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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II

"Family Appreciation Day"

Episode 211

Outline by
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TEASER

Applejack, Big Macintosh, and Apple Bloom are fast asleep in their beds at Sweet Apple Acres. All of a sudden, they are awoken by the sound of “clanging.” “What IS that sound?” a confused Apple Bloom murmurs. The noise gets louder. They all peep out of the window to see... Granny Smith! She’s galloping around banging a wooden spoon against an iron pot around her neck! The howling of wolves can be heard in the distance. “For Pete’s sake, it’s 3 in the morning,” complains Apple Jack. “THE TIMBER WOLVES ARE A-HOWLIN’!” cries Granny Smith as she clangs along. “THE ZAPPLES ARE A-COMIN’! THE ZAPPLES ARE A-COMIN’!” She gallops off again while the wolves continue to howl. The Apple siblings look at each other for a long beat as if Granny has lost her marbles.

All at once they cry, “YAYYYY!!!! THE ZAPPLES ARE COMING!”

ACT ONE

Everypony at Sweet Apple Acres is scurrying around madly. They only have a matter of days—5 to be exact, before the harvest of the “Zapple.” The zapple is the one fruit grown on Sweet Apple Acres that is surrounded by mystery and magic, and cannot be grown under the control of the ponies. When the magic signs are right, the zapples “ZAP!”—and magically appear 4 days later. And if the ponies don’t harvest them the next day when they ripen, they “ZAP!” disappear!

Apple Bloom is extra excited this year, as this is the first year she will be old enough to help Granny Smith make her world famous Zapple Jam, which the farm ships and sells to towns all across Equestria. Even during such a serious time as harvest, Granny Smith always makes things fun. Granny Smith, from years and years of making Zapple Jam, is quite ritualistic in her preparations. She goes about, collecting her special pots, unusual mixing sticks and special firewood for cooking rare herbs. Even Apple Bloom is taken aback by Granny Smith’s insistence of hoofpicking her own honey from Honey Suckle’s Bee Farm up the road. Apple Bloom doesn’t really understand all of Granny Smith’s peculiar ways, but she doesn’t second-guess it. After all, her earliest memory as a baby pony is enjoying the magical every-fruit flavor of Zapple Jam.

While Granny and Apple Bloom are in the middle of their preparations, Diamond Tiara and her father Filthy Rich drop by. Filthy Rich owns the biggest, most high-end gift mart at the end of Ponyville’s marketplace and he always gets first pick from Granny’s Zapple Jam. Tiara sees Granny Smith in full kooky action, biting the metal pots for hardness one minute, and forgetting where she put her glasses the next. As the adults chat, Tiara teases Apple Bloom. “Or you poor thing! You must be SOOO embarrassed by Granny Smith!” Apple Bloom doesn’t understand. “What do you mean?” Tiara plays sincere, “I mean, with all the silly things she does, how she forgets things...I mean, nopony would blame you if you wouldn’t want to be seen with her---I wouldn’t be.” Apple Bloom is confused. Granny Smith is full of quirky fun. But is it possible that other ponies don’t see

her that way? All of a sudden, Granny Smith doesn't seem so lovable and silly!

The next day, Granny Smith needs to go into town to buy materials for preserving. Apple Bloom is reluctant to accompany her. "Whatcha talkin' about, Missy? When I was YOUR age, I would've jumped outta my saddle to live in a town like Ponyville. Now c'mon let's get a goin'!"

At the marketplace, Granny Smith's quirky behavior is on full display. All the eccentricities that Apple Bloom used to find so fun are now just a source of embarrassment. Granny strikes glass jam jars and then sings along while they 'hum' to see if they are 'in tune'. She dresses Apple Bloom in a horribly old fashioned bonnet that's "perfect for preservin'" and covers herself in a live blanket of bees to make sure they've got the right temperament to make the honey she needs. All of this occurs under the judgmental eyes of Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon, who are all too happy to snicker and point.

At school the next day, Tiara's father is giving a riveting presentation about his huge retail business. At the end of his speech, he presents a beautiful wooden toy to every pony in class. The whole classroom cheers and stomps their hooves. Cheerilee thanks Mr. Filthy---er, Mr. Rich, "What a wonderful day of sharing! Thank you for being a part of Family Appreciation Day!"

Cheerilee informs the class that Apple Bloom will be the next student to bring in a family member Apple Bloom quickly objects. Monday is Zapple Harvest Day and Applejack and Big McIntosh will be too busy to come in and speak. Cheerilee is about to change the schedule when Tiara suggests that Granny Smith could come instead. Cheerilee thinks that is a wonderful idea. As the class runs out, Apple Bloom sinks in her chair. She's doomed! Come Monday, she'll be the laughing stock of Ponyville!

ACT II

Apple Bloom spends Saturday repeatedly pleading with Apple Jack and Big McIntosh to be her guest. They simply can't come that day; the zapples will zap away if they don't begin harvesting that very morning. Of course, both suggest that Apple Bloom bring Granny Smith. Apple Bloom panics.

On Sunday, she calls an emergency Cutie Mark Crusaders Meeting and informs them of the problem. They agree to help save her from humiliation. First they try to convince Apple Jack that Apple Bloom is too sick to go to school. Sweetie Belle thinks AB should be cold and clammy and throws a bucket of ice over her. But Scootaloo thinks a fake fever will be more convincing and brings over a hot lamp full of fireflies and shines it on Apple Bloom's forehead. The pony girls go back and forth adjusting Apple Bloom's temperature. But when Applejack comes in and takes Apple Bloom's temperature, it's normal. Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle have cancelled each other out!

As the Crusaders search for another solution, the zapples magically start appearing on the trees! The Crusaders try to force the zapples off of the trees early so the harvest will happen early and AJ or Big Macintosh can come to school instead of Granny. They try bucking and shaking and sawing the branches but the zapples just won't budge. Apple Bloom tries grabbing at a zapple with her mouth and pulls down the whole branch. The other two climb it to get a better hold. But the magical trees' strength is too great, and the ponies all get launched into the air. They comically land in a muddy pigpen.

Finally they invite Cheerilee during Granny's naptime. While she's asleep, the girls carefully tie strings to her limbs. When Cheerilee arrives, Apple Bloom poorly mimics her grandma's voice while sing the strings to manipulate her like a marionette in a desperate attempt to back out of Monday's presentation. But, all of a sudden, Granny Smith lets out a huge snore and wakes herself up. "Wha—what—Oh, Miss Cheerilee! What are you doing here?" Cheerilee is confused, "Why, you asked me to come here to tell me that you wouldn't be making it Family Appreciation Day." Granny Smith scoffs at that idea. "Nonsense! I wouldn't think of missing it for the world!"

With all hope seemingly lost, the Cutie Mark Crusaders regroup at the clubhouse and come up with one last plan...

On Monday morning, the Apple crew is already getting prepared for the Zapple harvest. Someone rings the doorbell. When Granny Smith goes to answer it, she is met by Scootaloo in costume delivering a telegram. "Why Uncle Apple Strudel wants me to come visit, Apple Bloom." "Well, you can just make the 8am train! And I already packed you a bag!" Granny Smith, in her normally half-confused state, grabs the saddlebag and takes off. "I'll be back real soon!" As Granny Smith takes off, Apple Bloom is relieved.

At school, Cheerilee happily announces Family Appreciation Day and welcomes Granny Smith. Apple Bloom looks pleased—but when "Granny Smith" tries to walk to the front of the class, she isn't looking very balanced. She trips over a desk and flies down the aisle. To everyone's surprise, it's revealed that it is actually Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo under Granny's clothes. Cherilee is angry at all three Cutie Mark Crusaders She threatens to give Apple Bloom an "F" -----which Apple Bloom is more than happy to take! But then she notices something outside the school doors....it's the *real* Granny Smith!

Apple Bloom panics and races out the door. She makes several silly, rapid, cartoonish attempts to block Granny Smith from getting to the school. She lays rows of bricks to make a wall (which Granny Smith opens up like a door), she digs a big hole and covers it with leaves (which Granny Smith simply walks over). Apple Bloom puts down a new roadway which u-turns back to the farm (which Granny Smith takes but somehow turns around again). Finally Granny Smith makes it to the door. Apple Bloom stutters, "Why, why, Granny Smith! I thought you were going to visit Uncle Apple Strudel! Didn't the train come?" Granny Smith. "No it came! It was a wonderful trip. Uncle Apple Strudel says 'hello!'" Apple Bloom cannot figure out what is happening!

Cheerilee welcomes Granny Smith to the front of the classroom, and Tiara gives Apple Bloom a big sneer. Apple Bloom is doomed.

ACT III

Apple Bloom braces herself for complete and utter humiliation. Tiara comments, “I can’t wait to hear Granny Smith’s presentation!” and then leans into Silver Spoon, “If she can remember any of it!” The girls snicker as Apple Bloom sinks in her chair.

“When I was YOUR age...” she begins. Apple Bloom rolls her eyes and throws her sad head onto the table. “Things were VERY different here in Ponyville. Would you believe me if I told you there wasn’t a school?” The ponies all gasp. The screen goes to a sepia tone as Granny Smith begins her story. As she tells the ponies that there was no candy shop, or saddle shop or farm, these buildings disappear from the town, until all that is left is grassy land.

As Granny Smith begins to tell her story, we see her as she once was: a young, hopeful, tough-as-nails homesteader pony. She weaves a tale of wonder, a story of a young pony taming the virgin territory that would one day be Ponyville. Setting up a farm with her family, courageously chasing wild beasts away from their crop and into the foreboding Everfree Forest. It was there that she discovered a magical fruit no one had heard of before- the Zapple! With hard work and determination, she discovered the secrets of the fruit and began making the jam that would become famous all across Equestria and draw ponies to Sweet Apple Acres and the fledgling town springing up around it. Amazingly, the tale even explains a lot of her supposed ‘kooky’ behavior and within context does not seem kooky at all, but smart and necessary.

The entire class is mesmerized by Granny’s history. And Apple Bloom is incredibly proud of her amazing grandma. “That’s right! That’s my Granny Smith over there! Isn’t she incredible?!?” Tiara, thwarted once again, objects. “But she’s just a kooky old lady!” “Oh hush child,” Granny Smith says with a smile, “one pony’s kooky is another pony’s fun. If there’s one thing I’ve learned in my long life, is that life’s too short not to be yerself.” Apple Bloom beams with pride.

Apple Bloom and Granny Smith have been working hard together to cook their batches of Jam. The farm is crowded with customers. All of the school ponies have come to try Granny’s jams. As she does her silly and kooky moves, all of the children laugh and enjoy her, only now it’s clear Granny’s getting laughs on purpose. Apple Bloom beams as she talks to Apple Jack. She’s learned that every pony is unique in their own way, including Granny Smith. And no matter what anypony says, she’ll always be proud to be part of the Apple family!

THE END.