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MY LITTLE PONY 3

Ep 310

"Apple Family Reunion"

Outline by

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TEASER

Granny Smith picks up some flags, sacks, and balls lying out on the orchard. She grabs tablecloths and throws them in a wooden crate. She stacks up baskets. She leans up against them and wipes her brow. Finally she start dragging everything to the big barn. One by one, she pushes the items into the barn. "I'm getting' to old for this work!" she complains, in between hefting, pulling, and lugging.

Inside the barn, she shuffles, ruffles, shifts, and lifts. Applejack, outside of the barn, approaches just as Granny Smith is finally pushing the barn doors closed. With the close of the latch, Granny Smith turns around and rests again against the heavy doors, her job finally complete.

"What're you doin' Granny?" asks Applejack. "Why, I'm puttin' away the last of the Apple Family Reunion thingamadoodads." Applejack is confused. "Whatcha talkin' bout Granny? You mean the Family Reunion that was almost a year ago?" "HUH?" Granny Smith is dumbfounded. Applejack explains, "Granny—Apple Family Reunion is next month!" Granny Smith sinks to the ground.

ACT I

Granny Smith decides that she is just too old to be organizing the yearly Apple Family Reunion. It is time to turn over the reigns to another member of the family. Granny makes her decision. And Applejack is the chosen pony. Applejack can't believe she's being offered such a big responsibility. She wants Granny to talk her through the process of putting together the reunion.

Granny informs Applejack that she'd rather show than tell and retrieves a box filled with old photo albums. She sits in a rocking chair, surrounded by Big McIntosh, Applejack, and Applebloom and begins to hoof through the first of many large albums. "I can't believe we have so many albums from our Apple Family Reunions!" Apple Bloom remarks.

"Well, Pie Face, we've been havin' these reunions since the first year we planted our roots here in Ponyville," retorts Granny Smith, "And I can't believe we're havin' another one next month. Time flies fast when you're old n' weathered." "You may be a tad old, Granny," replies Applejack, "But you sure ain't weathered—you've been just as feisty and full o' spark since I can remember." Granny Smith looks over at Applejack, "Who you callin' old?!"

The Apples look through the albums, from the old days to the new. "Oh, look at all them lil' foals playin' Pin the Tail on Uncle Crabby....oh, and lookie here, those apple fritters fryin'! Mmm....I can smell the hot oil now!" She turns the page. Apple Bloom gets excited, "Hey, is that me?" "No Dimples, that's Great Auntie Applesauce when she was your age—and a spittin' image of you! Back in the day her name was

Pumpkin Spice but they started callin' her Applesauce after half her teeth fell out when we was making Apple Jam!....Never did find all them teeth in those jars..."

As they look at some of the photos, they come to life as FLASHBACKS. With each new photo, Granny Smith recounts the fond memories she has of her family members. Applejack is constantly peppering her with questions about the activities featured in the photos and how they were carried out.

Much to her chagrin, Granny Smith is somewhat dismissive of her inquiries and doesn't give her many specifics to go on. "Food, games, hayride," Granny tells Applejack as she turns her attention to another photo album.

Granny flips through the book to reveal that it contains a group family photo from every year since the reunion began. Snapping these pictures is one of Granny Smith's favorite parts of the reunion. "This one here was taken over a hundred moons ago," explains Granny Smith, showing them the first picture in the book. In it the original Apple clan smiles in front of the barn. Granny shows off the photos, the happy family getting larger, and the barn getting older.

"Hey, that's us from last year!" exclaims Apple Bloom. There is a very large group of Apples standing in front of the old barn, a barn that is barely standing. Upon closer inspection, Apple Bloom notices something. "Hey, Cousin Crunchy is doing monkey ears behind my head!" Up close, Cousin Crunchy is hold his hooves to the side of a smiling Apple Bloom, so the bottom of his hooves made big round circle "ears."

"So see, Applejack," explains Granny, "Alls you got to do host an even that nopony will ever forget for the rest of their lives!" No pressure!! But Applejack is never one to shy away from a challenge and as we end Act I she proclaims, "Granny Smith, I won't let you down. I'm gonna organize a Family Reunion that you'll remember forever. In fact, this will be the most memorable Apple Family Reunion of the century!"

ACT II

A confident Applejack has just finished putting up the last of the decorations for the family reunion when she hears a HONK! HONK! In the distance, she sees a dust cloud and somepony waving a big purple flag. "The Apples from Purple Majesties are here!" Apple Bloom says as she races out to meet the families. They are all arriving today...for the APPLE FAMILY REUNION! Another family arrives by hot air balloon, while another arrive by boat-wagon. From the east, the west, the skies and the waters, Apple Families are gathering for this very special day! As they arrive, we get a chance to meet the members of Applejack's extended family. Apple Bloom is especially excited to see her cousin BABS SEED.

As all of the members gather, they begin to catch up on current events. But an eager Applejack interrupts their gabbing. “Hey now, you can all chew the fat later! We’ve got lots of events planned and things to do! Let’s start making those memories!”

Applejack sits the elders down, and separates the foals. She brings the young’ns over to barrels full of water and apples. “Let’s get to bobbin’ for them apples!” The foals begin goofing around and splashing one another with the water, but are quickly stopped by Applejack. She tells them that they need to do less splashing and more bobbing. How else are they ever going to get to the other 25 competitive games she’s lined up for them?

Applejack then races over to the elders, who are sifting through some crates. “Oh, you know that quilt y’all been sewing for moons—it was falling apart. I got rid of that stinky ol’ thing and gotcha a bunch of new and amazing fabrics from my buddy Rarity.” She tosses some glittery triangles over to the elders.

Applejack rushes over to some ponies at the apple fritter makin’ station who are shootin’ the breeze as they lazily fry up fritters. Applejack tells them that this year they’ll be able to whip up more fritters than ever. She’s acquired enough supplies to make this a full-on fritter frenzy. While the ponies are sweating away making fritters by the barrel, Applejack sets up more ponies with competitive games.

“Hey, faster, faster! C’mon Uncle Appleskin and Aunt Strudle—you can beat the horseshoes off of Cousin Core and Crumble! This is a 7-legged race for pete’s sake!” “No the race is this way—down THIS hill!” Applejack yells at the other ponies in potato sacks. Racing downhill, they tumble and roll down the hill.

Applejack rushes the elders. “Quilt more! We want everypony to see the new blanket before the reunion ends so we can all REMEMBER it! Good memories are what we want! Sew! Sew like the wind!”

As Act II progresses, it becomes clear that Applejack, in her attempt to make the reunion more memorable has turned a fun event into a stressful and unenjoyable one. Everypony is so focused on cooking, quilting, and competing that they aren’t getting to really spend any quality time enjoying one another’s company. Applejack, seeing that the ponies don’t look as happy as they should on such a great day, chalks it up to the fact that her events aren’t memorable enough. She MUST up the ante even more!

“Everypony, time for our Annual Hayrides!! C’mon, c’mon ya’ll, get on the wagons, here we go, watch your step—but not so slowly! C’mon!” She urges all the ponies to load up on their wagons. “Who needs that slow paced, relaxing ride around the orchards when we can have an adventure that we’ll never forget!”

Applejack proceeds to take them on a bumpy wild ride! They even head into the Everfree Forest, which is new to a lot of the Apple Family. It’s spooky, scary, and the

little ponies hold on for dear life. While it all seems so fun for Applejack, the rest of the family is terrified. Suddenly a dragon roars out from a cave, sending the hayride into a chaotic ordeal. The hayride steers out of control; the scared ponies at the reins running for their lives as we END ACT II.

ACT III

“Whoah! WHOAH!” cries Applejack. The wagons veer out of the forest, towards the old barn. Applejack unhitches the reined ponies, and everyone leaps off just as the wagons burst through the old barn. Everypony is safe, but as they shake off the dust and hay, the barn begins to tremble. Granny Smith and Applejack look on as the barn collapses and crumbles into a big heap of sawdust.

The Apple Family reunion has turned out to be a disaster! Great Auntie Applesauce is so distraught the rest of her teeth have fallen out. Everypony is going to remember this day alright, but for all the wrong reasons. Granny Smith reminds Applejack that the reunion ain’t over until everypony goes home. There is still a chance to salvage things; maybe they should start by getting everyone to chip in and fix up the barn.

Applejack gathers her family members around and apologizes for ruining the reunion. She asks if any of them might be willing to help raise the barn so they can still get their family photo. “For Granny,” she adds. Gradually family members begin to step forward to volunteer.

At first, Applejack directs ponies to the new slats of wood, the boxes of nails, the rulers, the saws, and the beams. In the SONG that ensues, Applejack begins saying her lyrics like a caller at a square dance. “Grab yer partner, take a saw, and hand your wood left to your Ma!” Ponies move and build to the rhythm of Applejack’s calls. “Nail your beams on to the right, stack those beams on to the left, come to the center and do-si-do, twirl your partner and lift that pole!”

Soon, all of the ponies are raising the barn to Applejack the caller. Uncle Crabby grabs his violin, and Granny Smith grabs her harmonica. Before they know it, they are all enjoying a huge HOE DOWN in the brand new beautiful red barn. The ponies all agree that this IS indeed the most memorable Apple Family Reunion! In fact, they’ve had such a great time together, they all agree that raising a new barn should be part of every reunion from here on out. Applejack is thrilled. Maybe next year they can raise two barns and make it twice as memorable! “Just kidding,” she adds, off Granny Smith’s look of disapproval.

FLASH FORWARD 40 years in the future, where two little ponies are looking at the photo of the Apple Family posing in front of the new barn. An old grandma pony (whose face you can’t see on the screen) speaks to the foals. “This was the first year the whole family put up the barn together, and it was a day we would never forget.” The little pony notices another pony in the photograph. “And that’s you, Grandma!”

The pony points to Applejack in the photo. “It shore is, it shore is,” replies the grandma pony.

THE END