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MY LITTLE PONY II

"The Last Roundup"

EP 214

Written by

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TEASER

SC. 1 - EXT. <u>SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY</u>

Out in the arena area of Sweet Apple Acres, APPLEJACK is galloping purposely, heading right for a low fence. She does this first jump with ease. She then does a turn and begins galloping a little harder as she heads towards the second, higher fence. With an extra push, she leaps over this fence as well, still clearing it with some wiggle room. She does another turn and begins galloping full force. We see that the last fence is quite a bit higher than the previous two. With an intense look in her eye, AJ digs deep and jumps.

In a SLO-MO shot, AJ dramatically just clears the fence and lands with a flourish.

APPLE BLOOM watches from the outside of the fenced rodeo ring standing under a wooden shelter/awning. She stomps her hooves excitedly.

1 APPLE BLOOM
Jumping Junebugs, Applejack!
That...was...AWESOME!!!

2 APPLEJACK
Thankee kindly, little sis. But
that was just my warm up. You
haven’t seen anything yet!

Cut to a sack of apples with eyes and a smiley face painted on it. Suddenly, it begins moving up and down, getting severely shaken. Pull out to reveal AJ bucking like a bronco with the sack of apples on her back. AJ bucks harder and harder until the sack flies off her back. It lands, crushing the apples.

GRANNY SMITH spryly zips in and grabs the bag of apples.

3 GRANNY SMITH
Hot diggity! We’re having apple
crumble tonight!

4 APPLEJACK
Glad to help, Granny!

AJ turns to Apple Bloom.

5 APPLEJACK (CONT’D)
Now, you better hold onto your hat
for this last one!

6 APPLE BLOOM
But I don't wear a hat.

7 APPLEJACK
Well, then, you better hold onto mine!

AJ puts her hat on Apple Bloom's head.

Close on AJ's face. She furrows her brow and grabs a rope with her teeth.

8 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
<Grunting>

Pull out to reveal that the rope is tied around a big bale of hay. AJ begins to spin around with the bale of hay, like a discus thrower. Once she has enough momentum, AJ heaves it into the air with all her strength, sending it flying.

9 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
HAAAA!

The hay bale lands far from her. We see that there are two other hay bales that AJ has already thrown, each one further from the next. This last one surpasses them both, landing right at the fence in front of Apple Bloom.

As it lands, the hay bale kicks up so much wind it knocks AJ's hat off Apple Bloom's head.

10 APPLE BLOOM
Woohoo! Applejack, you're sure to knock *everypony's* hat off at the National Rodeo Competition!

AJ walks up to Apple Bloom, she's swelling with pride but tries to seem modest. #

11 APPLEJACK
(false modesty)
Aw, shucks, Apple Bloom. I sure hope so.

12 APPLE BLOOM
Hope so? I know so! After all, you're the ten-time Rodeo Champeen of Ponyville!

Apple Bloom gestures to the back wall of the shelter. There, AJ's wall of victory, is covered in blue ribbons.

13 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Why, you've got more blue ribbons than anypony in Ponyville EVER! And I can't wait for my big sis to win every blue ribbon in Equestria...

On AJ as she beams proudly and confidently at her sister's words.

14 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
and bring home the title of National Rodeo Champion!

MY LITTLE PONY TITLE SEQUENCE

ACT I

SC. 2 <u>EXT. PONYVILLE TOWN HALL - DAY</u>

A big, winking image of Applejack with her hoof "pointing" at herself fills the screen. Pull out to reveal this is on a huge banner, which also has images of blue ribbons and horseshoes. RAINBOW and DERPY DOO grab either end of the banner and fly it up to hang on Town Hall, which is a shambles. The roof is caving in and beams are hanging down. Rainbow very carefully hangs her side of the banner.

15 RAINBOW DASH
Now, careful, Derpy Doo! You don't want to do any more damage than you've already done.

Derpy hangs her side gently and then gives Rainbow a dippy look.

16 DERPY DOO
Jeepers! I just don't know what went wrong that day!

FLASH TO:

SC. 3 <u>EXT. PONYVILLE - NIGHT</u>

A fierce rainstorm is pouring down. It is LOUD. Up on the clouds, Rainbow is bucking lightening bolts from them so they land far from the buildings, off into the distance.

But Derpy is doing a little “Bucking Bronco” dance as she bucks the lightening. Her bolts have no control, getting close to town.

17 DERPY DOO
Bucking the bolts! Bucking the bolts! I give the clouds a jolt when I’m bucking the bolts!

18 RAINBOW DASH
DERPY! KEEP YOUR BOLTS AWAY FROM TOWN.

Derpy looks over at Dash and nods her head.

19 DERPY DOO
NO PROBLEM!

Derpy bucks another bolt, which almost hits a building.

20 RAINBOW DASH
DERPY! YOUR LIGHTNING IS GETTING TOO CLOSE!

21 DERPY DOO
I KNOW, RIGHT? I think this cloud must be defective!

Derpy pounds on the top of the cloud three times like it’s a defective TV set. Three bolts shoots out. One bolt hits PINKIE PIE’S umbrella hat, turning it into dust. Another slightly singes her tail as she dashes into the Sweet Shop. #
The last bolt hits Town Hall, sending the roof caving in.

CROSS DISSOLVE:

SC. 4 <u>EXT. PONYVILLE TOWN HALL - DAY</u>

Town Hall looks even worse than that night, falling apart.

Zip up to Derpy and Rainbow.

22 DERPY DOO
I just don’t know what went wrong...

23 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. It’s a mystery.

Derpy sizes up their “handy” work with the banner.

24 DERPY DOO
Nice work, Rainbow Dash!

Derpy gives her side of the banner a smack with her hoof. A large cross beam that was hanging by a thread breaks off and falls.

25 DERPY DOO (CONT'D)
Whoops! My bad!

26 RAINBOW DASH
Head's up, everypony!

Rainbow quickly flies down and gets past the beam. She waits for a beat, and catches it. But it's too heavy. We pan with her as the beam pulls her down and punches a hole in the second floor of Town Hall and then the first. Hold on the fist floor hole as Rainbow and the beam <CRASH> land off screen in the basement.

Derpy flies down into the scene.

27 DERPY DOO
(calling out)
You okay, Rainbow Dash? Anything I can do to help?

Rainbow pops up out of the hole, looking a mess.

28 RAINBOW DASH
NO! NOTHING! In the name of Celestia, just sit there and do nothing.

Derpy slowly lowers her bottom onto the floor.

29 DERPY DOO
Okay...

When her butt hits the floorboards, some come loose, widening the hole, falling on top of Rainbow and sending her falling into the basement again.

30 RAINBOW DASH
Ahhhhh!

PONIES (including the MAIN PONIES) begin to fill the square in front of Town Hall. AJ walks through the crowd and Ponies begin to chant.

31 PONIES
Applejack! Applejack! Applejack!
Applejack!

The MAYOR is at the podium. Applejack gets up on stage beside her.

32 MAYOR
Everypony, can I get your
attention! Attention please!

The Ponies all quiet down.

33 MAYOR (CONT'D)
Thank you.

But then PINKIE PIE pops into the foreground of the screen, filling it with her face (like the shot at the beginning of Singing in the Rain when the guy yells, "Zelda! Oh, Zelda!)

34 PINKIE PIE
APPLEJACK! OH, APPLEJACK!!!

More of Town Hall falls down behind the Mayor.

35 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Ooh! Sorry!
(whispers)
Applejack.

36 MAYOR
Yes, we are all here to send
Applejack off to compete in this
year's National Rodeo Competition
in Canterlot!

Everypony stomps their hooves and throws their focus to AJ. She smiles proudly.

37 MAYOR (CONT'D)
We know she'll make Ponyville proud
coming home as the National Rodeo
Champion of All Equestria!

The Ponies STOMP their hooves.

38 PONIES
<CHEER!>

39 MAYOR
And I want to thank Applejack in
advance for generously offering up
her prize money to fix Town Hall.

Derpy is standing near the front, near the building.

40 DERPY DOO
Yeah! Applejack! Woo!

Derpy does a “hoof pump” in the air, punching the building. Another piece comes crashing down behind the Mayor, whose shoulders tense up at the sound. The Mayor gives Derpy an annoyed side glance.

41 MAYOR
(gritting her teeth)
We just don’t know what we’d do without talented, skilled ponies like you!

The entire town CHEERS and stomps their hooves. AJ tries to seem humble and embarrassed by all the attention, but she’s loving every minute of it.

42 PINKIE PIE
Speech! Speech!

AJ smiles and moves to the podium.

43 APPLEJACK
(false modesty)
Aw shucks, I’m not much for speeches...

44 PINKIE PIE
Alright then, No Speech! Pack it up everypony.

A few ponies take AJ at her word and start to leave.

45 APPLEJACK
(trying to get everypony’s attention)
BUT... this here is the nicest send-off anypony could ever ask for. Y’all have been cheering me on in every rodeo since I was a *little,* little pony. So it seems only fitting to use my winnings to fix up Town Hall. I promise to make Ponyville proud!

The crowd goes wild, stomping and CHEERING louder than ever. Applejack basks in the adoration.

SC. 5 <u>EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION - DAY</u>

On the train platform, AJ is standing in front of the train with Apple Bloom, BIG MCINTOSH, GRANNY SMITH, the Mayor, TWILIGHT, FLUTTERSHY, Pinkie, and Rainbow surrounding her.

46 GRANNY SMITH
I want you to go show all them highfalutin' rodeo ponies what a REAL rodeo pony is like!

47 APPLEJACK
You betcha, Granny Smith.

The Mayor is about to burst with excitement.

48 MAYOR
And bring back all that money!

49 APPLEJACK
You betcha, Mayor!

50 PINKIE PIE
And have fun! And don't be nervous! Or if you are, use that nervous energy to do even better than you already would. And eat peanuts. And popcorn. And taffy. Taffy gives you *lots* of nervous energy!

51 TWILIGHT
Just do your best, Applejack.

52 APPLEJACK
I'll do better than my best!

Rarity comes running up.

53 RARITY
Sorry I'm late. I just had to finish Applejack's going-away present for her debut at the *ro-deo* (pronounce like Rodeo Drive).

54 APPLEJACK
That's rodeo, Rarity.

Rarity doesn't hear her (or chooses not to).

55 RARITY
Yes! A proper *ro-deo* pony needs a special saddle.

With a quick whip, Rarity puts a saddle on AJ. It is decorated to the nines, covered in ribbons and bows. AJ looks at it with wide-eyes.

56 APPLEJACK
Well, that sure is...special.

57 RARITY
Don't you just LOVE it?

Rainbow leans in to AJ with a sly smile.

58 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. *Don't* you?

The CONDUCTOR PONY sticks his head out of the train.

59 CONDUCTOR PONY
The train to Canterlot is about to leave. All aboard that's coming aboard!

60 APPLEJACK
Guess that means me!

AJ slings her saddlebags onto her back, up over her saddle.

61 RAINBOW DASH
See you in a week!

62 APPLE BLOOM
With lots of new blue ribbons!

63 MAYOR
And lots of MONEY!

64 APPLEJACK
Darn tootin'!

AJ steps on the train. It begins to chug off. AJ sticks her head out the window.

65 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
See y'all in a week, with a bag #
full of blue ribbons! #

66 FRIENDS/FAMILY
Bye!/Have fun!/You'll be great!/
You're the best!/Go Applejack!/Show
'em what Ponyville's made of!

67 PINKIE PIE
And drink Sarsaparilla!

Everypony looks at Pinkie.

68 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
What? It gives you extra sass!

They shake their heads as the train chugs off.

SC. 6 <u>INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES BARN - NIGHT</u>

Inside the barn, the Apple family and all the pony friends are decorating and setting up a welcome home party for AJ. Fluttershy and Rainbow hang up the banner of AJ's face again.

69 FLUTTERSHY
I hope Applejack is surprised by
this surprise party.

70 RAINBOW DASH
Well, that is the point.

71 FLUTTERSHY
I know, but I hope she isn't so
surprised she's startled, because
while being surprised can be nice,
being startled can be very
startling.

Fluttershy and Rainbow land just as Pinkie pops up next to Fluttershy.

72 PINKIE PIE
SURPRISE!

Fluttershy jumps a bit.

73 FLUTTERSHY
<GASP!> Oh, Pinkie, you startled
me.

74 PINKIE PIE
Sorry, I was just practicing my surprise for when we surprise Applejack with this super cool party for becoming Rodeo Champeen of Equestria! SURPRISE!

Fluttershy startles again.

On Twilight, peeking out the door.

75 TWILIGHT
Quiet, Pinkie! I think Applejack's coming!

76 PINKIE PIE
Don't worry Twilight. Got my lips all limbered up!

Pinkie starts doing weird lip calisthenics. They turn off the lights and hide. The door opens and a PONY'S SHADOW is seen. They flip on the lights and yell...

77 FRIENDS/FAMILY
SURPRISE!!!

78 PINKIE PIE
(a half second late)
SURPRISE!
(to herself)
Shoot!

But instead of AJ, it's the POSTPONY who is wearing a hat with a telegram sticking out of it. And he has a huge grin on his face.

79 POSTPONY
Wow! This is the best surprise ever! How did you know it was my birthday?

Pinkie grabs the telegram from his hat and slams the door in the Postpony's face. The Postpony's face falls in sadness. Suddenly the door opens again. Pinkie has a plate with cake on it. She hands it to the Postpony and slams the door again. #

Inside the barn, Twilight has levitated the telegram with her horn. Everypony surrounds her.

80 APPLE BLOOM
Who's it from, Twilight? What's it say?

Twilight opens the telegram.

81 TWILIGHT
It's from Applejack.
(reading)
Family and friends. Not coming back to Ponyville. Don't worry. Will send money soon.
(looking up)
That's all there is.

APPLE BLOOM
Applejack's *not coming back*?!!!?

On all the ponies looking shocked.

END ACT I

ACT II

SC. 7 <u>INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES BARN - CONTINUOUS</u>

On the ponies, still in shock.

82 RAINBOW DASH
Whatta ya mean Applejack's not coming back? She loves Ponyville.

83 GRANNY SMITH
And she loves Sweet Apple Acres.

84 APPLE BLOOM
And she loves her family!

85 RARITY
Something just dreadful must have happened to Applejack to make her not return.

86 FLUTTERSHY
Maybe she's hurt or sad or scared.

87 RAINBOW DASH
So what're we waiting for? Let's go find her!

Twilight turns to the Apples.

88 TWILIGHT
Don't worry. We'll search all of Equestria if we have to! We'll bring her back! # #

Pan across the family, going from Apple Bloom to Granny.

89 APPLE BLOOM
Y'all are the best!

90 GRANNY SMITH
Thank you girls.

Landing on Big Mac, who's eyes are welled up with tears. He so choked up, he just nods. The ponies all leave, leaving the Apples behind.

91 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
Our little bushel just lost one Apple!

Big Mac chokes back the tears.

92 BIG MCINTOSH
<CHOKING BACK TEARS SOUNDS>

SC. 8 <u>TRAIN MONTAGE</u>

With a MAP OF EQUESTRIA background, dashes make their way across the map following the route of the train. Shot of the train chugging through Equestria headed towards Canterlot.

Overlay of the ponies are all sticking their heads out the windows as they ride on the train through Equestria. The train finally makes it to Canterlot. #

Dissolve to the friends at the RODEO ARENA. The start asking everypony if they've seen AJ. They hold up a picture of her. But everypony (WORKERS, COWPONIES, RODEO CLOWNS) just shakes their head "No". Finally, after a very long day, some ponies recognize Applejack, shaking their heads "Yes." The friends are excited. #

But then the rodeo ponies point off into the distance. The friends look at each other disappointed.

END MONTAGE

SC. 9 <u>INT. TRAIN - DAY</u>

The ponies are all aboard another train. They look very apprehensive and anxious.

93 RAINBOW DASH
I hope this lead doesn't turn out to be a dead end.
(MORE)

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
I don't want to go home empty hooved after promising we'd find her. #

94 FLUTTERSHY
I don't know how we'll break it to the Apple Family.

TWILIGHT
I don't know how we'll break it to Ponyville!

Pinkie looks like she's going to burst.

95 PINKIE PIE
I don't how I'll make it to the next stop!!

96 TWILIGHT
<SIGH> You don't have to hold it any longer, Pinkie. We're pulling up right now.
(to the group)
This is Dodge Junction, girls. Applejack is supposed to have come here after the rodeo ended. Let's fan out and try to find her.

SC. 10 <u>EXT. DODGE JUNCTION - DAY - CONTINUOUS</u> #

As the train stops at a very Western-style depot, Pinkie runs out and into the small western town, the others exit behind her. She quickly finds a Pony Potty Stall. But when she pushes to go in, it's locked. #

97 PINKIE PIE
Oh pickles!

Pinkie waits, doing a little anxious "Pee Pee Dance."

98 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

Finally, she can't take it anymore and pounds on the door.

99 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Hurry it up in there!

100 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Hold yer horses!

The door finally opens and AJ comes out. But Pinkie is in such a rush, she dashes right in without seeing her. It's so fast, that AJ doesn't see her either. Pinkie shuts and locks the door.

101 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Some ponies! Sheesh!

AJ begins to walk off when she hears from inside the potty...

102 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
APPLEJACK!!!

Pinkie rushes out of the Pony Potty and starts bouncing in front of Applejack, who looks shocked to see her.

103 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I found her! I found her! I found her!

The rest of the friends see AJ.

104 PONIES
APPLEJACK!

They all rush off over to her.

105 RARITY
Applejack! Thank heavens!

106 FLUTTERSHY
We're so glad you're safe!

Pinkie is still bouncing.

107 PINKIE PIE
I found her! I found her! I found her! I found her!

She stops bouncing in mid-air with eyes wide.

108 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Be right back.

She zips into the stall. We pan over to the others.

109 APPLEJACK
Hey everypony. What's up?

110 RAINBOW DASH
What's up? What *gives*? Why didn't you come back to Ponyville?

Rarity looks around at the Western town very disparagingly.

111 RARITY
Yes, why are you *here*?

112 FLUTTERSHY
Are you okay?

Pinkie rejoins the group.

113 PINKIE PIE
Do you have any snacks?

114 TWILIGHT
Tell us what happened, Applejack.

Before AJ can say anything, they are all distracted by an off screen voice.

CHERRY JUBILEE (O.S.)
Applejack, are these some of your Ponyville friends?

CHERRY JUBILEE enters.

TWILIGHT
Yes ma'am, were from Ponyville.

RARITY
(slightly suspicious)
And *you* are?

CHERRY JUBILEE
Why I'm Cherry Jubilee, boss of Cherry-O Ranch. Hasn't Applejack told you? I saw her compete at the National Rodeo. Never saw anypony win so many ribbons in all my life!

APPLEJACK
(slightly nervous)
Aw shucks, Miss Jubilee! You don't have to go into all that!

Cherry nudges Applejack playfully.

CHERRY JUBILEE
She's so modest! Anyway, I can #
always use a pony with quick hooves #
and a strong back. #
(MORE)

CHERRY JUBILEE (CONT'D)
So when I heard Applejack was #
looking for a change of scenery, I
snapped her up quick as I could and
brought her to Dodge Junction. #

There's an awkward silence and suddenly Cherry feels out of place.

CHERRY JUBILEE (CONT'D)
Well, I'll let you catch up with
your friends. See you back at the #
ranch.

She exits. The others wait for her to be gone.

RAINBOW DASH
"*Change of scenery*"?!? What's that
supposed to mean?

AJ shrugs nonchalantly.

115 APPLEJACK
It's no big deal, guys. I thought
cherries would be a nice change
from apples. So I took the job and
came here. That's it. End of story.

116 PINKIE PIE
That's it? Well, that's a terrible
story.

117 APPLEJACK
Sorry, but's that's all there is to
tell. Thanks for checking on me,
but y'all can go on home. Tell my
family "Hi" and that I'm a-okay.

118 RAINBOW DASH
Excuse me AJ, but we didn't travel
all over Equestria searching for
you to come home *without* you!

AJ's demeanor turns from casual to annoyed.

119 APPLEJACK
Well, I didn't ask you to come
looking for me! There is nothing
to tell and I am NOT going back to
Ponyville!

AJ storms off leaving her friends stunned.

120 TWILIGHT #
I don't care what she says. #
Applejack's not telling us #
something. #

121 RAINBOW DASH #
Twilights's right. We gotta get her #
to spill the beans. #
#

122 PINKIE PIE #
What?! She had beans?! I told her #
I was snacky! #
#

SC. 11 <u>INT. CHERRY-O ORCHARD SORTING ROOM</u>

On the left of the room, there is a cut-out opening with a flap hanging down. A conveyor belt comes through this opening. The belt reaches across the room to a contraption where AJ is hooked up to run the belt. On the foreground side of the conveyor belt, there are two bins. CHERRY JUBILEE comes in.

123 CHERRY JUBILEE
You ready to put your back into it, #
Applejack?

124 APPLEJACK
Sure am, Miss Jubilee.

125 CHERRY JUBILEE
Terrific. Come on in, girls.

The friends all file in, completely decked out in Cherry-O uniforms with saddlebags and hats. AJ squints her eyes at them, annoyed.

126 APPLEJACK
What are you all doing here?

127 TWILIGHT
(very matter-of-factly)
We're your cherry sorters. Shall we
get started?

Still annoyed, AJ leans forward, digs in and begins walking. #

129 APPLEJACK
Fine.

The conveyor belt starts moving and from the other side of the opening, red and yellow cherries start coming out slowly. Cherry demonstrates, knocking cherries into the bins with her nose.

130 CHERRY JUBILEE
Red cherries go in one bin and yellow cherries go in the other.

131 CHERRY JUBILEE (CONT'D)
Simple as cherry pie! Just one teensy thing to remember...

Applejack stops as Cherry suddenly becomes very intense.

132 CHERRY JUBILEE (CONT'D)
ALL the cherries MUST be separated into the correct bins. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should any cherries fall, get past the bins, or be sorted incorrectly. *UNDERSTOOD*?

The girls are wide eyed but nod 'yes'.

Cherry pops back to being cheery.

133 CHERRY JUBILEE (CONT'D)
Have fun!

Cherry leaves.

134 APPLEJACK
What are you five up to?

135 RARITY
(not very convincing)
Well, you made working on a cherry orchard sound so delightful.

136 APPLEJACK
Uh huh... Well, just remember- no talking about Ponyville!

137 RAINBOW DASH
Fine. Why don't you quit talking and get walking.

AJ furrows her brow and starts walking. The belt starts moving, and cherries start coming out. The five ponies start pushing cherries into the bin with their noses. All is quiet. The ponies start shifting their glance at each other. Rainbow nudges Twilight to talk.

138 TWILIGHT
So, AJ, how was Canterlot?

AJ gives her the evil eye.

139 TWILIGHT (CONT'D)
(defensively)
Not talking about Ponyville. Talking about Canterlot. Totally different town.

AJ looks straight ahead.

140 APPLEJACK
Canterlot was fine.

141 TWILIGHT
Was the rodeo fun?

142 APPLEJACK
Yes.

Twilight walks away from the sorting.

143 TWILIGHT
Did you meet some nice ponies there?

144 APPLEJACK
Some.

Rainbow leaves the conveyor belt and joins Twilight. AJ starts walking a little faster. The three ponies still sorting start going faster as a result.

145 RAINBOW DASH
Really? Did you see Wild Bull Hickok? What about Calamity Mane?

146 APPLEJACK
Yes. Saw them both.

Now Rarity steps away and joins the conversation.

151 RARITY
And how did you meet Miss Jubilee?

AJ starts walking faster as she nervously blabbers. The cherries come out faster and faster.

152 APPLEJACK
Um, well, Miss Jubilee had a cherry stand at the rodeo. Real good treats.

Pinkie and Fluttershy push the cherries from bin to bin as fast as they can, using their noses and both front hooves. But they are having a harder and harder time keeping up.(FOR REFERENCE WATCH THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY BIT FROM "I LOVE LUCY" ON YOUTUBE.)

FLUTTERSHY
Um, excuse me...

APPLEJACK
Cherry Winks, Cherry Cheesecake, Cherry Tarts. We struck up a conversation, being orchard-folk and all.

154 TWILIGHT
So you told her about Sweet Apple Acres?

155 APPLEJACK
Yes.

156 RAINBOW DASH
Did you tell *her* why you weren't going back?

157 APPLEJACK
No, cause it was none of *her* business!

Now AJ is jogging, trying to 'get away' from them. The cherries are flying in fast. Pinkie starts putting piles of cherries in her mouth and then spitting them into the bins.

158 FLUTTERSHY
Can you *please* slow down?

159 RAINBOW DASH
Is it because I made it rain on you that ONE time?

160 APPLEJACK
No.

Pinkie scoops cherries into her saddlebags and then into Fluttershy's saddlebags.

FLUTTERSHY
Help!

161 TWILIGHT
Is it because you were insulted when I gave you that book on Organized Orchards?

162 APPLEJACK
No.

AJ is now running as fast as she can. Pinkie's and Fluttershy's bags and hats are stuffed with cherries. Pinkie's cheeks are bulging and she looks green.

FLUTTERSHY
Please!

164 RARITY
Is it because you were insulted when I insulted your hair?

166 APPLEJACK
No! No! No! I'm not telling you why so just...

FLUTTERSHY
Stop!

APPLEJACK
STOP!

AJ stops running. This stops the conveyor belt and the momentum sends the cherries on the belt flying at her, splattering AJ and the wall behind her making a huge mess. The ponies react in horror.

SC. 12 <u>INT. CHERRY-O ORCHARDS SORTING ROOM- LATER</u>

The ponies (except AJ) are finishing cleaning up the mess, scrubbing and washing the walls and floors.

167 TWILIGHT
Well, girls, we seem to be striking out.

168 RAINBOW DASH
That's cuz we're playing too nice.

169 RARITY
Yes, desperate times do call for desperate measures.

Close on Rainbow.

170 RAINBOW DASH
It's time to call in the BIG GUNS!

Dramatic music sting as we...

END ACT II

ACT III

Close on Rainbow as we recap.

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
If were going to get Applejack to talk, we need to call in the BIG GUNS!

171 FLUTTERSHY
No! Not that!

172 TWILIGHT
Big guns?

173 RAINBOW DASH
Pinkie's Mouth!

We cut to Pinkie doing her weird lip calisthenics.

PINKIE PIE
(garbled from lip action)
Be ready in a minute.

SC. 13 <u>EXT. CHERRY-O ORCHARDS - LATER</u>

AJ is out bucking cherries when Pinkie comes bouncing up.

174 PINKIE PIE
Hey, Applejack, need some help?

AJ gets defensive.

175 APPLEJACK
You promise not to ask me any questions?

176 PINKIE PIE
I promise.

The two start bucking cherries into baskets under the trees.

177 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Have you ever had a Cherrychanga? Ooh, sorry, that was a question.

178 APPLEJACK
That kind of question is fine, Pinkie. No, I've never had a Cherrychanga.

179 PINKIE PIE
Well, no wonder, because I made it up myself! A Cherrychanga is mashed up cherries in a tortilla that's deep-fried. Cherrychanga! Great name, huh? Oh, but maybe I should call it a Chimicherry! Ooh, that's good too. Which do you think sounds better, Cherrychanga or Chimicherry. Or, what if I combine them? Chimicherrychanga! What sounds the funniest?

AJ continues to work, but Pinkie's babbling is beginning to bother her.

180 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I like funny words. One of my favorite funny words is kumquat. I didn't make that one up. I would work in a Kumquat Orchard just so I could say kumquat all day. Kumquat, kumquat, kumquat.

AJ's shoulders begin to rise.

181 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
And pickle barrel. Isn't that just the funnest thing to say? Pickle barrel, pickle barrel, pickle barrel. Say it with me! Pickle barrel, kumquat, pickle barrel, kumquat, pickle barrel, kumquat, chimicherrychanga!

182 APPLEJACK
Aaah! Make it stop! Make it stop!

Rainbow pops out from behind a cherry tree.

183 RAINBOW DASH
The only way to make it stop is for you to spill the beans.

184 APPLEJACK
Never!

185 RAINBOW DASH
Pinkie...

186 PINKIE PIE
Speaking of beans, did you ever realize how many words rhyme with beans? Lean, mean, spleen, unclean keen, tureen, sardine, queen, green, tambourine...

187 APPLEJACK
Alright, alright! I'll tell everypony what's going on, just please stop talking!

The other friends come into scene as the conversation continues.

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
But can it wait till tomorrow at breakfast? I'm plum tuckered out.

RAINBOW DASH
(suspicious)
Tomorrow, huh?
(looking at the others)
I don't know...

188 PINKIE PIE
Do you Pinkie Promise?

Pinkie holds out her hoof. AJ holds out her hoof to Pinkie's.

189 APPLEJACK
<SIGH> I will tell you the whole truth at breakfast. Pinkie Promise.

INT. APPLEJACK'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

It's the middle of the night but Applejack can't sleep. She tosses and turns in her bunk as she talks to herself.

APPLEJACK
(worried)
Why'd they have to come find me?
Why couldn't they just leave me be?

She looks over the side of her bed into her open kit bag. (We don't see what she is looking at.)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
And then Miss Jubilee has to start talking about all the ribbons I won. When they find out the truth...

She gets up out of bed and goes to the window, staring up at the moon.

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
But what other choice do I have?

Applejack continues staring out the window with a worried look on her face.

SC. 14 <u>INT. CHERRY-O ORCHARDS - THE NEXT DAY</u>

The ponies walk down the hall to AJ's room.

190 TWILIGHT
I'm glad we're finally going to get some answers from Applejack.

191 RAINBOW DASH
(still doubtful)
Yeah, maybe...

PINKIE PIE
Don't worry Rainbow. She's gotta fess up after making a Pinkie Promise.

Pinkie smiles proudly as they come to AJ's door.

192 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Good morning, Applejack! You ready for breakfast?

She pushes the door open and all the ponies see that the room is bare. AJ is gone!

In a slow burn, Pinkie goes from pink to RED.

193 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Nopony breaks a Pinkie Promise!

Furious, Pinkie runs off with her friends in her wake.

SC. 15 <u>EXT. DODGE JUNCTION TRAIN DEPOT - DAY</u>

Pinkie runs full speed to the train depot with her friends following behind. She stops, seeing AJ standing on the platform with her saddlebags packed.

194 PINKIE PIE
(to herself)
That really chaps my hide!
(calling out)
APPLEJACK!

AJ turns, caught red-hooved, and sees that Pinkie is furious.

195 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
YOU PINKIE PROMISED!

Applejack bolts, hightailing it away from the station. The ponies all freeze for a second and then take off after AJ.

MUSIC UNDERSCORES as a quick Keystone Cops-style cartoon chase starts. The ponies try to catch Applejack, darting this way and that all through the streets.

AJ runs by a barrel. The ponies then run by the barrel, As soon as they're gone, AJ pops out of the barrel and heads the other way.

The ponies run by a shop window, where AJ is dressed in a frilly outfit. They look around and finally see her. AJ ZIPS out of the clothes, leaving them spinning in the air.

AJ goes through saloon doors. (Please Note: NO alcoholic # beverage glasses or bottles, evidence of gambling, i.e., # chips or money on the table, cigars or cigarettes.) They # follow AJ in. There are some cowponies with moustaches playing cards and girl ponies performing on the stage. The friends tackle the performing ponies. Card-playing AJ looks up from her tipped hat, quickly pulls off her moustache, smiles, and darts out of the swinging doors. Her friends follow but we stay on the swinging doors to reveal AJ is hanging on the other side.

AJ goes back in the saloon and races up the stairs and goes out on to the balcony. But Rainbow is there hovering in the sky to meet her. AJ turns to go back down, but Twilight is there. AJ is caught, so she jumps off the balcony and lands in a trough of water, disappearing under the surface.

Pinkie sticks her head in the trough. We widen to reveal AJ popping up out of another trough across the street. Pinkie pulls her head out and spots her.

197 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Applejack! Come back here!

The rest of the friends come out of the building, just as AJ steps into a stagecoach.

198 APPLEJACK
Giddyup, fellas! I gotta get the heck out of Dodge!

The STAGECOACH TEAM start running. The friends look defeated.

199 PINKIE PIE
She's gonna get away!

But then Twilight sees an old cart by the side of the road.

200 TWILIGHT
Oh no she won't! Look, girls!

The ponies scramble over to it. They hitch Rainbow and Fluttershy to the cart. Rarity, Pinkie, and Twilight jump in the cart.

201 PINKIE PIE
Follow that stagecoach!

Rainbow and Fluttershy take off, running as fast as they can. They use their wings to give them some extra speed but stay close to the ground. AJ looks out the back window and sees them on her tail.

In a high-speed, Ben Hur-style chariot race, the cart chases the stagecoach though town.

In a CART CAM POV, Rainbow and Fluttershy weave in and out around other coaches and carts. DODGE PONIES have to jump out of the way as they come barreling through. A LITTLE PONY is in the middle of the road. The MOM PONY sees her.

202 MOM PONY
(over-dramatic)
My little pony!

She dashes out and whooshes her pony away just in time.

The friends are almost caught up with the stagecoach. The stagecoach weaves back and forth in front of them. Pinkie is zeroing in on them with her eye on the prize.

203 PINKIE PIE
We have you now!

Suddenly a LITTLE RABBIT darts into their path. Fluttershy's eyes grow wide.

204 FLUTTERSHY
Oh no!

She weaves quickly, dodging the bunny and sending the cart through a pile of square hay bales by the side of the road. They emerge with hay sticking to everything. Rarity notices her messed up hair. She faints into Twilight's arms.

205 RARITY
<fainting noise>

The stagecoach starts heading out of town into the open plain. Rainbow and Fluttershy follow, running extra hard and come up fast on the stagecoach. They sidle their cart up. Rainbow gives them a hard shove to try and get them to stop.

206 RAINBOW DASH
Hya! Pull over! #

AJ looks out the side window.

207 APPLEJACK
What the hey?

The Team then shoves back. AJ is thrown in the cart.

208 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Woah!

Rainbow shoves again. AJ is thrown the other way.

209 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Hey!

The Team does one more shove and AJ is thrown again.

210 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Woah!

She sticks her head out the front window.

211 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Hey! Cut that out!
(to the Team)
I'll pay you double to outrun them!

The Team likes the sound of that and run a little faster.

212 TWILIGHT
We'll pay you triple to slow down!

The Team gives each other a look and slow down a bit.

213 APPLEJACK
I'll pay you quadruple to leave them in the dust!

The Team smiles, digs deep, and leaves the cart in the dust. The ponies are left COUGHING and SPUTTERING, covered in dust.

214 RARITY
Well, that was rude!

Pinkie is wild with passion.

215 PINKIE PIE
Get them! Get them!

Rainbow is equally impassioned.

216 RAINBOW DASH
C'mon Fluttershy!

They kick in some extra "wing-power" and flash up to the stagecoach.

AJ sees this and jumps out to drive the Team. She begins whipping the reigns. The Team looks back annoyed.

217 APPLEJACK
Hya! C'mon y'all! Go! Go!

As the two race neck and neck, Pinkie leaps over to AJ's coach.

218 PINKIE PIE
Applejack! You broke your Pinkie Promise! Apologize!

219 APPLEJACK
Pinkie, I did not break my promise.

220 PINKIE PIE
Wha?

221 APPLEJACK
If you'll reckon back, I told you that I would tell you everything <u>at breakfast</u>. But I didn't come to breakfast. I *couldn't* come to that breakfast. Not if it meant telling you all what happened.

Pinkie is completely flummoxed by this.

222 PINKIE PIE
Well, I...I...

223 APPLEJACK
I'm sorry, Pinkie but I can't tell y'all the truth. I just can't!!!

Pinkie shrugs her shoulders.

224 PINKIE PIE
(acquiescing reluctantly) #
Well I heard a 'sorry' in there so that'll have to do for now. I'll get a real apology later.

Pinkie turns back to the cart and, without warning, jumps.

225 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Rarity! Catch me!

Rarity looks up to see a jumping Pinkie coming straight at her.

226 RARITY
What?! Pinkie! NOOOOOOOO!

Pinkie lands on Rarity and the two tumble out of the cart. They pop up unscathed. Twilight looks back at her friends as they move away. She turns to Rainbow.

227 TWILIGHT
Rainbow! Go back!

Rainbow is running as hard as she can.

228 RAINBOW DASH
No time! They knew what they were getting into!

229 TWILIGHT
What does that even mean?!?

The stagecoach and the cart are now running parallel with the train tracks. AJ sees the train crossing guardrails coming and a train coming down the perpendicular tracks.

230 APPLEJACK
Yes! Hya!

AJ whips the reigns once again. The Team runs faster than ever. The train is chugging down the tracks. The stagecoach is getting closer. The train. The stagecoach. The train.

The stagecoach skates past the guardrails, zips across the tracks, just beating the train going by and then comes to a rapid stop. AJ jumps down from the stagecoach.

231 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Yee haw!

The Team is less thrilled.

232 STAGECOACH TEAM
Lady, you're trouble! #

They take off, leaving AJ to celebrate as the very long train goes by.

233 APPLEJACK
Hah! Try and catch me now...

But just as she says this, her voice trails off as she sees Rainbow and Fluttershy fly the cart over the train.

234 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Ah, nuts!

AJ takes off. Rainbow and Fluttershy land and Rainbow unhooks herself from the cart.

235 RAINBOW DASH
Not so fast!

Rainbow runs and quickly tackles AJ. As AJ falls, her saddlebag opens. All her rodeo ribbons fall out.

236 APPLEJACK
Fine! Now you know!

237 TWILIGHT
Know what?

238 APPLEJACK
Well, just look!

She gestures at the ribbons, which are every color but blue.

239 TWILIGHT
(confused)
I am. You won an amazing number of ribbons, just like Miss Jubilee said.

240 APPLEJACK
Don't you get it? There's every color of ribbon down there. Every color...but blue.

Twilight, Rainbow, and Fluttershy all look at each other, finally realizing.

241 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
I came in 4th, 3rd, even 2nd! But I didn't win one 1st prize. And I certainly didn't win any prize money.

RAINBOW DASH
(confused)
But the telegram said you were going to send money.

APPLEJACK
That's why I came here. I wanted to *earn* some money. After that big 'ol send-off Ponyville gave me, I just didn't have the nerve to come home empty hooved. I couldn't come home a failure.

TWILIGHT
Applejack, you're not a failure!

RAINBOW DASH
And we're your friends! We don't care if you came in 50th place! You're still number 1 in our books.

APPLEJACK
(she can't believe it)
So you're not upset or disappointed?

Her friends smile warmly and shake their heads 'no'.

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
But what about the Mayor? I don't think I can face her and tell her I didn't get the money to fix the broken roof.

242 FLUTTERSHY
Applejack, we can always find a way to fix that hole in the roof. But if you don't come back, we'll never be able to fix the hole in our hearts.

AJ is welled up. Twilight nods her head, also welled up. On Rainbow. Even SHE is close to tears. It becomes too much for Rainbow and she shakes it off, embarrassed.

243 RAINBOW DASH
Darn it! Now you got me actin' all sappy!

SC. 17 EXT. PONYVILLE TRAIN STATION - DAY

The train pulls up to the platform, where the entire Apple Family is waiting.

244 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Dear Princess Celestia, It's a tad easier to be proud when you come in first than it is when you finish further back. But there's no reason #
to hide when you don't do as well as you had hoped. You can't run away from your problems. Better to run *to* your friends and family.

AJ steps off and her family surrounds her. Upon seeing AJ, Big Mac finally breaks down in tears.

SC. 18 EXT. PONYVILLE TOWN HALL - DAY

Everypony is happy to see AJ and welcomes her back. The Mayor gives her the biggest welcome of all.

245 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
To them, all that matters is that #
you've tried your best. Even if #
you come in last, you'll still be first in their hearts.

SC. 19 EXT. EQUESTRIA - DAY

Out in the middle of nowhere, Pinkie and Rarity are working a handcart, trying to get back to Ponyville.

246 PINKIE PIE
I mean, which do you think Rarity? Chimicherry? Or Cherrychanga? Chimicherry, Cherrychanga, Chimicherry, Cherrychanga.

On Rarity, who's eyes are glazed over in pain.

247 RARITY
(sotto)
When I get back, you're going to get it, Rainbow Dash!

They keep pumping the handcart as Pinkie Pie continues.

248 PINKIE PIE
Chimicherry, Cherrychanga.
Chimicherry, Cherrychanga,
Chimicherry, Cherrychanga.

THE END.