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MY LITTLE PONY 6

On Your Marks

604

Outline by: Dave Polsky

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ON YOUR MARKS

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY**

Apple Bloom, SCOOTALOO and SWEETIE BELLE hang out together, still in a thrall over getting their cutie marks. Granted, they've probably had them for some time now, but they all wanted them so badly for so long and worked so hard to get them that the buzz of finally succeeding still hasn't worn off. Apple Bloom (mock surprise): "Why Scootaloo, what have you done with your flank? It's fabulous. Whatever it is I love how it sets off your eyes." Scootaloo (mock confusion): "Why I'm not certain. Perhaps I sat in something." Sweetie Belle (mock examining): "Looks as though it might be a squashed butterfly... or a... no, wait, it's a -" All: "- Cutie Mark!!!!" Round and round they gleefully go with games like this until the laughter and exuberance finally dies down... and then, after a long awkward pause, it's clear this game has finally started to get a little old. But no matter... they're still the Cutie Mark Crusaders aren't they? Nothing will ever change that. They can run off and do whatever exciting adventures they please... together! They throw out a bunch of ideas and then all settle on climbing Equestria's highest peak. And they'll do it... together! For their Cutie Marks! Then... as they're all about to run off together, they realize that, no, wait, they already have their cutie marks. So... um... so why do they want to go climbing all the way up some big old mountain again? After a beat they all droop and sit back down. Nevermind.

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT 1****SC. 2 - INT. CUTIE MARK CRUSADER CLUBHOUSE - DAY**

An energetic Apple Bloom stands at the podium, running a Cutie Mark Crusader meeting and trying to engage her distracted friends. Scootaloo has her scooter in the clubhouse for a little maintenance, and Sweetie Belle has some sheet music and hums to herself. Apple Bloom implores them: "Come on, guys! "Together forever" remember? Scoot and SB retort that they ARE together... they're doing their own stuff, but they're doing it together. Apple Bloom: "Wait, that doesn't make any sense. I mean doing stuff together together." She insists that just because they have their cutie marks now doesn't mean they can't still do fun stuff together where they're all doing the same thing. Unfortunately, any cool things they can think of sound like WAY too much effort now that their need to get a cutie mark is permanently satisfied. Changing tactics, Apple Bloom reminds everypony that they can work together to fulfill the purpose of their own cutie marks (i.e., helping other ponies to get or live up to their own cutie marks). The others agree, but what's the hurry? They just got their cutie marks and it was a lot of work and maybe they can take a break for a little while. They can always help ponies with their cutie-mark-related issues some other day right? Eventually? For now, Scootaloo would like to kick back and do a little scootering, while Sweetie Belle would like spend some time making music. Apple Bloom suggests that they do those things together! First they can scooter together, then they can make music together. Or the other way around. Either way! Let's put it to a vote! But the others have made up their minds: after all this time spent together getting their cutie marks, maybe it's okay if they all took a little time to pursue their own individual interests for a while. "Doesn't that sound good, Apple Bloom?" Apple Bloom (uneasy): "Sure. Yeah. Pursuing my own individual interests. I can hardly wait."

SC. 3 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - APPLES' FARMHOUSE - DAY

Apple Bloom's having a tough time coming up with her own individual interests. She fiddles with some potions but can't think of a potion to make. Seeing GRANNY SMITH baking, she ditches the potions to help but doesn't seem to have much passion for baking either. She then comes up with an idea: she whips up a potion and pours it over an apple pie so it won't spoil for weeks. The problem is the potion made the pie taste horrible. No pony wants to eat it now. Apple Bloom: "Sure, maybe not now, but if you change your minds in a few weeks it might still be sorta fresh. See the genius?" The Apple Bloom realizes, who is she kidding? She doesn't have any really individual interests of her own. APPLEJACK reminds Apple Bloom of some of the other things she likes doing, but Apple Bloom insists

that none of those things are as fun to her as being with her friends, but since Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle are both off pursuing their “own individual interests” that’s not really an option. Applejack asks what if Apple Bloom joined in on her friends’ interests instead of trying to figure out her own. That way her friends could still do what they like to do and Apple Bloom could be together with them at the same time. Apple Bloom loves the idea!

SC. 4 - EXT. PONYVILLE - VARIOUS

Scootaloo’s having a great time scootering around Ponyville when Apple Bloom catches up with her to say she wants to join in on the scootering, too. Scootaloo’s happy to have her along. They try scootering together, but Apple Bloom gets scared at high speeds. And then her bow comes flying off and gets tangled in one of the wheels. Then she wants to stand around and chat with passersby while Scootaloo waits impatiently to hit the road again... etc. Apple Bloom, sensing things aren’t going well, decides maybe it’s time she left to explore her musical interests.

SC. 5 – INT. RARITY’S HOUSE - LATER

Sweetie Belle’s happy to have Apple Bloom join her singing. But Apple Bloom and Sweetie have trouble jelling as a musical duo. Their musical interests and styles differ, Apple Bloom tries backing Sweetie Belle up on an instrument and it doesn’t go well. After a while Sweetie Belle realizes she’d like to focus on her music by herself for a little while. She tries to be nice to the trying-too-hard Apple Bloom, “Have you considered helping Scootaloo with her scootering?” Apple Bloom: “Um, actually, that’s okay... I’m sure I can find something totally cool and awesome to do all by myself.”

SC. 6 - INT. CUTIE MARK CRUSADER CLUBHOUSE - LATER

In an otherwise vacant clubhouse, Apple Bloom’s at a total loss. She tries standing at the lectern. Maybe her individual interest is standing at a podium and pounding a gavel. She tries it. Kinda fun in way... but pretty silly without other ponies around.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

SC. 7 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - APPLES’ FARMHOUSE - DAY

Apple Bloom’s having dinner with her family and looking petulant. When asked how she spent her day, and if she did anything with her friends, Apple Bloom admits she almost wishes they never got their cutie marks in the first place. At least when they didn’t have them they’d always have stuff to do together, but now that they have them it seems like doing stuff together doesn’t matter to them anymore. Applejack: “But can’t you all go out and help other ponies get their cutie marks? Isn’t that what your cutie marks are for?” Apple Bloom counters that her friends don’t see any hurry in doing that. It’s like it can always wait until tomorrow. But Applejack thinks maybe there’s a different reason they are reluctant - maybe it’s because they don’t know who to help. If Apple Bloom can go out there and find somepony for them to help, Applejack assures Apple Bloom that her friends would rally to the cause in no time flat. Apple Bloom brightens, realizing her sister is right.

SC. 8 – EXT. PONYVILLE - MONTAGE

Apple Bloom sets out on her quest to find somepony to help with their cutie mark. Turns out it ain’t easy. A bit shy about approaching strangers, she starts out with the ponies she knows but they all seem to be in pretty good shape. The ponies in her class virtually all have theirs already. Apple Bloom asks PINKIE PIE if she needs any help figuring out how to fulfill the calling of her balloon cutie mark. Pinkie Pie thinks she might, but she’s not sure because she’s in the middle of throwing a HUGE party with lots and lots and lots of balloons so it’s hard to think clearly... she encourages Apple Bloom to circle back with her later when she’s not so distracted throwing balloon parties. Apple Bloom approaches FLUTTERSHY to ask if there’s anything about her butterfly cutie mark the Crusaders can help with. Fluttershy says actually there is an animal she’s having some difficulty communicating with, so Apple Bloom’s offers to help... till she learns that the animal in question is a huge ferocious bear with a

roar that sends Apple Bloom running for her life. Fluttershy admonishes the Bear for scaring off Apple Bloom, insisting that Bear learn to use more civil tones in the future.

SC. 9 – EXT. PONYVILLE - ELSEWHERE - LATER

Apple Bloom sits on a stoop, discouraged. Dimwitted and lovable BULK BICEPS happens by and sits with her, also looking discouraged. Apple Bloom shares with Bulk Biceps her frustration acting on what she thinks he cutie mark is telling her to do. Bulk Biceps knows what she means, he has his dumbbell cutie mark but he's already lifted all the dumbbells in Ponyville. There are no more dumbbells left for him to lift. What's he supposed to do?? Apple Bloom brightens... she's found a pony with a cutie mark problem. It's her lucky day!

SC. 10 – INT. CUTIE MARK CRUSADER CLUBHOUSE - LATER

Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo file in, excited to help their first pony since getting their cutie marks. Bulk Biceps SQUEEZES in to join them. Excited to have the gang together again at last, Apple Bloom presents Bulk Biceps' issue: what to do when you have a dumbbell cutie mark and have lifted every dumbbell in Ponyville. Sweetie Belle chimes in: "You could add weights to the dumbbells you've already lifted to make them so heavy that you can't lift them anymore... and then learn to lift those." Bulk Biceps thinks that's an AWESOME idea. Apple Bloom's stunned: "Wait... you mean... you never tried that?" Scootaloo: "And you could maybe teach other ponies to lift dumbbells." Bulk Biceps LOVES that idea (which, apparently, also never occurred to him). It seems the meeting is over nearly as soon as it started, and Bulk Biceps is a happy customer. Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo start to exit, headed back to their singing and scootering, respectively, agreeing: "Dang, we're good." But Apple Bloom's upset - wait, this can't be over yet! She runs out after them: they can't leave now! The others are puzzled... what's wrong? They did their thing and Bulk Biceps is happy. But Apple Bloom insistent: t's Cutie Mark Crusaders together forever... not together for five minutes and leave! Sweetie Belle: "Maybe we have to find a way to be together in a different way now." With a warm smile, Sweetie Belle hops on Scoot's scooter. Scoot to AB: "Wanna hop on?" Apple Bloom: "Know what, would love to, but I've gotta go pursue my own individual interest." SB (genuine interest): "Oh? What's that?" Apple Bloom (snaps): "I don't know yet!"

SC. 11 – EXT. PONYVILLE - LATER

Still stewing, Apple Bloom stomps into town looking for something to be interested in: "Fine, I'll find my own "individual interest." Forget you guys. I'll find the individualistest interest there is. Ha!" The first thing she comes across is a tap dance studio: "Ha! Fine! There it is, my new individual interest! Tap dancing! Perfect! My new favorite thing!"

SC. 12 – INT. PONYVILLE - TAP DANCE STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

Apple Bloom STOMPS into the studio, slips on some tap shoes and jumps right in with a TAP DANCING CLASS... the very second it ends. Then, "bonding" with her "classmates" as they towels down together: "Wow. Great class. Don't you just love tap? Me too. Looooove! Even just those last few seconds of class. Wow, what a rush! Am I right?" ANGLE ON the TEACHER as she walks over to speak with a SHY PONY in the corner, attempting to coax him into doing a solo routine for tonight's performance. ANGLE BACK ON Apple Bloom where one of the CLASSMATES explains to her that Shy Pony is a super-gifted tap dancer, but is too shy to perform. It's such a shame. They've all tried to persuade him to give it a try to no avail. Maybe Apple Bloom, with her passionate love of the form, will have better luck? Apple Bloom CLICKETY-CLICKS over to help: "What seems to be the problem kid." Shy Pony: "I like taking classes. I don't want to perform. I like things the way they are." Apple Bloom, assuming the mien of the wizened pro counseling the fledgling neophyte, takes a seat and launches into an inspiring and overwrought tale of her love of The Tap, using her scant knowledge as the flimsy scaffold on which to build her spellbinding edifice of reverent wonder for the marvelous soul expression that is Tap... then adding: "But as much as I love tap, there's something I hate twice as much. Know what that is, kid? Change!! Change is the WORST!! Stand your ground, kid. Ya made the right choice!" Then, to the others: "I thought we were gonna rehearse, folks! Come on, let's move it! Let's BRING ON THE TAP!!" As the others comply, Classmate: "But you're not even in tonight's show." Apple Bloom: "Nopony stands between me and my tap!! And a one, and a two!"

The class launches into an advanced and masterful tap routine. Apple Bloom makes a few tentative clicks, without a clue what to do and at a total loss. She then throws herself into a hyperactive flailing spasm that is so horrible the rest of the class can only stop and stare. Apple Bloom tries to bring her routine - now a solo - to some kind of non-disastrous finish. Ta da. Beat. Teacher: “Um... have you ever taken any tap classes before, like... ever?” Apple Bloom looks around at everypony staring at her, flummoxed. Then (storming out): “I HATE TAP!!

END ACT 2

ACT 3

SC. 13 - INT. CUTIE MARK CRUSADER CLUBHOUSE - LATER

A mortified and discouraged Apple Bloom enters for solitude, surprised to find Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle already there: “What are you two doing here?” Scootaloo: “Hanging out.” Sweetie Belle: “You know, like we do?” Apple Bloom sighs... and the whole sordid story of her escapade at the tap studio comes pouring out, with a focus on her failure to find her individual interest. They must think she’s such a failure, right? But Scoot and SB don’t care about that... they’re more focused on the incidental details in her story about the Shy Pony. They ask if he had a blank flank or not. Apple Bloom’s not sure, but then yes, she thinks she remembers that he does! The others leap up. They’ve gotta go help that Pony get his cutie mark! Psyched, SB and Scoot go running out, but Apple Bloom’s reluctant to show her face anywhere in the tap universe right now. SB and Scoot remind her: “Together forever, remember!” and convince a reluctant Apple Bloom to come along.

SC. 14 - INT./EXT. TAP DANCE RECITAL HALL/PONYVILLE - EVENING

With the show about to begin, the CMCs search the audience but can’t find the Shy Pony anywhere. They quickly figure out that they can cover more ground by splitting up and in a “Get Me To the Church On Time” inspired song, they proceed to scour all of Ponyville. Finding him, Scootaloo conveys (in song) that she has reason to believe he’s destined to be a great tap dancer and she’s plans to help him fulfill his destiny! Shy Pony: “Do I know you?”

As Scootaloo propels the two of them through Ponyville, picking up Sweetie Belle and AB on the way, the CMCs explain why they think it’s important for him to perform. Shy Pony is less than enthusiastic as they rocket toward the recital hall and arrive with just enough time for him to perform his solo. The only problem is that he still isn’t convinced – and looking out at the audience makes him want to do it even less. He explains that he doesn’t even have his music, but Sweetie Belle assures him that her vocal accompaniment will more than suffice. Shy Pony is still reluctant – he can’t imagine getting out on that stage alone. AB explains that he doesn’t have to. She’s happy to go out there with him and give the performance of her life if it will help him do what he was obviously born to do. As the Tap teacher starts to object (AB is really bad, after all), AB points out how Shy Pony will look even better in comparison. Shy Pony accepts and as the lights go down, both AB and Shy Pony head out onto stage.

The lights go down and Sweetie Belle starts to sing as the Shy Pony looks out at the audience and freezes! Luckily, AB goes into her crazy version of a tap routine – much to the Teacher’s chagrin – and breaks the Shy Pony out of his zone. He starts to join in and in no time at all is giving the performance of his life. AB recedes into darkness, giving the stage to the Shy Pony who is clearly right where he belongs. The CMCs stand in the wings, watching in wonder as he brings the number to a big finish. As the APPLAUSE THUNDERS, he gets his cutie mark right there on the spot.

SC. 15 - EXT. THEATER - LATER THAT NIGHT

The CMCs get ready to scooter home together. SB and Scoot revel in the afterglow of the experience. They did it! Apple Bloom is just glad they were able to fix her mistake. Her friends insist it wasn’t a mistake – she found somepony to help, and she did it while trying something new (even if she was really bad at it). Then it dawns on Apple Bloom: maybe that’s their new way of being together. They’ll live their own lives, and in so doing, they’ll find more ponies that need help than if they never left each other’s sides. Not to say they can’t still hang out - they just need to broaden their horizons. With that, they all pack onto the scooter together and go. Cozy. From this vantage point, Apple Bloom allows that maybe change isn’t so bad after all. Maybe.