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BALL MEBBERSON

my LITTLE PONY™

MICRO-SERIES

featuring

CELESTIA



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IDW

#8• CVR B

BALL
MEBBERSON

my LITTLE PONY™

...RIES

featuring

CELESTIA

Sabrina A.

featuring CELESTIA



my LITTLE PONY™

MICRO-SERIES

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THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS ROYAL HIGH TEA IS AN HONORED TRADITION THAT BRINGS PONIES AND TEACHERS CLOSER TOGETHER.

THE TEA, HOSTED AT CANTERLOT CASTLE, IS THE MOST ELEGANT LUNCHEON IN EQUESTRIA.

IT'S AN EXCITING EVENT FOR NEW TEACHERS TO ATTEND. AFTER A FEW YEARS...

...IT'S A LITTLE LESS EXCITING, PERHAPS.

BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS HAVE GONE BY, IT ALWAYS GIVES ME GREAT PRIDE TO SAY...

WELCOME, LOYAL SUBJECTS, TO THE ROYAL HIGH TEA!

FLORIBUNDA, I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.

OF COURSE! THE ROYAL HIGH TEA SIMPLY COULD NOT GO ON WITHOUT THE HEAD OF THE PONY-TEACHER COMMITTEE.

WHAT LOVELY DECORATIONS, PRINCESS CELESTIA. THEY'RE NOT NEARLY AS GAUDY AS LAST YEAR.

MY HONEY SWEET IS A RISING STAR IN DRAMA CLASS.

SHE'LL BE THE THIRD TREE ON THE LEFT IN NEXT MONTH'S SCHOOL PLAY.

I'M A SPECIAL LITTLE SNOWFLAKE!

FOLLOW THE NICE TEACHER, SWEETIE. MUMMY WUVS YOU!

CHANCE! PICK YOUR HOOVES UP.

ULP YES, DEAR.

GUESS WE KNOW WHO WEARS THE HORSESHOES IN THAT HOUSE.

FLORIBUNDA IS VERY INFLUENTIAL WITH THE OTHER PARENTS, GINGERSNAP.

I'M JUST GLAD I'LL BE WITH THE STUDENTS... OOPS! I MEAN... PARENTS ARE GREAT!

BUT STUDENTS ARE SO MUCH EASIER...

UH... AREN'T THEY?

OH, SURE. LAST YEAR'S CHAPERONE ONLY NEEDED TWO WEEKS TO RECOVER.

DON'T WORRY, GIDDILEE. THIS MAY BE YOUR FIRST YEAR, BUT I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN YOU.

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO BEGIN. HAS ANYPONY SEEN INKWELL?

JUST FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MOCKING LAUGHTER.

...SO THERE I WAS, WITH THAT GIANT MECHANICAL PIGGIE BEARING DOWN ON ME!

EVERY SPELL I TRIED JUST BOUNCED RIGHT OFF OF HIM.

LUCKY THING I'D JUST PICKED UP A TOE-PINCHIN' POTION FROM THE APOTHECARY!

I RAN STRAIGHT FOR THAT OINKER AND SAID, "I GOT A FLASK OF MAGIC TOOTSIE CREAM AND I'M NOT AFRAID TO USE IT!"

HEE HEE

SNICKER

INKWELL, THE ROYAL HIGH TEA IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

IT IS?

DON'T FORGET... "REWARDS GO TO THE WARY"!

HEE HEE HEE HEE

SNICKER

HA HA HA HA

"I SAW INKWELL OUTSIDE WITH HER EAR TO THE GROUND YESTERDAY.

"SO I ASKED HER WHAT SHE WAS DOING, AND SHE SAID..."

...THAT THE GOPHER HOLES WERE A "BREACH OF SECURITY."

HA HA HA HA HA HA

I HOPE ALL THESE PONIES HAD PROPER IDENTIFICATION. SPIES COULD BE ANYWHERE, YOU KNOW.

MAYBE THEY'RE GOPHERS IN DISGUISE.

HEE HEE HEE HEE

I WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU WOULD JOIN ME AT MY TABLE, INKWELL.

ALL RIGHTY!

HOW IS YOUR LEMON TART, FLORIBUNDA?
ADEQUATE, PRINCESS, BUT DO TELL YOUR CHEF TO USE FEWER LEMONS NEXT TIME.
GH!☆
NEVER TRUSTED PASTRIES. ANYTHING COULD BE LURKING IN THAT FILLING.
ONCE I BIT INTO AN ECLAIR AND THE CREAM CAME OUT THE OTHER END!
CHANCE...
YES, DEAR.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR DAUGHTER EXCELS AT... PENMANSHIP. PLEASE TELL US MORE.
EXCUSE ME...
YES, GIDDILEE?
OH! WELL, YOU SEE... I WAS IN THE STUDENT ROOM... BUT I'M NOT ANYMORE...
SOMEPONY THREW A SOUFFLE... A SPELL WENT ALL WACKO... IT'S NO BIG DEAL! EXCEPT...
ALL OF THE FOOD CAME TO LIFE AND IT'S ACTING REALLY AGGRESSIVE SO YOU HAVE TO COME RIGHT NOW!
PLEASE?

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

BE BRAVE, MY STUDENTS. A SPELL CARELESSLY CAST—

—IS EASILY UNDONE.

BWANG

ZAPPING THESE THINGS ONE AT A TIME WILL TAKE ALL DAY.

BBBBBRRRRR

LET'S TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE EFFICIENT.

RAAARRRRGGGHHHH

RIP

SQWERK

ARRARRRARRRARR

HONEY! OH, HONEY SWEETIE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

BRRRRRRRRR

O!☆

IS THIS WHAT YOUR SCHOOL CONSIDERS AN APPROPRIATE TEACHING METHOD?!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, BUT I ASSURE YOU... THE STUDENTS WERE NEVER IN DANGER.

THAT TEACHER IS PAST HER PRIME. SHE SHOULD RETIRE, AND UNTIL SHE'S NO LONGER WITH YOUR SCHOOL...

I'M KEEPING MY DAUGHTER SAFE AT HOME.

SNIF

PRINCESS CELESTIA, I'M SO SORRY! IF THE STUDENTS STAY HOME, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE SCHOOL?

NO CLASS TO TEACH MEANS NO SCHOOL TO TEACH IN.

MAYBE ONE OF US SHOULD HANG IT UP BEFORE WE *ALL* HAVE TO.

I'M NOT GOING TO LET FLORIBUNDA DICTATE WHEN MY TEACHERS RETIRE, GINGERSNAP.

FOR NOW, I NEED SOME TIME ALONE.

YES, PHILOMENA. IT HAS BEEN A LONG DAY.

SQUAAAAWK

BUT I REMEMBER A DAY THAT WAS EVEN LONGER...

"...WHEN WE WONDERED IF CANTERLOT WOULD EVER SEE ANOTHER.

CRRREEEAAAK

"THE CITY WAS UNDER ATTACK..."

RUN!

KADLUNG

OOOOOOH!

SHHUSSSHHHH

"THERE WERE TOO MANY...

"I COULDN'T HOLD THEM OFF ALONE.

SIZZZZZZ

"FORTUNATELY...

"I DIDN'T HAVE TO."

"WE PUSHED THEM BACK...

"...UNTIL THEY CRAWLED INTO THE SHADOWS THAT FORMED THEM.

"CANTERLOT WAS SAVED.

"I WANTED MY SUBJECTS TO STAY SAFE FOR MANY GENERATIONS TO COME.

"FOR THAT, I WOULD NEED HELP ONCE AGAIN...

"...AND I KNEW JUST THE RIGHT PONY FOR THE JOB."

INKWELL GAZETTE

TINKLE TINKLE

PLOP

OH!

I SEE YOU'RE BOOBY TRAPPING YOUR SHOP AGAIN.

LIKE I ALWAYS SAY, "REWARDS GO TO THE WARY."

GOT TO BE ON MY GUARD. I TOOK A COMIC STRIP OUT OF MY PAPER THIS WEEK AND GOT SO MANY ANGRY LETTERS—

I WONDERED IF YOU'D HAD A CHANCE TO CONSIDER MY OFFER.

TO TEACH AT YOUR SCHOOL? OH... WELL, IT'S JUST THAT I'VE NEVER BEEN AROUND LITTLE PONIES...

I UNDERSTAND, AND I WON'T ASK AGAIN—

BUT YOUR FANS WOULD STILL LIKE TO MEET YOU, MAY I LET THEM IN?

FANS?

BANG

YAY!

IT'S HER! IT'S REALLY HER!

IS THAT HER HAT RACK? I LOVE HER HAT RACK!

TELL US ABOUT THE TIME YOU FOUGHT THE GIANT PIG!

PLEASE OHPLEASE OHPLEASE?

AW, SHE'S PROBABLY TIRED OF TELLING THAT STORY.

YOU PONIES REALLY WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THAT?

OF COURSE!

I HEARD IT WAS AS BIG AS A MOUNTAIN!

HEH-HEH. MAYBE A LITTLE MOUNTAIN.

BUT EVEN A MECHANICAL PIG WILL CRY ***WEE-WEE-WEE*** ALL THE WAY HOME-IF YOU SQUEEZE ITS PINKY TOE HARD ENOUGH.

"WITH THE HELP OF TEACHERS LIKE INKWELL, MY SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS GREW INTO THE PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTION IT IS TODAY.

"BUT AS TIME WENT BY, HER IDEAS SEEMED A LITTLE... OLD-FASHIONED."

Really a Friend?

Z

EVERY TEACHER WANTS TO RETIRE SOMEDAY, PHILOMENA.

BUT FORCING INKWELL TO RETIRE BEFORE SHE'S READY WOULD BREAK HER HEART.

I MUST FIND A WAY TO SHOW MY SUBJECTS THE KIND OF PONY SHE REALLY IS.

THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS BY-LAWS SHOULD HAVE THE ANSWER... AH-HA!

101 CUPCAKES

Ethereal Haircare

I'M GOING TO SOLVE THIS DILEMMA BY THE BOOK.

RAVEN, PLEASE TAKE A MESSAGE.

YES, PRINCESS CELESTIA!

BY ROYAL DECREE, THE PONY-TEACHER COMMITTEE WILL ASSEMBLE AT PRINCESS CELESTIA'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS FOR A HEARING TOMORROW NIGHT—

—CONCERNING THE RETIREMENT OF MY MOST SENIOR TEACHER, INKWELL.

JUST LOOK AT HER! DOESN'T SHE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS HEARING IS?

ALL STAND AT ATTENTION FOR HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCESS CELESTIA!

AS IT IS WRITTEN IN OUR BY-LAWS, THE TEACHER MAY PROVE HER COMPETENCY BY PASSING A TEST—

CHOSEN BY ME.

?

BY REQUEST OF THE PRINCESS, THE TEACHER WILL TRANSFORM THIS UGLY, DISGUSTING TOAD...

...INTO A BEAUTIFUL... LESS DISGUSTING TOAD.

gulp

WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?

ISN'T SHE GOING TO DO ANYTHING?

IS THERE COTTON IN YOUR EARS TO MATCH THE FLUFF IN YOUR HEAD?!

WE DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT. ARE YOU GOING TO USE MAGIC ON THIS UGLY TOAD OR NOT?!

WHAT UGLY TOAD?

THE UGLY TOAD RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!

YOU MEAN THIS HANDSOME DEVIL?

WHY, I WOULDN'T CHANGE A BUMP ON HIS BODY.

HE'S PERFECT, JUST THE WAY HE IS.

WHA-? YOU-YOU... PUH PUH PUH...

FLORIBUNDA, DOESN'T THIS REMIND YOU OF SOMETHING?

I... I REMEMBER...

WAAAA AAAHHH AHHHHHHHH!

THERE YOU ARE, FLORIBUNDA. DON'T YOU WANT TO BE IN THE SCHOOL PICTURE?

NO! MY BRACES MAKE ME LOOK LIKE THE BIGGEST NERD IN SCHOOL.

OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

YOU CAN'T OUT-NERD ME, I'M A SEASONED VETERAN.

POOF

OK, MAYBE NOT ANYMORE.

I... I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THAT DAY.

SHINING LIGHTS–DIDN'T INKWELL HELP YOU OVERCOME YOUR SHYNESS?

WHAT IS IT YOU DO NOW, AGAIN?

I'M A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER.

I... I'M SO ASHAMED.

AND DIDN'T INKWELL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER ABOUT CARRYING AROUND YOUR TEDDY BEAR?

WHICH I TOTALLY DON'T NEED ANYMORE.

INKWELL MADE ME FEEL BETTER ABOUT MY EARS.

SHE HELPED ME GET OVER MY FEAR OF CLOWNS.

I DIDN'T KNOW HER AT ALL, I JUST WANT TO BE INCLUDED!

BUT I MUST REMIND YOU ALL, NO SPELL HAS BEEN CAST.

UNLESS THERE ARE ANY OBJECTIONS, I RULE IN FAVOR OF RETIREMENT FOR—

WAIT!

PRINCESS CELESTIA, I THINK I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US WHEN I SAY—

THAT WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE INKWELL AS A MEMBER OF YOUR FACULTY.

WE WITHDRAW OUR PETITION FOR RETIREMENT.

WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH OF THE PRINCESS' TIME.

OUT! OUT YOU ALL GO. YOU TOO, CHANCE.

YES, DEAR!

CONGRATULATIONS, OLD FRIEND. I'M GLAD YOU'LL BE STAYING ON.

NEVER DOUBTED IT FOR A MINUTE.

I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN SO ROUGH ON INKWELL, PRINCESS.

ME TOO.

I HOPE SHE KEEPS TEACHING FOR YEARS AND YEARS AND YEARS!

WELL, FOR AS LONG AS SHE WANTS TO, ANYWAY.

I WONDER WHAT SHE'S GOING TO DO NEXT? I MEAN, AFTER AN ORDEAL LIKE THAT, I'D TAKE A VACATION—OR...

MAYBE I'D LEARN TO KNIT! NO, TOO MUCH EXCITEMENT. MAYBE—

I'M SURE INKWELL IS ALREADY IN HER OFFICE, PREPARING FOR CLASS.

CONFIDENCE IS A GIFT, AND I HOPED INKWELL WOULD INSPIRE IT IN LITTLE PONIES FOR AS LONG AS SHE COULD.

YET I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER...

HAD MY OLD FRIEND'S CONFIDENCE BEEN SHAKEN?

PROF. INKWELL

ZZZZZZ

ZZZZZZ

YOU'VE EARNED YOUR REST. SLEEP WELL, FOR TOMORROW...

...IS ANOTHER SCHOOL DAY.