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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II - Premises

"The Last Roundup"
"Baby Cakes"
"Family Appreciation Day"

Premises by
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THE LAST ROUNDUP

Local Rodeo Champion Applejack has been selected to compete in the 'Nationals' for the first time. It's the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for AJ and she has big plans to 'bring the gold' home to Ponyville. Her friends and family give her a hero's sendoff as she packs up her kit and heads out of town. As soon as she disappears over the horizon, Pinkie starts planning her Welcome Home party.

But Applejack never comes home. She sends a terse telegram that simply states that she's taken a job on a pear farm and won't be coming back. Her friends travel across Equestria to track her down but when they find her she won't explain herself. In fact she'll barely talk to them, saying she's too busy with the pear harvest. They all decide to help out with the harvest just to get near to her. But they're so comically bad at being cowhands they end up making more work for AJ! All the while she comes up with incredibly ridiculous stories about why she didn't come home. In the end they use their poor work habits to corner Applejack. If she won't tell them why she ran away, they'll keep 'helping' her with the harvest and it will *never* be done!

Applejack agrees to tell them the whole story but not right then. It's late and they're all exhausted from a long day in the fields. She promises to bear her soul over breakfast. But in the middle of the night, Twilight catches Applejack trying to run away. Twi alerts the others and, after a long chase, they tackle Applejack. Her kit bag tips over and several prize ribbons fall out. Applejack starts crying about being ashamed, as her confused friends look at all the prizes she won at the National Rodeo. They don't understand what AJ is so upset about. Applejack tells them to look closer. All the ribbons are for Second, Third, even Fourth Place! There isn't a First Prize among them! How could she come back to Ponyville as such a big 'loser'? Her pride wouldn't allow it!

Her friends let her know that they see no shame in placing second or third. In fact they're quite impressed. But even if she came in dead last, it wouldn't change their opinion of her. She'll always be tops with them.

BABY CAKES

Pinkie Pie plasters her face up against the glass of the nursery in the Ponyville Hospital. She wants to get as close a look as possible at whichever baby is coming home with Cup Cake. Carrot Cake points out two: a baby girl Unicorn named Patty Cake and a baby boy Pegasus named Pound Cake. Seems twins run in Cup Cake's family and Carrot has some Unicorn and Pegasus blood in his. Pinkie can't believe her luck. Instead of one new baby to play with, she's going to get two!

Pinkie turns out to be an incredible help to the new parents. The Twins adore her. No pony can make them laugh the way Pinkie does! She serves as a useful distraction when the fussy babies need to be bathed or changed. Pinkie is proud of how well she gets along with the babies but feels she can do more than provide 'comic relief'. She'd like to be taken seriously and be given more responsibility. She gets her chance one day when a special order comes in that Carrot and Cup Cake need to handle themselves. They ask her to look after the Twins in the back nursery while they are occupied in the kitchen. They're within shouting distance so all Pinkie needs to do is call if she needs help. Pinkie scoffs at the idea.

But the Twins don't take her seriously as an authority figure and Pinkie quickly gets in over her

head. They may be slow crawlers but there are two of them and when Pinkie is busy with one, the other always seems to be up to some mischief. She has to confine them to their playpen. Much to her horror, Pound picks that moment to learn how to fly and a moment later Patty's magical ability kicks in. The usual trials of babysitting magically escalate as the two miniature powerhouses wreak innocent havoc around Sugarcube Corner! And poor Pinkie must try to bring Pound Cake down off the ceiling while keeping Patty Cake from magically 'grabbing' everything and bringing it to the playpen.

By the time their parents return, Patty has magically trapped Pinkie under the overturned playpen while Pound circles the room. It only takes a second of scolding from Cup Cake to make them both behave. Pinkie learns that there is a big difference between being a baby's playmate and being the responsible 'adult' in the room. Sometimes your desire for more responsibility gets ahead of your actual capabilities.

FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY

Every month one of Cheerilee's students is supposed to bring a family member to class and it is Apple Bloom's turn. She's excited to have her big sister Applejack as her guest. She's sure to impress her fellow students. But Applejack turns her down and so does Big Macintosh. They're both too busy on the farm. They suggest she bring Granny Smith but Apple Bloom is horrified at the thought. She'll either fall asleep in the middle of the presentation or tell one of her go nowhere stories or treat Apple Bloom like she's still a toddler. Any way you slice it, it spells embarrassment for Apple Bloom.

After trying everything she can think of to get Applejack or Big Mac to change their mind, Apple Bloom appears to settle for Granny. But the morning of the presentation she sneaks out early to meet the other Crusaders. She dresses Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle up in a ridiculous costume that kinda, sorta looks a little like Granny Smith. This way she can fulfill her assignment without risking embarrassment at the hands of her actual grandma. Cheerilee and the other students are not fooled for a second. Apple Bloom gets a healthy dose of scorn and laughter from her classmates and is about to get an 'F' from her teacher when the real Granny Smith shows up.

Apple Bloom hides her head under her desk as Granny starts one of her go nowhere stories. But, much to her surprise, it actually goes somewhere. Granny tells a rollicking tale of her youth during the Pioneer Days that involves the founding of Ponyville by the Apple Family. At the end she gets a huge round of applause and Apple Bloom gets several pats on the back for being related to such an important participant in Ponyville history. Apple Bloom has newfound respect for her grandma.