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MY LITTLE PONY

Season II

"The Cutie Pox"

Episode 206

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TEASER

The Cutie Mark Crusaders are trying to get their Cutie Marks at the Ponyville Pins Bowling Alley. But instead of bowling strikes, all three Crusaders are striking out. SWEETIE BELLE gives her bowling ball a good nudge with her nose, but it lands right in the gutter. SCOOTALOO gives her ball a swift back kick and it goes ricocheting across other bowlers' lanes.

Last up is APPLE BLOOM and she is **determined** to get her Cutie Mark for bowling. Stretching her mouth as wide as possible, she awkwardly grabs her bowling ball. The weight of the ball pulls her clumsily forward towards her lane. She spits it out with a "Pa-tooie!" doing a face-plant as she does. Apple Bloom tries to right herself so she can see her amazing throw when, suddenly, she hears the CRASH of pins as the ball hits a strike. Ponies begin cheering and, to Apple Bloom's delight, calling everypony to look at the great new Cutie Mark. Apple Bloom can't believe it! She did it! She got her Cutie Mark!

Apple Bloom stumbles excitedly up and looks at her hindquarters. But her flank is as blank as ever! What's the deal? She then looks over and sees a boy pony being lifted into the air with a brand new Bowling Ball and Pin Cutie Mark. Apple Bloom then looks over at her ball. It has rolled slowly down the lane to the top pin and stops, knocking **absolutely nothing** over. Apple Bloom's huge smile turns into a big defeated frown.

ACT I

Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo have brushed their defeat off lightly, figuring they can always try something else. But Apple Bloom is still really bummed as she sulks through Ponyville. Why, if her lower-lip were any bigger, she'd trip on it! All her friends want to turn that frown upside down and try their best to buck Apple Bloom up. "A treat at Sugarcube Corner will cheer you up," say Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo. "No it won't," says the mopey pony. "A party will cheer you up!" says PINKIE PIE, showering Apple Bloom with confetti. "No it won't," sulks Apple Bloom. "A new outfit will cheer you up!" offers RARITY, dressing Apple Bloom in her finest of finery. "No it won't!" Apple Bloom grumbles as she heads towards the Everfree Forest. Her friends warn her not to go in there. It's just not safe! "That spooky old forest is going to get you!" her friends call out after her. "No it won't!" calls back Apple Bloom, stomping in defiantly. But as she soon as the words leave her lips, she trips on a rock, stumbles, and *chips a tooth!*

ZECORA comes upon her little pony friend and, seeing her hurt tooth, takes Apple Bloom back to the hut to help her. As they chat, Apple Bloom fills Zecora in on her ongoing, discouraging Cutie Mark Crusade. She just knows she's **never** going get her Cutie Mark. Zecora listens as she mixes up a healing potion for Apple Bloom in her cauldron. She cryptically tells Apple Bloom that all things come in time and that one must work hard and be patient to make their dreams come true. Ugh! But Apple Bloom *is* working hard! She's been working hard *forever!* She's tired of being patient and

wants her Cutie Mark and she wants it now! But Zecora informs her that right now, they need to fix her tooth. Zecora ladles out some of the concoction she's been brewing and tells Apple Bloom to drink it down. She does and instantly, her chipped tooth mends. It's better than ever! Apple Bloom is amazed. And inspired! Why, if there's a potion that can fix a tooth, surely there must be a potion that can fix **anything**!

Zecora warns that it's just not as simple as that. There are instant fixes for some things. But for other things...the only remedy is time. But Apple Bloom is hardly listening to Zecora's message as she watches her mix up another tonic. Apple Bloom observes intently as Zecora puts a dash of "Heart's Desire" into the brew. When Zecora leaves to gather some missing ingredients, Apple Bloom eyes the bottle of "Heart's Desire" with a sly smile and an eager gleam.

The next day, Apple Bloom arrives at school beaming. Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle look at her flank and there, as clear as day, is a bright, shining CUTIE MARK!!!

ACT II

"OH!" say the two Cutie Mark-less Crusaders, looking at Apple Bloom's brand new Cutie Mark because that is exactly what it looks like. An "O." It's a circle with red stripes on it. What does it mean? "*Is it a letter O?*" asks Scootaloo. "*Is your talent spelling?*" "Or is it a ring?" suggests Sweetie Belle." "Are you a jewelry maker?" "Or is it a peppermint donut?" asks Twist, jumping in. "'Cause that sounds delicious!" But Apple Bloom soon clarifies that the "O" is a hoop. A HULA HOOP! All her classmates watch in amazement as Apple Bloom begins hula hooping like nopony has ever hula hooped before! And as everypony "Oohs" and "Aahs" Apple Bloom basks in the attention. She knew getting her Cutie Mark would be great. But this is the absolute best!

Out in the yard, all the little ponies are trying their best to hula hoop under Apple Bloom's impressive instruction. But no matter how hard they all try, none are even close to being as good as Apple Bloom. She can hula hoop around her waist, her legs, and her neck! But as she is showing off her hula hooping skills, something unheard of happens. A **second** Cutie Mark appears on Apple Bloom's flank!

Apple Bloom is baffled. Nopony has ever gotten two Cutie Marks! She turns to Cherilee for an explanation. But her teacher confirms that she's never seen or heard of this before either. Some students quickly accuse Apple Bloom of faking her Cutie Mark and tell Apple Bloom she has to **prove** that she is talented in both skills.

Looking at her second Cutie Mark, Apple Bloom sees that it's a stack of spinning plates. She hems and haws a bit, clearly uncertain about this new "talent." But SNIPS and SNAILS want proof **now** and toss plates at her. As the plates approach Apple Bloom's head, she instinctively gets them to stack and spin like she's been doing it her entire life! Everypony—including Apple Bloom—is stunned! Two Cutie Marks! Two talents! Apple Bloom is certain she must be the most special pony in Equestria!

And now that she knows it, she's not afraid to show it. Apple Bloom goes into Ponyville, strutting her stuff. All through town she's hula hooping and plate spinning. She's tossing her plates through the hoop, jumping through, and catching the plates on the other side. She spins her hoop from one unicorn horn to the other, never dropping a plate as she does. She hoops her hoop around her legs and spins her plates on her hooves. She spins her hoop with her tail while spinning her plates on her head. She then throws all of them into the air so they cross one another and begins spinning the hoop around her neck and her plates with her tail. Everypony is blown away! And Apple Bloom is happier than ever!

That evening the plate spinning, hula hooping Apple Bloom returns home, ready to hit the hay after a busy day of performing. The whole Apple family is mighty proud of their little filly. Applejack is even ready to sign her up for the rodeo. Thrilled, but exhausted, Apple Bloom heads to bed for a good night's sleep, hula-ing and spinning the whole way to her room. Applejack and Big Apple sigh with pride. Their little Apple Bloom has finally blossomed!

In the middle of the night, Applejack is trying to sleep. But she wakes up from an annoying and incessant tapping. She follows the sound to Apple Bloom's room and opens the door. There she sees an exhausted and delirious Apple Bloom still hooping her hoop, spinning her plates, and...**tap dancing**? Applejack then sees that Apple Bloom has a **third** Cutie Mark—tap shoes! Apple Bloom looks desperately at her sister. "Help me!" Apple Bloom cries.

ACT III

Three Cutie Marks? Apple Bloom unable to stop performing her "talents?" Something just isn't right! "What in tarnation is going on here?" asks Applejack. Apple Bloom is just as baffled as her sister. "I don't know!" insists Apple Bloom. So Applejack figures she's got to find a cure to what's ailing her little sis.

They go immediately to TWILIGHT SPARKLE who is equally confused by Apple Bloom's affliction. But Twilight figures the answer has to be in one of her books. Sure enough, in "Perplexing Pony Plagues" she finds an account of a disease called "Cutie Pox" where ponies had unusual Cutie Mark break outs just like Apple Bloom. It only happened once, centuries ago, and it came as mysteriously as it went. The trouble is, the book gives no explanation of a cause or a cure for these puzzling pox!

But in all of Twilight's years of magical maladies she's learned that one needs to know the cause of the ailment in order to discover the cure. Twilight very seriously asks Apple Bloom if anything unusual happened to her in the past couple days. Apple Bloom's exhausted eyes grow wide as she continues to uncontrollably hoop, spin, and tap. But she simply can't bring herself to admit the truth. "No," she lies.

Suddenly, Apple Bloom breaks out in even more Cutie Marks, covering her whole body! And with the marks, she starts performing all the random, corresponding talents! Now she starts filing Twilight's card catalogue, polishing SPIKE'S scales, and reading in French! All the while, she continues hooping, spinning, and tapping. It's simply out of control!

Twilight and Applejack are completely freaked and watch in horror as Apple Bloom runs amok. Twilight realizes that only one creature could know the cure for such an unusual affliction. Zecora! Twilight rushes out to find her. But Zecora is the last one that Apple Bloom wants to know about this. She follows Twilight into Ponyville, still performing her talents, desperate to stop her. Twilight won't slow down, saying that something is terribly wrong with Apple Bloom. But Apple Bloom protests, saying that everything is just fine. But as she tells this lie, she breaks out in even more Cutie Pox, this time in front of the entire town!

The ponies of Ponyville see Apple Bloom covered in Cutie Marks performing her many talents (waitressing, gardening, horseshoe shining, fencing, fence building, house painting, rope jumping) and are understandably concerned. But Spike assures them that everything is fine, casually stating, "It's just some weird, mysterious disease that we know nothing about and has no known cure called Cutie Pox."

"Cutie Pox!" shouts everypony in town. There is a mass panic as ponies run for the hills, hide in their houses and shops, boarding up their windows and barricading their doors. Of course, this mass exodus happens just as Zecora is walking into town. She sighs comically, thinking that everyponies' fears had been assuaged after her last visit into town.

Twilight jumps in and tells Zecora that the ponies aren't reacting to her arrival. They're afraid of Apple Bloom. Zecora looks at the pocked-out pony and understand their concern. Applejack asks Zecora if she somehow knew something was wrong with Apple Bloom and if she came into Ponyville to help her. But Zecora tells them that she did not come to help Apple Bloom. She simply came to buy some more "Heart's Desire." She thought she had a full bottle, but mysteriously, she is all out. She gives Apple Bloom a knowing look. Applejack and Twilight look at Apple Bloom as well. Feeling all eyes on her, Apple Bloom looks like she's about to crack. But instead, she lies once more saying that she doesn't know anything about "Heart's Desire." With that lie, Apple Bloom breaks out again! Now Apple Bloom is doing so many tasks, she looks like she's literally chasing her own tail around and around in a whirlwind of confusion.

Applejack and Twilight beg for Zecora to help. Twilight knows that these are Cutie Pox, but there is no record of a cure! Watching Apple Bloom spin out of control, Zecora confirms that there is a cure. But the healing ingredient can only be found in the Seed of Truth. Applejack begs for Zecora to run and get it. Zecora smiles and informs her that the Seed of Truth is everywhere. But it only grows when a lie is dispelled.

Applejack, Twilight, and Zecora all look at the frantic Apple Bloom. Ponyville ponies—

including Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle—peek out from their shuttered windows and barred doors, anxious to see what’s going to happen. Finally, the manic Apple admits the truth. She didn’t earn her Cutie Mark. When Zecora went outside to gather herbs, Apple Bloom mixed up a potion to help her finally get her Cutie Mark. And she poured most of the bottle of “Heart’s Desire” into it. She’s been lying the entire time!

And with those words, the Seed of Truth grows from the ground, up into a wonderful, magical flower. Everypony is awestruck by the beautiful blossom until Apple Bloom gulps it down in one bite. Instantly, her Cutie Marks dissolve and all of her talents disappear. She’s cured! An exhausted Apple Bloom heaves a sigh of relief. She has never been so happy to be a blank flank!

Applejack is very proud of her sister for finally ‘fessing up and telling the truth. Twilight asks Apple Bloom if she can write to Princess Celestia telling her what she learned. Relieved, Apple Bloom is only too happy to oblige and writes a sweet, honest note to the Princess saying that sometimes it’s hard to wait for your heart’s desire. And out of frustration, you may want to try to take shortcuts and cheat to get what you want. But this never works because then you’re stuck telling a lie which only leads to more lies. Soon, you’re sorry for what you wished for because instead of being a blessing, it’s a curse. So be patient, because all good things come to those who wait.

Spike sends Apple Bloom’s note off to Celestia and gives Apple Bloom and the other Crusaders an approving look. It seems they’ve finally learned their lesson. After a short beat of impatient waiting, Apple Bloom perks up. “Well, we’ve waited long enough. How should we try to get our Cutie Marks today?” Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle both think that, after mixing such a powerful concoction on her own, Apple Bloom is surely destined to get her Cutie Mark in potion making. The Crusaders scamper off to bug Zecora as Spike sighs and shakes his head.

The End.