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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II

"The Last Roundup"

Episode 214

Outline by
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TEASER

Out in the arena area of Sweet Apple Acres, APPLEJACK is tossing hay bales, running 'round barrels, jumping fences, and bucking like a bronco. APPLE BLOOM watches her big sis excitedly as she prepares for the big All Equestria Champion Rodeo Competition coming up in two days. Apple Bloom is in awe that her sister gets to represent Ponyville in the contest. But then again, she's the *only* choice. She's been the Rodeo Champeen 10 years running and has more blue ribbons than anypony in Ponyville!

ACT I

In the heart of Ponyville, all the ponies are out throwing Applejack a big send off before she heads to the rodeo. A huge banner with Applejack's face and lots of blue ribbons around her head hangs on Town Hall, which is sadly falling apart before their eyes. Turns out DITZY DOO the Pegasus accidentally struck the roof of Town Hall with lightening and the whole building has been crumbling down ever since!

The MAYOR takes to the podium in front of Town Hall (which continues to collapse bit by bit) and gives a big speech. She is so thankful that Applejack is representing Ponyville in the Rodeo. With talent like hers, they just KNOW she's going to win. The Mayor also wants to thank Applejack in advance for generously offering her cash prize winnings to fund the repair of Town Hall. The citizens stomp their hooves in approval and demand that Applejack make a speech. A confident Applejack humbly thanks them for all their support and encouragement. Giving the money is the least she can do for Ponyville. After all, they've been cheering her on through every rodeo ever since she was a *little*, little pony. She is going to do them proud and bring home the big prize so they can fix Town Hall, making it better than ever! The crowd cheers wildly for Applejack.

Out at the Ponyville Train Station, Applejack is sent off with a hero's goodbye. Her friends and family wish her the best, knowing full well that all Applejack does is her best! And the Mayor is beside herself with anticipation of getting that money to fix Town Hall. Applejack assures them that she won't disappoint them and she'll be back in a week!

One week later, the five pony friends have gathered together at Sweet Apple Acres with the Apple family to throw a surprise "Hero's Return" party for Applejack. Pinkie Pie and Rarity have decked out the barn and everypony is excited to see their big winner. They see a pony coming towards the door and turn off the lights. The doors open and the all yell, "Surprise!"

But the pony standing before them isn't Applejack. It's the POSTPONY delivering a telegram! But seeing the amazing surprise party, he gets a HUGE smile on his face. How did they know that it was his birthday? Pinkie grabs the telegram and slams the door in the Postpony's face. The Postpony's face falls.

Inside the barn, they read the telegram. It's from Applejack. She's NOT coming back to Ponyville!

ACT II

Back at Sweet Apple Acres, the pony friends and the Apple Family are freaking out. Why would Applejack not come back? She loves her family. She loves her friends. She loves Sweet Apple Acres. She loves Ponyville! Something terrible must have happened for her not to come home to everything she loves! Twilight knows that whatever it is, they've got to help her! They all assure the Apple Family that they will find Applejack. Poor Big McIntosh can't even muster up a thank you he's so welled-up with worry.

So the friends hop the train bound for Canterlot to find Applejack at one of the stops along the way. In a visual montage, they go from depot to depot, searching all over Equestria for Applejack. But at each place they stop and with everypony they ask, there is no sign of Applejack. The friends get more and more worried and are now SURE Applejack must be in some kind of terrible danger!

Riding home empty hooved, the ponies are full of despair. Each muses sadly that they may never see Applejack again. And how will the break it to the Mayor about the roof? And how will they ever tell the Apple Family? And…Pinkie Pie has to pee! The friends all sigh at Pinkie Pie and tell her she can go at the next town.

The train pulls up and Pinkie dashes off quickly to find a Pony Potty Stall. She finds one, but it's occupied. Pinkie tries to wait patiently, doing an anxious little dance. Finally she can't stand it and starts pounding on the door. The door opens and an annoyed Applejack comes out. "Hold your horses!" Not seeing each other, Pinkie Pie dashes past Applejack into the Pony Potty and shuts the door. Applejack starts to walk off when she hears from inside the Pony Potty, "Applejack!" Pinkie rushes out and hugs her, thrilled to see that she's okay.

The rest of the ponies see Applejack from the train and rush off to greet her. And ask her a million questions. Why didn't she come home? Why is she here? Is she okay? But while her friends are excitedly quizzing her desperate for answers, Applejack is rather blasé in her responses. She brushes off her friends' questions dismissively. Not coming home wasn't a big deal. During the rodeo, she heard talk of this great western town with a great cherry orchard. She thought working there would be a nice change of pace. So they can all go on home to Ponyville and tell her family "Hi" and that she's just fine. Twilight and the ponies are not satisfied with this. They demand to know why Applejack didn't come home. AJ's demeanor switches from nonchalant to irritated and she tells her friends to mind their own business. There's nothin' to tell! AJ storms off, saying she's got to get to work at the cherry orchard. Her friends are left absolutely bewildered. Something's wrong with Applejack and they're going to find out what it is.

Later, at Cherry-O Orchard, Applejack is all rigged up to run the conveyor belt to sort the

yellow cherries from the red cherries. The boss brings in the cherry sorters—Twilight, Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, and Rarity—completely decked out in uniforms with saddlebags and hats. What are they doing here? The girls tell Applejack that she made Cherry-O Orchard sound so great, they wanted to check it out. Applejack sighs with annoyance. They better not be there to "get answers" from her! The ponies all assure her that they're really just there for the experience. AJ grumbles, saying that they better stick with that, and starts walking. This makes the conveyor belt move and cherries start coming out. Without a word, the five friends begin separating the red from the yellow, putting them in separate boxes.

Everything is going fine at first. Not one peep out of anypony. But then Twilight starts asking Applejack a few innocent questions. AJ tries to dodge them, but Twilight is persistent. Soon her questions get more forceful. As AJ feels the pressure, she begins to pick up the pace of her walk, making the conveyor belt go faster. With all five ponies working, this is fine. But then, things get more intense, with Rainbow and Rarity joining Twilight in grilling AJ. They step away from the conveyor belt full of cherries to get in Applejack's face. This leaves Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy to separate all the cherries. But with her friends quizzing her, Applejack gets more and more riled up, and the belt is going faster and faster. Soon Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy are completely overwhelmed, like Lucy and Ethel with the chocolates in "I Love Lucy." Fluttershy tries to get the other ponies' attention, but they don't notice her timid whisper. Meanwhile, Pinkie Pie is shoving cherries in her mouth, under her hat, and in her side saddlebags. Finally, AJ is running so fast, the girls simply can't keep up, and the cherries all splat against the wall making a huge mess.

After cleaning up the mess they made (without AJ), the friends confer on what to do next. And since desperate times call for desperate measures, they call in the big guns: Pinkie's Mouth! Out in the orchard, Applejack is trying to get some work done. Pinkie innocently comes up, offering help. AJ agrees reluctantly and then Pinkie starts up talking. And talking. And talking. And it's not that she's asking AJ questions. She's just blabbing on and on and on. Applejack's dander is clearly getting up. Finally, she can't take it any more! AJ breaks down and agrees to tell everypony what's going on tomorrow as soon as she sees them at breakfast. Pinkie asks for her to "Pinkie Swear" and AJ actually agrees to this. And the girls know that Applejack would never go back on her word. So they will finally get the truth when they see her at breakfast.

The next morning, the ponies all get up, eager for answers. But when they go to get Applejack for breakfast, she's gone! Red faced and fuming, Pinkie is piping mad. AJ made a Pinkie Promise that she would tell them everything at breakfast! And nopony goes back on a Pinkie Swear! All fired up and determined to get an apology, Pinkie takes off with the other ponies in her wake.

Pinkie runs right of the train station, where she sees AJ standing at the depot with her saddlebags. This just chaps Pinkie's hide even more. Twilight tells Pinkie to take it easy and not spook Applejack. But Pinkie is too peeved to be patient. She yells out,

"Applejack! You Pinkie Promised!" Caught red-hooved, a wide-eyed AJ looks at the very annoyed Pinkie, not knowing what to do.

ACT III

Back on Applejack frozen as Pinkie closes in on her, filled with fury. Suddenly, Applejack turns and high-tails it out of there, bolting from the station back into town.

In a wacky Keystone Cops-style cartoon chase, the ponies try and catch Applejack. After chasing her all around town, the friends see AJ just as she's stepping into a stagecoach. AJ orders the ponies driving the carriage to go! They take off quickly, allowing AJ to escape from her friends. Twilight sees an old cart by the side of the road. They grab it and harness Rainbow and Fluttershy to the front. Twilight, Rarity, and Pinkie jump in back and they take off, trying to catch up with AJ. In a high-speed, Ben Hur-style chariot race, the cart chases the stagecoach through town.

Rainbow and Fluttershy kick in some "wing-power," finally catching up with the stagecoach. Desperate, AJ climbs out and starts driving the team. Pinkie sees that she's finally close enough to the stagecoach to jump on it and takes a flying leap. She wants an apology from AJ for reneging on her Pinkie Swear and she wants it now! AJ points out that she didn't break her promise. She swore to tell them everything when she saw them at breakfast. Since she didn't have breakfast, she didn't see them, so she didn't break her Pinkie Swear. However, she is sorry that she didn't have breakfast. Hearing, "I'm sorry," is all Pinkie needs. "Okay! You said 'sorry!'" Pinkie then turns back to the cart and jumps yelling, "Rarity! Catch me!" Rarity looks up in horror as Pinkie comes at her. The two tumble out of the cart. They pop up unscathed, but the cart is now lost in the dust. Twilight calls for them to go back, but Rainbow refuses.

The stagecoach and the cart are now running parallel with the train tracks. AJ sees the train crossing guardrails coming down and the train coming down the tracks. She realizes she'll be able to lose her friends at the crossing. So AJ gives a big "Hya!" and gets the stagecoach ponies running faster than ever. It's close, but they cross the tracks just in time! AJ lets out a mighty "Yee haw!" thrilled that she's escaped. But the team are over her crazy antics and take off.

AJ is basking in her success watching the very long train go by. Her friends will never catch her now. Suddenly, Rainbow and Fluttershy come flying over the train with their cart in tow. "Aw, nuts!" says AJ. She takes off running again. But when Rainbow and Fluttershy land, Rainbow quickly unhooks herself and tackles AJ. As she falls, AJ's saddlebag opens and all her rodeo ribbons fall out. There is every color of ribbon there. Every color but blue, that is.

Applejack realizes that the jig is up. She finally confesses that she did not win a single competition. She came in 2nd, 3rd, and even 4th. But she didn't get first place in anything. And she certainly didn't win any prize money. After the huge send-off

Ponyville gave her, she just couldn't find the nerve to come home and tell everypony she failed. She just couldn't face the Mayor and tell her that they couldn't fix the broken roof. Twilight tells AJ that they can always find a way to fix a hole in the roof. But if she's gone, they could never fix the hole in their hearts. AJ looks at Fluttershy, who is teary and nods her head in agreement. She looks at Rainbow, and even she's welled up (and horribly embarrassed at that fact).

Having learned an important lesson, AJ writes to Princess Celestia telling her what she discovered. You should always be proud of what you do succeed in and not be embarrassed if you aren't the best at everything. And you should always be honest with your friends and family and not try to hide when you've made mistakes. All that matters is that you've tried your best. You should be proud of yourself and everypony else will be too. Even if you come in last, you'll still be first in their hearts.

Applejack returns to Ponyville to a warm homecoming. The Apple Family greets her at the station, with Big Mac breaking down in tears. The Mayor welcomes AJ and congratulates her on doing her best in the rodeo.

Meanwhile, out on the train tracks, far from Ponyville, Rarity and Pinkie Pie are riding on a handcart. Pinkie is talking Rarity's ear off and Rarity is steaming mad. She vows to get Rainbow Dash when they get back!

THE END.