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MY LITTLE PONY

"Over a Barrel"

EP021

Outline by  
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## TEASER

We OPEN on a panoramic view of the outskirts of Ponyville, as a train (pulled by a team of bulky Clydesdale-like ponies) heads out of town while the sun sets. We PAN OVER to the last car on the train, as we hear V.O. of APPLEJACK reading a bedtime story. As we PUSH IN to the last car, the story is wrapping up, and as we CUT INSIDE we see Applejack announce: "The end" and close the book. When she leans over to pull up the blanket and tuck someone in we REVEAL that the "someone" she's been reading to is a tree - an apple tree which Applejack tenderly refers to as BLOOMBERG. RARITY stands at the door and complains that the fanciest private sleeper car in the whole train is being occupied by a tree! Applejack shushes Rarity, admonishing her that Bloomberg needs his beauty sleep if his apples are to be all shiny for their arrival in Apple-Loosa. Being transplanted is highly traumatic for a tree, and Applejack has raised Bloomberg since he was just a sapling. Bloomberg's her baby! Applejack proceeds to nuzzle Bloomberg: "Who's my little coochie-coochie-coo! You are, yes you are, yes you are!" Rarity rolls her eyes.

## ACT ONE

Applejack and an irritated Rarity join the rest of the ponies – RAINBOW DASH, TWILIGHT, PINKIE PIE and FLUTTERSHY – along with SPIKE, in a sleeper car full of bunk beds they're sharing. When Spike insists that he's exhausted from a long day of breath-roasting snacks for their travels and needs some well-deserved shut-eye, everyone climbs into bed and the lights go out. A few moments later, Rainbow Dash whispers to Pinkie Pie: "You asleep yet?" Pinkie Pie: "No. Are you asleep yet?" (Rainbow Dash points out to Pinkie Pie that if she were asleep she couldn't have just asked Pinkie Pie a question.) Soon all the ponies are excitedly whispering about their trip to Apple-Loosa to see Applejack's relatives to celebrate the new town they've built, and to bring them Bloomberg to add to the new orchard they planted there. The whispered commotion eventually gets so bad that poor Spike exits the car in exasperation. Spike sneaks into the Bloomberg's private sleeper car, tiptoeing so as not to "awaken" the tree. Spike gently slides into bed next to the tree, asking it to "budge over." He pulls the blanket over himself, saying he hopes the tree doesn't mind. Apologizing in advance that he does tend to snore a bit, Spike settles down happily for a good night's sleep.

The next morning, a wild thundering sound awakens the ponies in their sleeper car. None of them have ever heard anything like it before, and they all wonder what it could be. Glancing outside, Twilight explains that it's the sound of HUGE STAMPEDING HERD OF BUFFALO, and it is truly a sight to behold. They look on in amazement. Rainbow Dash notices with concern that these buffalo are pulling up awfully close to the train. Pinkie Pie loves it: "They've come to snuggle the train!" A delighted Pinkie watches the Buffalo run alongside the train right outside her window, oblivious to Rainbow Dash looking at her like she's out of her gourd. Meanwhile, other Buffalo try to derail the pony team up front. The pony conductors push back. CUT TO inside the train, where ponies suddenly start tumbling about ridiculously. CUT TO the rear car where Spike

careens all over the place while somehow managing to snore his way through the whole thing.

Meanwhile, Pinkie looks outside and gleefully reports the adorable buffalo are doing tricks! Sure enough, one buffalo hops onto the back of another buffalo, and then another hops on top of that one until finally a smaller girl buffalo hops atop of the pile and climbs on top of the train. Pinkie claps her hooves, thoroughly entertained. But Rainbow Dash, sensing trouble, jumps out and flies up top to deal with the interloper. There, Rainbow Dash lunges at the little buffalo, but for a bulky animal this little lady is quite agile, dodging Dash successfully time and again as she steadily makes her way toward the back of the train, where the buffalo surprises Dash by dropping down between the last two cars. Dash adjusts too late and, CLANG!, hits her head on the side of the train, seeing stars.

With Dash momentarily sidelined, the little buffalo quickly uncouples the last car from the rest of the train. Letting loose a loud WHISTLE, a bunch of her fellow buffalo gather around and, MOOING loudly, they begin to pull Bloomberg the Apple Tree from the now-detached luxury car! Applejack: "They've got Bloomberg!" Twilight: "And Spike!" ANGLE ON Spike, emerging from the canopy of the tree waving frantically back to his pony friends, helpless to assist him from a speeding train.

## **ACT TWO**

The train pulls into the town of Apple-Loosa where the ponies are greeted by Applejack's cousin BRAEBURN, a character so upbeat and enthusiastic about being hospitable and showing his new guests around that when our ponies breathlessly try telling him of the trouble their friends Spike and Bloomberg are in, they can barely get a word in edgewise! Braeburn chalks up their agitation to excitement over finally being in this fine town of Apple-Loosa and, goshdarnit, who can blame 'em! Braeburn's whirlwind tour includes all their new town's pony-style amenities set amidst rolling hills: the carriages, the cow-pony characters with their Western-style costumes, the Salt Lick Saloon, etc. The ponies keep trying to interject about their friends to no avail. The climax of the tour is Apple-Loosa's beloved apple orchard, transplanted here on the wonderful strip of flat fertile land that inspired them to settle here in the first place. They're so looking forward to their first harvest. The apples should be ready any day now, which is good because they need the food from this harvest to live on.

Applejack finally succeeds with interrupting Braeburn's energetic soliloquy long enough to explain about the tree she was bringing for their orchard and how it was taken by the stampeding buffalo along with their good friend Spike. Braeburn grows somber, and tells the visitors of the ongoing dispute between the Apple-Loosans and the Buffalo over this land. The Buffalo want these apple trees taken away, and most certainly don't want any new ones added. The pony settlers have put plenty of good hard work into this land, and now for some reason the Buffalo say they have to go. Braeburn looks sorrowful, and the ponies empathize with the settlers' plight.

Meanwhile, Rainbow Dash is in the woods sneaking up on the Buffalo's camp. She's muttering to herself about what bad guys these Buffalo are (while pausing to rub the bump on her head), and each time she mutters, she hears a mysterious voice chiming in. Rainbow Dash looks around, wondering if she's hearing things, until she finally discovers that it's Pinkie Pie, who, in pure Pinkie style, has inexplicably showed up out of nowhere! Thus forced to bring Pinkie Pie along on her raid, Rainbow Dash grows increasingly frustrated at how bad at being stealthy Pinkie Pie is! This leads to them being discovered by the Buffalo.

But, before any harm can come to them, Spike calls out "Stop!" The Buffalo obey Spike, doing as he says. Spike hugs his friends, explaining that the Buffalo felt badly for accidentally taking him. All they wanted was the tree. (It so happens that the Buffalo consider dragons to be friends, and have treated Spike as an honored guest.) The Buffalo remain suspicious of ponies, however, due to the stand-off with the Apple-Loosans, but if Spike says these ponies are OK, then they're OK. Spike then introduces Rainbow Dash and Pinkie Pie to his new best buddy, a girl Buffalo named LITTLE BIG HORN, who Rainbow Dash recognizes as the Buffalo atop the train who eluded her just this morning! Rainbow Dash scowls at the sight of her, but, to Dash's surprise, LBH proves to be very apologetic about the whole episode at the train, and – noticing the bump on Dash's head - calls for a healing salve to be brought to her, even offering to apply it herself. (Though the proud Dash takes it from her – she can apply salve perfectly well on her own, thank you very much!)

They meant no harm to anyone, she explains, it's just that the settlers have planted their apple trees on the Buffalo's traditional stampeding grounds. Dash: "Traditional what? Huh??" The leader of the tribe, CHIEF THUNDERHOoves. Approaches and begins to moo. LBH, apparently the only one among the Buffalo who speaks Pony, proceeds to translate. The ponies learn that the Buffalo have a stampeding trail, and it's their longstanding tradition to stampede upon it once every year. This year they were happily stampeding along just like any other, only to arrive here and discover that these settler ponies had planted their orchard right in the middle of it without asking anyone's say-so! Rainbow Dash understands why this would upset them, assuring the Buffalo that it was probably just an honest mistake. She's sure the settlers would be willing to move the orchard if they realized what they'd done, and offers to take LBH to Apple-Loosa to help get this whole thing straightened out.

Rainbow Dash, Pinkie Pie, Spike and LBH make their way towards Apple-Loosa and bump into Applejack, Fluttershy, Rarity, Twilight and Braeburn, who have been making their way toward the Buffalo camp for the very same reason. Each group was on their way to explain their perfectly reasonable and understandable point of view to the other. Recognizing this as a potentially tense situation, Twilight steps forward to speak to Braeburn and LBH. She explains that even though each side believes they are right, it's important this discussion remain calm and reasonable and asks if the two of them can handle that. Braeburn and LBH nod. Then, as each of them respectfully proceeds to

calmly express their side of the issue to the other, it's Twilight's friends who start taking sides and getting out of hand!

Applejack and Rarity (and even timid Fluttershy!) side with the settlers, while Spike and Rainbow Dash speak up on behalf of the Buffalo. Twilight can't believe her eyes as her friends get hotheaded with each other while Braeburn and LBH stand aside, still calm, looking on in shared disbelief. Applejack insists that the trees had to be planted there because it's the only flat land in the area. Rainbow Dash counters: "How do you think it got flat? Because of the Buffalo stampeding it!" The exasperated Twilight seems about to pull her mane-hair out. She can see both sides, she's not sure who is right, and has no idea what to do. Pinkie Pie chimes in – she has an idea! CUT TO:

The Apple-Loosa settlers and the Buffalo tribe are now all gathered in an audience on either side of an aisle, as Pinkie Pie performs onstage the most syrupy, sticky sweet sharing-and-caring song ever witnessed by either pony-or-buffalo-kind. When the performance is over, both SHERRIFF SILVERSTAR - and Chief Thunderhooves simultaneously rise and declare that they have come to an agreement: that *that* is the worst thing they've ever seen. Translating the Chief's mooing, LBH announces that the stampede will commence at High Noon tomorrow. Not only will the whole orchard be flattened, but so will the whole town! The Apple-Loosans tell the Buffalo they'd better bring their best, 'cause they'll be ready. The ponies register alarm, their internal rifts vanish as they join in common cause: there must be a way to prevent this, but how?

### ACT THREE

The next morning has come, and Sherriff Silverstar gives his regiment and the townsfolk a rousing pep talk. We then CUT TO the Buffalo camp, where Chief Thunderhooves is giving a similarly rousing speech to his own people: "Moo! Moo-moo! Mooooooooo!!!" A DRAMATICALLY SCORED MONTAGE follows of both sides gearing up for battle. The Buffalo put on war paint, sharpen their hooves, etc. Meanwhile, the settlers are closing their shutters, locking up their storefronts, harvesting apples, kneading dough, etc.

With high noon moments away, an eerie quiet settles over the town. Some townsfolk wait behind barricades out in the streets. Others hide inside. Meanwhile, the Buffalo gather ominously on the outskirts of town, waiting for Chief Thunderhooves' signal for the stampede to commence. The tense silence is broken as Pinkie Pie launches into a reprise of her Sharing and Caring Song... which prompts a loud moo from Chief Thunderhooves. The stampede begins! The Buffalo bear down on the town. The settler ponies stand their ground. Sherriff Silverstar shouts "Ready!" The Buffalo get closer. Sherriff Silverstar: "Aim!" The Buffalo are practically upon them. Sherriff Silverstar: "Fire!" Then, as one, the settlers let fly with a hailstorm of... apple pies.

SHOT LIKE AN OLD WESTERN BATTLE SCENE, things get trampled, pies fly everywhere, Buffalo get hit, settlers get chased, and an epic atmosphere of silly chaos ensues... until finally, Chief Thunderhooves gets hit by a pie in the face, and the mighty creature

tumbles tragically to the ground in SLOW MOTION as though he'd just been shot through the heart. The entire battle grinds to a halt as everyone turns to watch Chief Thunderhooves, in all his majesty, somersault head over heels until the momentum of his hurtling frame finally subsides and his tongue lolls out of his mouth. He then lies there motionless except a tiny droplet of pie filling trickling it's way down his snout. The Buffalo all bow their heads, the settlers remove their hats out of respect... but then, when that droplet of pie hits his tongue, Chief Thunderhooves instantly perks up: "YUM!!" He gets a gleam in his eye and declares (through LBH): "Hey, I've got a much better idea..."

REVEAL the Apple-Loosans removing a whole bunch of apple trees, forming a path straight through the center of the orchard. They put the finishing touches on the path, have a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Buffalo, and the Buffalo proceed to stampede their way through... and Rainbow Dash and Applejack stampede with them, briefly and exuberantly partaking in this old Buffalo tradition with new friends. As the Buffalo emerge at the other side of the orchard, the Apple Loosans await to present each of them one-by-one a delicious, steaming hot apple pie. Judging by all the smiles and hoof-bumps, they all seem more than pleased with this arrangement.

Meanwhile, with Twilight's letter to Princess Celestia narrated over the action, Little Big Horn helps Applejack move Bloomberg into place in the orchard, transplanting him/it in an honored spot as a symbol of the truce. Twilight's letter conveys the idea that even enemies can become friends. With enough understanding, a willingness to "share" and a "caring" heart, there's always a way "through". Overhearing Twilight's dictation, Pinkie Pie recognizes that Twilight's words sound a lot like the lyrics of her own song and gets upset: "Hey! That's what I said!!"

END.