



ENCHANTED
PONY ACADEMY

Wings That Shine

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* illustrated by Heather Burns *

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CHAPTER 1

Skydancer rustled her wings in excitement as she listened to plans for the Homecoming celebration. It was her first month at the Enchanted Pony Academy, the magical school hidden beyond the clouds. At the academy she and the other Glitter Ponies worked on their magic to become pets for the royal children of the hundred kingdoms.

“Homecoming is our first competition between the four barns,” explained Belissima,

the lead pony of Skydancer's barn, Earth barn. There were four barns at the school: Earth, Sun, Sky, and Water. "Homecoming is so much fun!"

Skydancer's best friend, Daisy, swished her tail and smiled. Every pony had a Glitter Gift, but Daisy had one of the most incredible ones. She could turn invisible! And she was a wonderful friend.

"We must have the best float for the school-spirit contest," Belissima went on, pacing up and down at the front of their barn. "We'll use our magical talents to create an amazing float and then enter it in the parade around the exhibition field. Earth barn almost always wins, but we need some

great ideas. Anyone have something spectacular in mind?"

"I could put on a fireworks show," said Stone, stomping his hooves. His Glitter Gift was making sparks shoot from his horn and he loved playing tricks and surprising other ponies. "Turn my sparks into fireworks!" A few pops fizzled from his horn.

"Your spell didn't rhyme. Of course it didn't work!" said Lavender, making a row of posies bloom at her feet. She loved showing off her cool Glitter Gift. "I can certainly provide some flowers for the float!"

Skydancer swished her tail. "I will ask my bird friends if they can fly along with the float and sing." Since her Glitter Gift was

talking to other winged creatures, she knew she could get them to help.

“Great! We have to work together to create something amazing,” Belissima said. “But the student who works the hardest and contributes the most out of all the students in the four barns will be named Grand Pony Marshal of the Homecoming parade. The marshal even gets to pull the golden chariot



around the track, leading the floats! All our former students will be returning to the school with their royal children for the celebration! Your families can come, too. It's a wonderful day."

The ponies started whinnying and chattering.

"And you get to wear *this*." Belissima levitated a beautiful medal in front of the group. The rare gems from each barn were embedded in a gold circle. "This medal has been worn by the Grand Pony Marshal at Homecoming for hundreds of years. Usually, second-year ponies win that honor, but you never know! Maybe it'll be your turn next. Pass it around for a closer look at it. But be careful. It is very old and very precious."