – MOMENTS LATER

Sweetie Belle can't find Luna, but keeps looking, while reflecting to herself that Luna must be showing her these memories because Luna understands. Yes! It all makes sense! Luna also had an older sister who shone more brightly. Of course Luna would understand Sweetie Belle's plight best of all! Then, seeing Luna again in the distance, Sweetie Belle reacts with delight and runs to speak with her, but Luna turns and runs and dives into a deep pool, disappearing from sight. Sweetie Belle pauses by the pool to glance briefly at her reflection, and then dives in.

12) EXT. SWEETIE BELLE'S DREAMSCAPE – RARITY'S BEDROOM

Much like the birthday scene earlier, Sweetie Belle finds herself again transported... this time to Rarity's bedroom where Rarity lies awake, fretting. Seeing her sister anxious melts Sweetie Belle's resentment. Sweetie Belle asks what's the matter... but Rarity, again as in the preceding birthday scene, is unable to hear. Then, when Rarity mentions Sapphire Shores and the dresses, it occurs to Sweetie Belle that she's getting a glimpse of Rarity as she is at this very moment! Then, with a start, she hears Luna speak for the first time: "This event matters a great deal to your sister, does it not? She's worked her hooves to the bone all day making dresses for your event and hers, and still she's so worried she cannot sleep." Sweetie Belle softens, adding that she hopes it all goes well for her sister tomorrow. Luna: "Do you?" At that, Luna's expression intensifies and a CYCLONE OF DREAMSCAPE whirls up around her...

13) EXT. SWEETIE BELLE'S DREAMSCAPE – CYCLONE

...engulfing both her and Sweetie Belle in a swirling series of images. The first is of the SABOTAGED HAT falling apart in front of Sapphire Shores at the worst possible moment, leaving Rarity bewildered and shamed. Sweetie Belle is horrified, but it doesn't stop there. Another image appears on the cyclone wall, this time of Rarity's public ridicule. Then yet another image, and another, and another... detailing Rarity's gradual and harrowing fall from grace that could be precipitated by Sweetie Belle's one act of betrayal. Sweetie Belle: "Make it stop!" But Luna,

unmoved, keeps the images coming, till Sweetie Belle finally wails: "Why are you being so mean?!?" At that, the cyclone stops, dissipating as quickly as it came...

14) EXT. SWEETIE BELLE'S DREAMSCAPE – CONTINUOUS

... leaving Sweetie Belle face to face with Luna in the stillness of the original dreamscape. Slowly, firmly, Luna explains to Sweetie Belle why she's "being so mean"... it's because Luna herself knows what it's like to resent your older sister so much that you do something you regret, failing to take back before it's too late. Sweetie Belle: "The stitch! I have to replace it! What time is it? Wake me up! Wake me up!!"

ACT THREE

15) INT. SWEETIE BELLE'S BEDROOM – SAME TIME

Sweetie Belle tosses and turns in her sleep, muttering "Wake me up... wake me up..." When at last she does finally awaken, she bolts out the door.

16) INT. RARITY'S BEDROOM – MOMENTS LATER

Sweetie Belle rushes in to see that Rarity isn't there.

17) INT. RARITY'S WORKSHOP – MOMENTS LATER

Sweetie Belle doesn't find Rarity there either. In fact, all the dresses are gone too, along with the hatbox for Sapphire Shores. Clearly they already left for Canterlot!

18) EXT. PONYVILLE – VARIOUS – A LITTLE LATER

Sweetie Belle bangs on Apple Bloom's door. Sweetie Belle bangs on Scootaloo's door. Sweetie Belle frantically begs her friends to help her get to Canterlot in time to prevent disaster... but Apple Bloom and Scootaloo are exhausted because they were up half the night rewriting that darn play. In fact, Sweetie Belle has a bunch of new lines to memorize for tonight, but Sweetie Belle doesn't want to talk about that now!

19) EXT. EQUESTRIA – VARIOUS – A LITTLE LATER

Sweetie Belle races toward Canterlot with her friends in tow. To Sweetie Belle's growing irritation, Apple Bloom and Scootaloo keep trying to make good use of this time by running Sweetie Belle through the changes they made in the play.

20) INT. SAPPHIRE SHORES' REHEARSAL SPACE – LATER

Rarity's in the midst of presenting the collection to Sapphire Shores, who seems quite pleased with all of it, although she's reserving final judgment for the all-important headpiece. Rarity smiles as she lifts the box, asserting that she's quite confident Sapphire Shores will loooove it, when suddenly the CMCs burst in! Before Rarity can ask what's going on, Sweetie Belle ZIPS up and WHISKS the box away, offering some explanation and excuse to the confused bystanders that basically clears up zilch.

21) INT. SAPPHIRE SHORES' REHEARSAL SPACE – VARIOUS

Rarity gives chase, but Apple Bloom and Scootaloo have already worked out a clever cat-and-mouse routine that keeps Rarity guessing which direction Sweetie Belle has gone, thus buying her time to finish fixing the headpiece in secret. Unfortunately, Apple Bloom and Scootaloo are too clever for their own good... they get their signals crossed and Rarity stumbles into the very

room where Sweetie Belle hunches over the hat completing the repair. Sweetie Belle tries to hand back the restored headpiece as though nothing strange occurred... but it's no use. She's been caught red-hooved. Rarity is upset at the betrayal, but then, quite unexpectedly, CELESTIA arrives. Everypony looks on, stunned, as Celestia helps Rarity find it within herself to understand, and forgive, the betrayal. Once this is done, Celestia looks on with approval, and then glances at the opposite side of the room. Everypony turns and there, to their even greater amazement, they discover Luna looking on.

22) INT. SAPPHIRE SHORES' REHEARSAL SPACE – LATER

Sapphire Shores tries on the headpiece and loves it. And, in stark contrast to the dreamscape scene, it holds together perfectly. Rarity and Sweetie Belle share a warm moment, their relationship restored. And elsewhere, discreetly, Celestia and Luna also share a moment of rapprochement. Celestia: "It's nice to do something together as sisters after all this time, is it not?" Luna: "It is indeed."

END.