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MY LITTLE PONY 6

"On Your Marks"

Episode 604

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TEASER

SC. 1 - INT. CUTIE MARK CRUSADER CLUBHOUSE - DAY

CLOSE on APPLE BLOOM standing at the podium banging her GAVEL.

1 APPLE BLOOM
Hear ye, hear ye, the first post-
cutie mark meeting of the Cutie
Mark Crusaders is now in session!

Silence.

2 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Ahem. Hello?

REVEAL - SWEETIE BELLE gazing down at her own flank - and her NEW CUTIE MARK - admiringly.

3 SWEETIE BELLE
Oh, I'm sorry Apple Bloom. I was
distracted by the radiance of my
cutie mark. Did you say something?

REVEAL - SCOOTALOO standing in the corner, looking at herself in a mirror. She turns, checking out her CUTIE MARK from both sides.

4 SCOOTALOO
I mean, it is pretty amazing how
the colors just pop off your flank.
It's kinda hard to look away.

Apple Bloom walks out from behind the podium and looks down at her own CUTIE MARK.

5 APPLE BLOOM
I know our cuite marks are amazing.
But is that all we're gonna do now?
Just spend our days staring down at
our own flanks?

6 SWEETIE BELLE
<SIGHS> I guess not.

But she doesn't look away.

7 SCOOTALOO
(still looking in the
mirror)
Yeah. I suppose that could get real
boring.

Apple Bloom looks down at her CUTIE MARK again and gets caught up.

8 APPLE BLOOM
 (wistful)
Yeah.

For a beat they all continue to stare, then Apple Bloom shakes her head, coming out of it.

9 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
All right. This is ridiculous! We need to go out and do something!

The others look up, like waking from a dream.

10 SWEETIE BELLE
Wow. You're right!

11 SCOOTALOO
Yeah! We need to go try stuff, like we used to!

12 APPLE BLOOM
Exactly.

REVEAL - Sweetie Belle suddenly in COUNTRY WESTERN WEAR.

13 SWEETIE BELLE
Like square dancing!

REVEAL - Scootaloo suddenly in traditional, Austrian mountain trekking attire (i.e., LEDERHOSEN, etc.).

14 SCOOTALOO
Or mountain climbing!

REVEAL - Apple Bloom wearing a combination of both outfits.

15 APPLE BLOOM
Or square dancing on the mountain we just climbed!

16 ALL
Yeah!

17 APPLE BLOOM
And the more things we try, the more chances we'll have to finally get our cutie marks! Come on!

Apple Bloom rushes to the door.

18 SWEETIE BELLE (O.S.)
Um... Apple Bloom?

Apple Bloom turns back to see Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle pointing at their CUTIE MARKS. Apple Bloom stops and looks back down at hers.

19 APPLE BLOOM
Oh. Right.

Off Apple Bloom's look of embarrassment...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 2 - INT. CLUBHOUSE - RESUME

Still in their square dancing and mountain climbing attire, Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo sit in the clubhouse looking up at their BIG BOARD OF ACTIVITIES.

20 APPLE BLOOM
Did we really only ever do things just to get our cutie marks?

21 SWEETIE BELLE
I don't know. Maybe?

22 SCOOTALOO
Aw, come on. We did lots of stuff that didn't have anything to do with getting a cutie mark.

23 SWEETIE BELLE
Of course we did.

24 APPLE BLOOM
Absolutely.

The three of them think as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

A SERIES OF CUTS OF THE CMCS FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES:

- Apple Bloom hang-gliding from Call of the Cutie.

- All three of them with hammers from Stare Master.
- The three of them swimming under water from Show Stoppers.
- Even faster cuts of each of them juggling, loop-da-looping, zip-lining etc., until finally we...

CUT BACK TO:

The three of them still thinking.

25 SCOOTALOO
Well, some stuff, anyway.

26 SWEETIE BELLE
Huh. So, now that we don't have to
do stuff to get our cutie marks,
what is it that the Cutie Mark
Crusaders actually do?

After a short, reflective beat...

27 APPLE BLOOM
We do exactly what we got our cutie
marks in.

28 ALL
Helping other ponies!

29 SCOOTALOO
Ponies without cutie marks!

30 SWEETIE BELLE
Or ponies who've forgotten their
special purpose!

31 APPLE BLOOM
Exactly! We just have to find
ponies who need our help. Come on!

Apple Bloom rushes to the door.

32 SWEETIE BELLE (O.S.)
Um... Apple Bloom?

33 APPLE BLOOM
Now what?

Apple Bloom turns back to see Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle pointing at their outfits (still square dancing and mountain climbing).

34 SWEETIE BELLE
Maybe we should change first.

Apple Bloom looks down at her combo-suit. Off her embarrassed expression...

SC. 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

The CMCs trot along behind BIG MACINTOSH as he strains to pull a wagon loaded down with APPLES through town. Each of them take turns running in front to talk to him.

35 SWEETIE BELLE
But are you sure you feel content?

36 BIG MAC
Eeyup.

37 SCOOTALOO
Not even a tinge of
dissatisfaction?

38 BIG MAC
Nope.

39 APPLE BLOOM
Not even the slightest nagging
sensation that you don't really
know what your purpose is in life
or why you have a big apple as a
cutie mark?

As Apple Bloom tries to stay in front of her brother, she trips causing Big Mac to pull up short to avoid hitting her.

The wagon tips forward spilling the giant load of apples onto Big Mac. He pops his head out of the pile, a single apple balancing on his head as he peers down at Apple Bloom.

40 BIG MAC
Nope.

Off Apple Bloom's apologetic expression...

SC. 4 - INT. SUGAR CUBE CORNER - DAY

CLOSE ON - Apple Bloom's face, looming large in frame.

41 APPLE BLOOM
The important thing to remember is
that there's no rush.

PAN TO - Scootaloo, her face looking down into frame, just as large.

42 SCOOTALOO
Exactly. The three of us tried for
the longest time, but it just comes
when it comes.

Sweetie Belle shoves into frame, her face equally big as she
looks down at us.

43 SWEETIE BELLE
And it's totally normal to feel
confused and maybe even a little
lost. But being a blank flank is
nothing to be ashamed of.

All three girls shove into frame together.

44 SCOOTALOO
So if you're having even the
slightest problem...

45 SWEETIE BELLE
Or concerns, or questions...

46 APPLE BLOOM
We want you to know that we are
here to help!

The girls turn as we cut wide to reveal MR. and MRS. CAKE
standing in the doorway.

47 MRS. CAKE
I don't think they're too worried
about it yet.

The girls turn back and look down as we reveal they've been
addressing POUND and PUMPKIN CAKE. Pound Cake looks up and
coos. Pumpkin sucks her hoof as we...

CUT TO:

SC. 5 - CRUSADING MONTAGE

- All three girls charge down the Friendship Express Station
platform as the train pulls in. They arrive just as the doors
open and a worried CONDUCTOR steps out. He quickly compares
the station CLOCK to his pocket WATCH as the hand ticks over
to the top of the hour first on the clock, then on his watch
and he smiles, relieved. The girls look from the clock, to
his watch, to his cutie mark of a CLOCK FACE and <SIGH>.

- The girls rush into Ponyville Town Hall. They charge up a set of stairs and burst into MAYOR MARE's office to find the Mayor pacing back and forth from one assistant to another, reading and signing SCROLL after SCROLL. As the girls enter she stops and turns to look at them, revealing her cutie mark - a SCROLL. The girls all look down, disappointed.

- QUICK CUTS as the girls rush up to: DOCTOR HORSE looking at an ELECTROCARDIOGRAM and turning to reveal his cutie mark of an ELECTROCARDIOGRAM; FILTHY RICH counting SACKS OF MONEY, then standing to reveal his cutie mark of SACKS OF MONEY; ACE lobbing TENNIS BALL after TENNIS BALL over a net, then bending down to reveal his cutie mark of TENNIS BALLS; etc.

END CRUSADING MONTAGE

SC. 6 - EXT. PONYVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE - DAY

The gang sit on the front steps looking dejected. Apple Bloom kicks at the dirt.

48 APPLE BLOOM
This is gonna be a lot harder than
I thought.

49 SWEETIE BELLE
Who knew there were so few ponies
worried about their cutie marks.

50 SCOOTALOO
Kinda makes you wonder why we made
such a big deal out of it for so
long.

The other two look at her.

51 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
What?

52 APPLE BLOOM
The point is, helping ponies with
cutie mark problems is what makes
us special.

53 SWEETIE BELLE
But if we can't find anypony with a
problem...

54 SCOOTALOO
(with sudden dread)
Maybe we're not special.

The girls all exchange worried looks when a sudden LOUD VOICE comes from off screen.

55 BULK BICEPS (O.S.)
YEAH!

PAN TO REVEAL - BULK BICEPS sitting next to them on the school steps.

56 BULK BICEPS (CONT'D)
I know exactly what you mean! You can't find a cutie mark problem, I have a cutie mark problem. It's so confusing and I feel like the solution is staring me right in the face.

The three girls exchange a look, then turn toward Bulk, literally staring him right in the face. Bulk looks up.

57 BULK BICEPS (CONT'D)
What?

SC. 7 - INT. CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Bulk sits in the center of the clubhouse, hunched over, trying to fit in the small space. The floor CREAKS with his every move.

58 BULK BICEPS
I see why you guys hang out here.
It's cozy!

Scotaloo squeezes around him.

59 SCOOTALOO
The Crusader Clubhouse is a safe place, Mr., um... Bulk.

60 SWEETIE BELLE
A place where we've faced all kinds of cutie mark problems.

61 APPLE BLOOM
A place where we'll go on to solve even more - starting with yours!

62 SCOOTALOO
No matter how long it takes.

63 SWEETIE BELLE
Or how hard it is.

64 APPLE BLOOM
We'll solve it because That's.
What. We. Do!

65 ALL
Yeah!

The CMCs high-hoof. Bulk looks at them, the floor CREAKING again as he tries not to move in the tight space.

66 BULK BICEPS
YEAH!

They all just stare at each other for a beat, then...

67 SWEETIE BELLE
So... what's you're cutie mark
problem?

68 BULK BICEPS
Oh! Right! Well, my cutie mark is a
dumb bell...

He shifts his weight to give them a better look and the whole clubhouse shudders.

69 BULK BICEPS (CONT'D)
But I've lifted every dumb bell in
Ponyville!

The CMCs all exchange looks.

70 SCOOTALOO
Have you tried lifting other
things?

71 BULK BICEPS
You mean, not dumb bells?

72 SWEETIE BELLE
Yeah.

73 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah.

74 BULK BICEPS
(excited)
YEAH!

Excited, Bulk raises his hooves and the floor gives way under him. The CMC's rush up and look through the hole as a CRASH outside shakes the clubhouse.

Suddenly, Bulk pops his head back up through the floor.

75 BULK BICEPS (CONT'D)
I mean, no. I hadn't thought of
that. YOU GUYS ARE AWESOME!

With that, Bulk drops back down. Scootaloo turns to the others.

76 SCOOTALOO
Hey, that was easy!

Suddenly, Bulk pops back up.

77 BULK BICEPS
But what happens when I run out of
other stuff?

The CMCs exchange another look.

78 SWEETIE BELLE
I guess you could teach other
ponies to lift things.

79 APPLE BLOOM
Yeah.

80 SCOOTALOO
Yeah.

81 BULK BICEPS
YEAH! Wow. You three really have a
knack for this!

With that, Bulk drops down again and is gone. Sweetie Belle looks to the others.

82 SWEETIE BELLE
That was easy!

83 APPLE BLOOM
Maybe too easy.

84 SCOOTALOO
What do you mean?

85 APPLE BLOOM
Well, it's looking like cutie mark
problems are few and far between.

86 SWEETIE BELLE
And?

87 APPLE BLOOM
And what if we never find another
one!?

88 SCOOTALOO
 (dubious)
Well...

89 APPLE BLOOM
And even if we do, we could solve
it so quick it'll be like it never
happened in the first place.

90 SWEETIE BELLE
So?

91 APPLE BLOOM
Sooo... Then the Cutie Mark
Crusaders don't have any reason to
exist!

Off Apple Bloom's worried expression, Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo exchange a look as we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 8 - INT. CLUBHOUSE - RESUME

Sweetie Belle points to a VENN DIAGRAM she's hung on the wall.

92 SWEETIE BELLE
The problem boils down to this...

She uses a POINTER to point to the first circle in which there's a picture of a PONY FLANK WITH THE CMC CUTIE MARK.

93 SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D)
We don't need to go out and do
things anymore to get our cutie
marks.

94 APPLE BLOOM
Right! And...

Scootaloo points to the second circle in which there's a PONY WITH A SAD FACE looking at their flank.

95 SCOOTALOO
Ponies with Cutie Mark problems are
hard to find.

96 APPLE BLOOM
Exactly. But...

Apple Bloom points to the last circle where there's a picture of a stop watch.

97 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Even when we find problems, we're
so good at solving them...

She points to the center where the three circles intersect.

98 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
That most of the time there's
nothing for the Cutie Mark
Crusaders to do!

Apple Bloom hangs up a map of Equestria that she's divided into quadrants.

99 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
So I thought we should start
figuring out ways to search all of
Equestria for cutie mark problems!

Scotaloo and Sweetie Belle exchange dubious looks.

100 SCOOTALOO
That kinda seems like a lot.

101 SWEETIE BELLE
I don't think Rarity would let me
travel to the far reaches of
Equestria looking for cutie mark
problems.

102 SCOOTALOO
Yeah. I'm sure we'll come across
them in Ponyville. And when we do,
we'll totally take solve them
because we are so awesome at it!

Sweetie Belle and Scotaloo exchange high-hoofs.

103 APPLE BLOOM
But what do we do until then?

The three of them think for a beat, then...

104 SWEETIE BELLE
Maybe whatever we want?

105 APPLE BLOOM
What do you mean?

106 SWEETIE BELLE
Well, we used to only do stuff to
get our cutie marks or fullfil our
destiny, but now we don't have to.

107 APPLE BLOOM
(realizing)
So, we can do things just for fun?

108 SCOOTALOO
Cool!

The three of them all look at each other excited.

109 APPLE BLOOM
Are you girls thinking what I'm
thinking?

110 SWEETIE BELLE/SCOOTALOO
Sure am!

The three of them all shout out in unison - though not unison
because they're shouting different things...

111 SCOOTALOO/SWEETIE BELLE/APPLE BLOOM
Scooting!/Singing!/Making potions!

They all stare at each other confused - this feels like the
first time ever that they haven't been on the same page.

SC. 9 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY

Scootaloo looks at a track she's set up: a downhill path to a
ramp over a series of hay bails in front of the barn.

REVEAL - Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom next to her, both on
their own scooters (all in appropriate helmets and safety
gear). They both look down the track with trepidation.

112 SCOOTALOO
Just remember: Stomp. Kick. And
roll. After this, you two are gonna
love scootering as much as me.

113 APPLE BLOOM
(uncertain)
If you say so.

114 SCOOTALOO
Ready? Stomp!

CLOSE - on Scoot putting her hoof on the ground.

115 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
Kick!

CLOSE - on Scoot shoving off.

116 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
AND ROLL!

ON SCOOT - as she rolls down the hill, hits the ramp, does a perfect flip over the hay bails and lands inside the open doors of the barn's hay loft.

117 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
(triumphant)
Ta-da!

PULL WIDE - to reveal, Sweetie Belle upside down in the bails of hay.

PULL WIDER - to reveal an Apple Bloom shaped hole in the side of the barn. Apple Bloom sticks her head out, bits of hay and wood sticking out of her helmet.

118 APPLE BLOOM
I don't think I did it right.

Off Scoot's frown...

SC. 10 - INT. RARITY'S HOUSE - DAY

An excited Sweetie Belle stands in front of a music stand, sheet music open in front of her.

She SINGS as she points first to herself, then to Scootaloo and Apple Bloom in turn.

119 SWEETIE BELLE
Doooooe...
(to Scoot)
Meeeee...
(to Apple Bloom)
Soooooo.
(then)
It's just a simple harmony.

REVEAL - Scootaloo and Apple Bloom's screwed up faces as they stare at the complicated looking sheet music.

120 SCOOTALOO
Harmony, huh?

Sweetie Belle smiles as she levitates a conductor's baton in front of her and TAPS the stand.

121 SWEETIE BELLE
And, ah-one, and ah-two, and ah-
one, two, three...

All three girls sing long, extended notes that absolutely in no way harmonizes AT ALL.

122 SCOOTALOO/SWEETIE BELLE/APPLE BLOOM
Doooooe/Meeeeeee/Sooooooo

Sweetie Belle's expression quickly shifts from excited to horrified - like she smells something rotten. She stops them with a flourish of her baton.

123 SCOOTALOO
(obliviously tone deaf)
Wow. That was simple.

Off Sweetie Belle's and Apple Bloom's shared eye roll.

SC. 11 - INT. ZECORA'S HUT - DAY

Apple Bloom hovers over a small bowl, adding ingredients from a series of small jars, one at a time.

124 APPLE BLOOM
It's just a dash, and a drop, and a
drip.

With the last of her ingredients, the contents of the bowl GLOW bright pink. Apple Bloom gestures to her friends who have their own bowls and jars of ingredients.

Sweetie Belle and Scoot reach for their jars as Apple Bloom smiles wide.

CLOSE - Apple Bloom's smiling face as she closes her eyes and repeats the instructions.

125 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(sing-song)
Just a dash and a drop and a drip--

With Apple Bloom's last words there's loud POOF and we PAN OVER to reveal Sweetie Belle and Scoot frozen over their bowls - their manes blown back, their faces covered in SOOT. They turn to Apple Bloom and frown.

ZECORA looks over at the three of them and shakes her head.

SC. 12 - INT. CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Once again, Apple Bloom stands at the front of the room. She looks at a new chart of activities, each signified by an icon, most of which have been crossed out.

Apple Bloom <SIGHS> as she crosses out yet another - a picture of a BUNGEE JUMPER.

126 APPLE BLOOM
...and even though Scootaloo thinks
bungee jumping is the bees knees,
Sweetie Belle would rather keep
bees. Of course, I'm allergic...

She cross out a picture of a BEEKEEPER'S HAT. She looks up at all the crossed out activities.

127 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Wow. Who'd of thought it would be
so hard to find something for us
all to do together?

Scoot walks up and looks at the recently crossed out bungee jumper.

128 SCOOTALOO
Well, I know this might sound
crazy, but what if we didn't?

129 APPLE BLOOM
Didn't what?

130 SCOOTALOO
Do things together. Well, do
everything together.

131 APPLE BLOOM
But we're the Cutie Mark Crusaders!

132 SCOOTALOO
And we always will be - we're super
good at it - but I really wanna
bungee jump. The speed! The height!
The fall!

Apple Bloom looks woozy at the thought. Sweetie Belle points up at a crossed out crochet hook.

133 SWEETIE BELLE
And I know you two aren't
interested, but I want try crochet.

They both turn to Apple Bloom.

134 SCOOTALOO
(to Scoot)
Isn't there something you've always
wanted to do on your own?

135 APPLE BLOOM
I don't know. I guess I figured
we'd always do stuff together. But
bungee jumping sounds just as scary
as crochet sounds boring.

136 SCOOTALOO
That's okay. Sweetie Belle and I
can do the things we like and you
can do whatever you like.

137 SWEETIE BELLE
Just as soon as you figure out what
it is.

138 APPLE BLOOM
I guess...

Apple Bloom looks up, surprised to see Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle heading for the door.

139 SCOOTALOO
Great! Then we can meet back here
and talk all about what we've done.

140 APPLE BLOOM
But I don't know what it'll be.

141 SWEETIE BELLE
You'll find something!

142 SCOOTALOO
Something awesome!

With that Scoot and Sweetie Belle leave. Apple Bloom stares up at her big chart.

143 APPLE BLOOM
Well, I guess now I have to.

<MUSIC UP> as a SPOTLIGHT forms around Apple Bloom. She looks up at the BIG BOARD of activities as she sings...

144 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
*I never thought what I'd do
if I had to find something new
to do by myself*
(MORE)

APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
*for just myself
with no other pony's point of
view...*

Apple Bloom turns away from the board and we PAN around to find she's now...

ON A RAFT IN A RIVER (Production Note: All ponies seen on the raft should be wearing life jackets.)

Apple Bloom navigates the rapids with other rafting ponies as she continues to sing...

145 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
*I guess I just assumed
that our friendships would consume
all my time
and that'd be fine,
we'd always be crusading...*

She unwittingly steers the raft into a log and catapults into the air, landing in a...

GRAPE STOMPING VAT

She immediately joins in with other ponies as they crush the grapes that are being poured in, while another pony turns a spigot, filling jugs of grape juice.

146 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
*But now we're not
and I have the thought
that our friendships might be
fading.
Without my friends it's all just
stress,
Without my friends it's all a mess.*

CLOSE ON - Apple Bloom picking up a hoof and looking at the grape stain as we PAN AROUND HER and she reaches out for a...

PAINT CANVAS

Reveal Apple Bloom in a figure drawing class - with a group of other ponies painting.

147 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
*Though I want what's best
for all the rest,
but for me it's just frustrating.

Don't know what to do, with just
me.*

All the other painters reveal wonderful drawings. Apple Bloom's looks like a stick figure. She tosses it aside and turns to find she's standing...

IN A KITCHEN

Apple Bloom looks at a recipe as she readies her ingredients and looks into a pot of water.

148 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
*We always picked the things we did
together.
And now that's changed for good,
for bad, forever!*

In the water reflections of Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo appear, but when she looks up she's still alone. Apple Bloom <SIGHS> and turns away.

From a LOW ANGLE we watch Apple Bloom walk, stylized images of activities floating over her head: KNITTING NEEDLES, CARPENTRY TOOLS, FISHING POLES, SOCCER BALLS, etc.

149 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
*The more things that I try to do
The one thing that I'm sure is
true,

I don't know what to do, with just
me.*

<MUSIC OUT> as Apple Bloom's march of sadness stops and she looks up. The stylized background of her musical number fades away and she finds herself in Ponyville, standing outside...

SC. 13 - EXT. DANCE ACADEMY - DAY

Apple Bloom looks in at a class of ponies dancing back and forth with each other. Apple Bloom brightens as the couples swoop and swirl, moving together as one.

SC. 14 - INT. DANCE ACADEMY - DAY

The dance instructor, HOOFER STEPS, stands up front, counting as her students glide across the floor in pairs.

150 HOOFER STEPS
*One, two, three, four. One, two,
three, four--*

Suddenly Apple Bloom rushes in and stands in the middle of the room.

151 APPLE BLOOM
Whatever kind of dancing y'all are
doing, you're doing it together and
I want in!

The whole class stops and stares at her.

152 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
I mean, <COUGHS>, would it be okay
if I enrolled in this dance class?

Hooper steps forward.

153 HOOFER STEPS
Well, let's see what you can do. We
have a recital at Town Hall tonight
and a spot just opened up.

Hooper points to the side of the room where a shy, blank-flank, pony, TENDER TAPS, sits by himself.

154 HOOFER STEPS (CONT'D)
Tender Taps is a little too shy to
perform, but if you're ready to
step into a partnered routine...

155 APPLE BLOOM
That sounds an awful lot like
friendship, and I'm ready for
anything I don't have to do by
myself.

156 HOOFER STEPS
Well, then, dancing with a partner
will be perfect.

Apple Bloom nods, excited. Hooper leads another DANCE PONY over and he strikes a ballroom dance pose. Apple Bloom takes his hooves as Hooper heads back to the front of the room and starts counting again.

157 HOOFER STEPS (CONT'D)
And, one, two, three, four. One,
two, three, four...

As Hooper continues to count we cut CLOSE on Apple Bloom, smiling as she also counts along, happy to be a part of something, finally.

158 APPLE BLOOM
One, two, three, four...

Apple Bloom leans, side to side, ready to whirl and swoop as she's seen the other's do but as we cut CLOSE on her partner's growing expression of horror we PULL WIDE TO...

REVEAL - Apple Bloom tripping over his and her own feet...

159 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
One, twooooooooOOOOHHHH!

Apple Bloom falls to the ground, pulling her partner down with her as they both colloid with several other dancing pairs of ponies.

Hoofer stares down at Apple Bloom as she disengages from the massive pile of hooves and legs.

160 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
All right. I feel like that went pretty good, but let's give it one more whirl because it's important that I do a good job partnering with my new group of friends...

Apple Bloom looks up to see the entire class looking at her with exasperated expressions. Hoofer steps forward.

161 HOOFER STEPS
Come to think of it, you might be do better as a soloist.

Off of Apple Blooms dejected expression...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 15 - INT. DANCE ACADEMY - RESUME

Apple Bloom stands in front of the class of disgruntled dance ponies. Hoofer steps froward.

162 HOOFER STEPS
Partnering is a little advanced for you, but there's still a lot you can do on your own.

163 APPLE BLOOM
I'm sorry, but doing stuff on my own is exactly what I don't want.

With that, Apple Bloom walks out.

SC. 16 - EXT. DANCE ACADEMY - DAY

Dejected, Apple Bloom mopes out of the Dance Academy. She looks out at the empty street and <SIGHS>. Suddenly, the shy pony, TENDER TAPS, walks out after her.

164 TENDER TAPS
Sorry it didn't work out.

165 APPLE BLOOM
Trying different things with my friends was always fun, even when we were terrible. Now it's just terrible.

166 TENDER TAPS
You weren't that bad, you just need to learn a few things on your own. Being a soloist can be fun...

With that, Tender Taps breaks into a spontaneous tap routine.

[NOTE: We don't have to see all of it. We can accomplish a lot with just the start of a move, then hearing his hooves tapping as we stay on his face, etc.]

He's clearly amazing, as he stomps and slides across the sidewalk, in perfect syncopated rhythm. He finishes with a spectacular move - running up a wall, flipping and landing in the splits.

167 TENDER TAPS (CONT'D)
You just have to do it with feeling.

Tender Taps looks up at Apple Bloom but she just <SIGHS>.

168 APPLE BLOOM
Thanks, but without my friends, I don't think I'll ever feel again. Good luck at the recital.

Apple Bloom turns to go.

169 TENDER TAPS
Oh, I'm not going to that. I mean, I want to. It's kind of all I think about. I bet someday my cutie mark will even be about performing, but I could never dance in front of an audience the way I do in class. That's terrifying.

170 APPLE BLOOM
 (barely listening)
Yeah. Okay. Nice meeting you.

171 TENDER TAPS
You too.

Apple Bloom shuffles off. Tender Taps watches her go, then shrugs and taps his way back inside.

SC. 17 - EXT. CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Sweetie Belle stands on the balcony wrapping a HUGE SCARF around and around her neck when Scootaloo comes swinging in from out of frame and lands right in front of the door.

172 SCOOTALOO
Sweetie Belle, you are not going to believe this, but I think I like bungee jumping even more than scootering!

173 SWEETIE BELLE
Seriously? That's amazing. Look what I did!

Sweetie Belle unwraps her giant scarf and holds it up. It's completely uneven with oddly shaped holes throughout.

174 SCOOTALOO
 (hesitant)
Wow. That's, um...

175 SWEETIE BELLE
Horrible! But it was so much fun. Rarity showed me how, even though she says "crochet is knitting's poorer cousin." But I loved it.

176 SCOOTALOO
Awesome!

The two of them open the door and head inside.

SC. 18 - INT. CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The shade has been drawn and a single shaft of light falls from the open doorway onto Apple Bloom slumped in the corner, staring at them.

177 APPLE BLOOM
Oh. Hello, girls. Have fun pursuing
your own interests?

178 SCOOTALOO
Apple Bloom? What are you doing
sitting in the dark?

179 SWEETIE BELLE
Yeah. We thought you'd be out
looking for things you like to do.

180 APPLE BLOOM
Oh, I did. I looked all over town.
I looked and I looked and I looked
and you know what I found?

The others shake there heads.

181 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Nothing!

Apple Bloom throws up the shade to reveal the entire
clubhouse is covered with images of activities, every one of
them crossed out.

The other two look around the room in shock.

182 SCOOTALOO
You tried every one of these?

183 APPLE BLOOM
(nods)
And each one just made me feel more
alone than the next. I don't see
how I'm supposed to be happy that
we're not hanging out anymore.

184 SCOOTALOO
Wait. I never said that. I just
said we don't have to do everything
together.

185 SWEETIE BELLE
Exactly, like when there's
something one of us want to do that
the others don't.

186 APPLE BLOOM
(realizing)
Oh.
(beat)
Well, I guess that changes things.

187 SCOOTALOO
I can't believe you thought we
didn't want to hang out any more.

188 SWEETIE BELLE
I can't believe you tried all this
stuff and didn't find one thing you
liked.

189 APPLE BLOOM
Well, I kind of liked dancing.
Mainly because it looked like
something you couldn't do alone,
but I wasn't very good at it.

Sweetie Belle holds up her huge, misshapen scarf.

190 SWEETIE BELLE
You don't have to be good at
something to have fun.

191 SCOOTALOO
And being good doesn't always mean
you will.

192 APPLE BLOOM
I know. I met the best dancer in
the world, but he was so shy, he
couldn't bring himself to perform
even though he really, really
wanted to.

Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle exchange a look.

193 SWEETIE BELLE
I don't suppose this dancing pony
had a cutie mark, did he?

Off Apple Bloom's clueless expression...

SC. 19 - EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY

Scootaloo pulls up on her scooter, towing the others behind
in a wagon (all three in safety gear). Apple Bloom leaps out.

194 APPLE BLOOM
I can't believe I was so busy
feeling sorry for myself that I
missed a pony who might have an
actual cutie mark problem!

195 SCOOTALOO
Are you sure he'll be at the
recital?

196 APPLE BLOOM
There's only one way to find out!

With that, they all charge inside.

SC. 20 - INT. TOWN HALL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

The CMCs burst in to find Tender Taps watching from the back as a DANCING COUPLE performs on stage.

197 APPLE BLOOM
You're here!

Tender Taps looks at Apple Bloom in shock as an INDIGNANT PONY in the back row of the auditorium turns around.

198 INDIGNANT PONY
SHHHHH!

Apple Bloom and the others lead Tender Taps backstage.

SC. 21 - INT. AUDITORIUM - BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Hoofer Steps and the rest of the dance class huddle in the wings waiting to go on as Tender Taps and the CMCs rush in. Tender Taps looks to Apple Bloom and her friends.

199 TENDER TAPS
What are you doing here?

200 APPLE BLOOM
You told me that you wanted to
perform more than anything, but I
was too caught up in myself to
listen. Well, you're the best
dancer I've ever seen and I'm here
to convince you to get out on that
stage!

Tender Taps looks from Apple Bloom to the next wave of dancers stepping out on stage to thunderous applause.

Tender Taps looks back to Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo staring at him expectantly.

201 TENDER TAPS
Um... Didn't I also tell you that dancing in front of other ponies is terrifying? I don't know if you noticed...

He opens a slit in the curtain so they can look out at the crowd.

202 TENDER TAPS (CONT'D)
...but that auditorium is full of other ponies! I can't go out there. What if I'm bad?

Apple Bloom looks out at the audience again, then turns to Tender Taps.

203 APPLE BLOOM
We can go on together. No matter what, you'll look good dancing next to me.

Tender Taps looks out on stage where the dancers receive another round of applause. He turns back to Apple Bloom and the others, resolved.

204 TENDER TAPS
All right. I'll do it. But I don't have my costume and the backdrop is all wrong and we don't have time to change it!

Apple Bloom looks at the floral backdrop on stage, then up into the fly gallery where a city scape hangs by a catwalk. She then looks to Sweetie Belle in her over-sized scarf.

205 APPLE BLOOM
Leave everything to us!

SC. 22 - INT. AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

The dancers on stage finish their routine as...

TENDER TAPS - looks out anxiously from the wings, now, wearing an ill-fitted CROCHET VEST.

206 TENDER TAPS
I don't know about this.

He looks over at Apple Bloom wearing a similar CROCHET VEST and HAT. Sweetie Belle finishes transforming the last of her giant scarf into Tender's hat, which she plops onto his head.

207 SWEETIE BELLE
Don't worry. You'll be just fine.

The three of them look up into the...

FLY GALLERY - Where Scootaloo stands on the catwalk in FULL BUNGEE JUMPING GEAR. A BUNGEE JUMPING PROFESSIONAL stands next to her, checking her equipment. He nods to her, while...

The last of the dancers from the previous routine exit the stage.

208 APPLE BLOOM
Here goes nothing!

She looks up and gives a wave to...

SCOOT - who jumps from the catwalk. Diving toward the stage, she grabs the FLORAL BACKDROP just as her bungee cord goes taught, impossibly pulling her and the entire backdrop back into the flies.

Flipping in the air, Scoot incredibly secures the old flat and grabs the new one, pulling it back down to the stage before rebounding back up, and flipping several times to land, miraculously back on the catwalk just as...

Tender Taps slides on stage, landing with a STOMP. He looks off stage and Apple Bloom slides after him, but instead of landing with a stomp, she keeps sliding right into the opposite wing.

The audience LAUGHS and Tender starts his routine. As before he taps across the stage in syncopated time while Apple Bloom makes her way back on stage.

In similar fashion to his first dance we don't see every step, but for every amazing series of steps we hear, Apple Bloom attempts a corresponding one, and fails spectacularly to the delight of the crowd.

In a big finish Tender runs up a wall and flips, landing on his feet. Apple Bloom attempts to run up the flat, but just crashes through it [think Donald O'Connor's "Make 'Em Laugh" routine from "Singing In The Rain"]. Finally Tender runs up the other side, flips and lands in the splits and the crowd leaps to their feet in applause.

Apple Bloom climbs back through the set and looks out at Tender gazing at the admiring crowd just as the image of a pair of TAP SHOES IN A SPOTLIGHT appears on his flank.

Off Apple Bloom's smile...

SC. 23 - EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY

Sweetie Belle, Scootaloo, and Apple Bloom all stand in front of Tender Taps who keeps turning around and around, looking at his new cutie mark.

209 TENDER TAPS
I can't believe it! It's just what
I always imagined it would be!

He looks to Apple Bloom and the others.

210 TENDER TAPS (CONT'D)
And if it weren't for all of you, I
wouldn't even have it.

211 SCOOTALOO
No problem.

212 SWEETIE BELLE
It's what we do.

213 APPLE BLOOM
I only wish I'd realized what you
needed right away instead of moping
around for no reason.

214 TENDER TAPS
Well, either way, I hope you keep
dancing.

215 APPLE BLOOM
You know, I just might. It sure is
a lot of fun, and I'm pretty sure I
can only get better.

Apple Bloom turns to Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo.

216 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I was so silly about us
all doing our own things. If we
hadn't I might never have even
tried dancing.

217 TENDER TAPS
Or found out I needed help.

218 SWEETIE BELLE
With each of us going out and
trying things on our own we'll be
three times as likely to find
ponies to help.

219 SCOOTALOO
And trying new stuff might even
make us better at helping them,
like how I used my bungee jumping
to change the sets.

220 SWEETIE BELLE
Or my crochet to make the costumes.

221 APPLE BLOOM
Well, one thing is for sure. The
Cutie Mark Crusaders will never be
the same.

Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo cast a worried look at Apple
Bloom who smiles.

222 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
We'll be better!

As the three of them high-hoof we...

END