1.

Attack of the Mini Beauty Queens

*A*pplying butt glue to my sister's backside is, without question, not the first way I'd choose to spend a weekend.

However, getting up close and personal is just one of the many glamorous tasks that are involved in being on Team Mackenzie. My sister's a beauty queen, and she's owning this room. I can't help but feel a small sense of pride while watching Mac strut onstage in her (non-riding-up) bikini in front of an audience.

I do realize how pathetic this makes my life sound.

Sometimes I can't believe that Mackenzie and I are related. Even the middle-aged man next to me currently taking photos of her gave me a

yeah-right look when I told him we were sisters. Not like I care what he thinks. *He's* the creepy one here.

Mac is one of those girls with shiny hair and gorgeous skin. You know the ones that I'm talking about.

I'm currently surrounded by them.

Even the most self-confident girl (who, to put it politely, does not possess any of the above mentioned characteristics) can feel a little down spending an entire day with the Beauty Bots.

There Mac is in the spotlight, smiling away as her (mostly fake) blond-highlighted hair bounces in the air. She twists and turns to the music blaring during the swimsuit competition. Her tanned legs (done in the hotel room bathroom last night) hit the mark as she shows off her white teeth (also fake) to the three judges in front of her. She bats her lashes (well, *some* belong to her) flirtatiously to the one male judge. Her red-sequined two-piece suit (I spent all week trying to get her to sit still for me to take it in) sparkles in the spotlight. It took two spa visits, one salon appointment, a hair and makeup stylist, one pageant coach, one seamstress sister, and one very stressed-out mother for her to arrive at this moment.

The music ends and she gives one final bow before she struts off stage.

"Wow, she's phenomenal," the guy next to me says.

I give him a look that makes it clear that I'm beyond disgusted by his interest in my sister.