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"Simple Ways"
Episode 413
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TEASER

SC 1 - EXT. TOWN HALL - AFTERNOON

The MANE SIX make their way through the town square where it seems like every citizen of Ponyville has gathered.

1 RAINBOW DASH
Wow. I can't believe how many ponies showed up.

2 PINKIE PIE
(excited)
I can. I mean, finding out who the Ponyville Days Pony of Ceremonies is, is a pretty big deal.

3 TWILIGHT
I didn't realize so many ponies had submitted applications.

QUICK TAKES to a few examples: a NERD PONY with a telescope and few models of stars and planets; a CIRCUS PONY on a unicycle, juggling pins; a REN-FAIR PONY with a jousting lance and stein.

4 APPLEJACK
The competition does look mighty stiff, but I'm sure you have as good a chance as anypony.

Twilight pulls out a couple of THICK TEXT BOOKS.

5 TWILIGHT
Thanks, Applejack. I think the Festival is the perfect opportunity to showcase my lecture on the shifting balance of magical power from cities to small towns.

6 APPLEJACK
Um... Yeah. That sounds... very educational.

7 TWILIGHT
Thank you.

8 FLUTTERSHY
I'd like to have a petting zoo of every animal in Everfree Forest.

9 RARITY
Maybe not <u>every</u> animal. I'm not sure anypony would be comfortable petting a Timber Wolf.

A hush falls over the crowd as MAYOR exits Town Hall. Several elderly ponies follow her, GRANNY SMITH among them.

10 TWILIGHT
I didn't know Granny Smith was on the Selection Committee.

11 APPLEJACK
Of course she is. Ponyville Days celebrates the founding of Ponyville and she was right there.

12 PINKIE PIE
(in one breath)
I'm glad the Committee didn't automatically pick me so everypony gets a chance to see how great being me actually is, even though the Festival is basically a party and the Pony of Ceremonies gets to organize the whole thing so it would totally make sense if they did pick me.

13 THE OTHERS
Shhhhhh!

Mayor walks up to a podium.

14 MAYOR
Citizens of Ponyville, this year's applicants were all exceptional, but there can only be one Ponyville Days Pony of Ceremonies. And that pony is...

QUICK CUTS TO -- Twilight hugging her books, expectantly; Fluttershy doe-eyed and hopeful; Pinkie Pie crossing both hoofs and holding her breath.

BACK TO -- the Mayor as Granny Smith walks over and gives her a slip of paper. She looks down at the name and announces...

15 MAYOR (CONT'D)
Rarity!

CLOSE ON -- Rarity (think: an actor's reaction at the Emmys). Everypony CHEERS.

16 TWILIGHT
Congratulations, Rarity. Do you know what you're going to do?

Rarity's horn GLOWS as she pulls out several SACKS filled with BOLTS OF FABRIC and a GIANT SCRAPBOOK stuffed with sketches, swatches, etc.

17 RARITY
(coy)
Oh, I have a few ideas.

FADE OUT.

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC 2 - INT. RARITY'S BOUTIQUE - LATER

All the ponies stand in the boutique in front of a small runway and proscenium, complete with a red velvet curtain.

18 PINKIE PIE
I'm so excited for the Festival I can hardly stand up straight.

Pinkie's legs go stiff and she starts to tilt over.

19 TWILIGHT
Me too. I'm glad Rarity was picked. I know she'll add a touch of elegance to the whole thing.

20 APPLEJACK
Probably more than a touch.

21 RAINBOW DASH
Where is Rarity anyway? I thought she was going to show us her super secret ideas for the Festival.

Just then, Spike steps out from behind the curtain, wheeling a wind-up phonograph. He wears a little suit and sets up a small easel, placing a sketch book on it.

22 SPIKE
Ahem.

He holds a stack of index cards in one hand while winding up the phonograph with the other.

Spike opens the sketch book on the easel and drops the needle on the phonograph. Sweeping <ORCHESTRAL MUSIC> starts to play as he pulls open the curtain to reveal...

RARITY - in a SPOTLIGHT, wearing a glamorous evening gown. She strides down the runway as OPAL works LIGHTS that trace the runway while Spike reads from his index cards.

23 SPIKE (CONT'D)
(stiffly)
This year's Ponyville Days Festival Pony of Ceremonies wears shimmering couture of her own design, but her vision encompasses so much more than fashion...

FAVOR the fashion designer-style sketches on Spike's easel as he flips through them, describing...

24 SPIKE (CONT'D)
A silent cider auction and tasting...

SKETCH - Elegantly coiffed ponies fill champagne glasses from barrels labeled, CIDER.

25 SPIKE (CONT'D)
A Ponyville gala in Town Square...

SKETCH - Strings of twinkle lights drape from the Fountain in Town Square, while ponies dance under the stars.

26 SPIKE (CONT'D)
And, of course, a Ponyville fashion show.

SKETCH - A pony in an exquisite gown stands at the end of a runway.

Spike pulls the final SKETCH away to reveal a nearly identical image of Rarity standing at the end of her runway.

27 RARITY
And the theme is, Small Town Chic!

The music stops and Spike fires a CONFETTI CANNON. The other ponies erupt in applause.

28 TWILIGHT
Wow. Rarity, you have really put a lot of effort into this.

29 APPLEJACK
I'll say.

30 FLUTTERSHY
I think it's going to be magical.

31 RARITY
Do you really think so?

32 PINKIE PIE
Are you kidding? I can't wait!

Rarity steps down.

33 RARITY
Oh, that's such a relief. But, of course, I couldn't possibly do it all on my own. The festival is in three days!

34 RAINBOW DASH
We'll help! Pinkie Pie and I can hang lights and decorations in the Town Square.

35 APPLEJACK
And I can get Sweet Apple Acres all ready for the cider tasting.

36 RARITY
That's just perfect. Now Twilight, if you and Fluttershy wouldn't mind helping with the fashion show...

37 TWILIGHT
Of course.

38 FLUTTERSHY
I'd be honored.

39 RARITY
...I can focus on the one thing I am absolutely worried about the most of all.

40 THE OTHERS
What!?

41 RARITY
Creating a Ponyville Days Festival fantastic enough to impress... TRENDERHOOF.

The other ponies all stare back at her blankly.

42 RARITY (CONT'D)
Trenderhoof. The Trenderhoof? I heard a rumor from a very reliable source that he'll be in attendance.

43 APPLEJACK
Who's Trenderhoof?

44 RARITY
WHAT?! How can you not know who Trenderhoof is?

The other ponies stare blankly and Rarity pulls back a curtain to reveal a pre-teen-Bieber-esque SHRINE (posters, magazine clippings, books, etc.).

45 RARITY (CONT'D)
(breathless)
Trenderhoof is only the most amazing, handsomest travel writer to have ever traveled or written. Before Las Pegasus became an Equestria travel destination, he wrote about it. Before the culinary revolution in Trottingham, he discovered it. He knows what's going to be hot before it's even tepid.

46 TWILIGHT
Sounds like somepony has a little bit of a crush.

47 RARITY
Oh, Twilight. "Crush" doesn't even begin to describe it! He's practically divine. And he's coming, he's coming, I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S COMING!

The other ponies all look at her.

48 RARITY (CONT'D)
Ahem. Sorry.

Off the other's looks of concern...

SC 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE STATION - DAY

A <WHISTLE> blows as the FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS rolls into the station. A cloud of STEAM billows past revealing Rarity waiting nervously on the platform. Twilight stands with her.

49 RARITY
Thank you ever so much for joining me, Twilight. I don't think I could have met Trenderhoof on my own.

50 TWILIGHT
It's no problem, but you shouldn't be nervous about meeting him. You're the Pony of Ceremonies and he <u>is</u> here for the Festival.

51 RARITY
I suppose you're right. Still, I get butterflies just thinking about meeting him muzzle to muzzle. *

Rarity trails off as several ponies disembark. She scans the crowd, wide eyed.

52 RARITY (CONT'D)
Is that him? Do you see him. Twilight, is he there?

Twilight spots a balding PONY with a bad comb-over. *

53 TWILIGHT
Ah... I'm not sure. Is his mane * sort of thinning? *

54 RARITY
Twilight, please! His luxuriant * coiffure is perfect. *
(slight panic)
You don't suppose he decided not to come?

Another group steps off the train.

55 RARITY (CONT'D)
(panic)
Twilight, I don't see him! What if he doesn't arrive? The whole festival will be a disaster! TWILIGHT, WHERE IS HE?!!

Everypony at the station turns at Rarity's outburst.

56 RARITY (CONT'D)
Ahem. Sorry.

57 TWILIGHT
Rarity, you have to get a hold of yourself. I mean, you haven't even met him yet...

58 RARITY
(cutting her off)
<PROLONGED GASP>

FROM RARITY'S POV - Another billow of STEAM clears as TRENDERHOOF steps from the train (like someone smashed Justin Beiber and Anthony Bourdain together and made a unicorn).

59 TWILIGHT
Rarity, what's wrong.

Suddenly terrified, Rarity ducks behind her friend.

60 RARITY
Shhhhhhh.
(breathless)
It's him, it's him, it's him, he's here, it's him.

61 TWILIGHT
Well, go up and talk to him.

Rarity stands, frozen in place.

62 RARITY
I can't.

FAVOR TRENDERHOOF - as Twilight shoves a paralyzed Rarity in front of him.

63 RARITY (CONT'D)
Um... Hi. Ahem. Hello. Mr. Trenderhoof. I am Rarity and I have been chosen as Pony of Ceremonies for the Ponyville Days Festival.

64 TREND
Please. Call me Trend.

65 RARITY
(giggling)
Trend? Really? Oh, my...

Rarity's eyes do swirls as she SWOONS. Twilight catches her.

66 TWILIGHT
(to Trend)
Sorry.

Off Trend's winning smile...

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

Rarity excitedly leads Trend through the Town Square. Twilight follows. Rarity gestures toward the fountain.

67 RARITY
And over here, will be the climax of the Festival, The Ponyville Days Gala. Music. Dancing. And of course a locally sourced menu of delicious treats. I'm picturing something with the authenticity of a Vanhoover pop-up food fair but with the elegance of a Canterlot garden party. *

68 TREND
Reminds me of the Spring Fling meets Manehattan Wedding I wrote about in Gallop & Prance.

69 RARITY
Exactly! I can’t even describe how much your work has influenced me.

Trend stops and looks up at the fountain.

70 TREND
Well, Rarity, I’m glad I came early. I always like to do a little “before and after” for my readers. Talking with you has been a splendid “before.”

He TOUCHES her shoulder and Rarity freezes in shock.

71 TREND (CONT’D)
I’m sure your event will be the exact sort of “after” my readers expect. * * *

Trend winks at her and Rarity manages a stifled smile. Trend turns and walks on through the Square.

Twilight and Fluttershy walk up as Rarity tries to contain herself.

72 FLUTTERSHY
Um... Rarity? Twilight and I were wondering about the Fashion Show...

Assured that Trend is out of earshot, Rarity explodes in a cascade of schoolgirl giggles.

73 RARITY
Oh. My. Celestia. [alt: Oh, my stars!] [alt: Goodness!] He touched me. Did you see? HE TOUCHED ME! *

74 TWILIGHT
Oh, we saw.

75 RARITY
I knew I'd impress him with my talent and vision, but never in my wildest dreams did I think he'd reciprocate my feelings. I think this crush might not be one-sided.

76 FLUTTERSHY
I'm really glad it's going well, but we were wondering what kind of music you wanted.

77 RARITY
For what?

78 TWILIGHT
The fashion show?

79 RARITY
Oh, why don't you just come up with something.

Twilight and Fluttershy exchange a glance.

80 FLUTTERSHY
But, you're the Pony of Ceremonies.

81 TWILIGHT
I know meeting Trend is exciting, but the fashion show is an important part of your theme. We can't make decisions about it without you.

82 RARITY
I'm sure whatever you two decide will be fine.

With that, Rarity rushes off after Trend.

83 FLUTTERSHY
Rarity sure seems... distracted.

84 TWILIGHT
She knows how important the festival is... I think.

SC 5 - <u>EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - LATER</u>

Rarity and Trend look out at the rolling, tree covered hills of the farm.

85 RARITY
And finally, Sweet Apple Acres. Ponnyville's core, so to speak, where our quaint little hamlet began.

86 TREND
Breathtaking. I've heard about it, of course, but to see it in person, to stand on the soil of a working farm... You can really feel the authenticity.

87 RARITY
Yes. Um... They really do grow apples here.

Trend turns to Rarity. He puts a hoof on her shoulder again and she BLUSHES.

88 TREND
Thank you, Rarity. Thank you for bringing me here. This farm is truly something special.

89 RARITY
I had planned to transform it into an elegant country inn for the Festival, but now I see just how special it is *au natural.*

90 TREND
Au natural, indeed.

Trend looks into Rarity's eyes. She looks into his. Rarity swoons, but when she opens her eyes Trend is staring wide-eyed off screen.

91 TREND (CONT'D)
Who. Is. That?

Rarity follows Trend's gaze to-- Applejack working the field.

92 RARITY
Who? Applejack?

Trend stares, breathless as <ORCHESTRAL STRING MUSIC> swells and we CUT TO:

TREND'S POV: SLOW-MO PANNING around Applejack as she bucks a tree. Apples fall around her, as she flips her hair back.

Rarity steps in front of Trend, blocking his view, as a <RECORD SCRATCH> stops the romantic music.

93 RARITY (CONT'D)
Um... Why are you staring at her like that?

94 TREND
I've seen a lot in my travels, but I've never beheld such beauty. Applejack. The pony of my dreams.

Off Rarity's shocked expression...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC 6 - EXT. BOUTIQUE - ESTABLISHING - SUNRISE *

INT. BOUTIQUE - SAME *

Spike arrives at the Boutique. He <KNOCKS> and finds the front door open.

95 SPIKE
Rarity?

He takes a tentative step inside.

96 SPIKE (CONT'D)
Hello?

He finds Rarity sitting on the floor in front of her Trenderhoof Shrine. Spike pulls out a small silver cup with an "S" engraved on the side.

97 SPIKE (CONT'D)
I brought my cider tasting cup. Are you ready to go try the samples?

98 RARITY
(dramatic sobbing)
Oh! What's the point?

99 SPIKE
Rarity, what's wrong?

100 RARITY
(fighting back tears)
Nothing.

101 SPIKE
Is it something I did? I know I'm a little late...

102 RARITY
(barely audible)
He doesn't like me.

103 SPIKE
What?

104 RARITY
(no louder)
He doesn't like me.

105 SPIKE
Rarity, I can't hear--

106 RARITY
(loudly cutting him off)
HE DOESN'T LIKE ME BECAUSE HE HAS A *
CRUSH ON APPLEJACK EVEN THOUGH I'VE *
HAD A CRUSH ON HIM SINCE THE
BEGINNING OF TIME AND IT'S NOT
FAIR!

Spike falls backwards.

107 SPIKE
Trenderhoof doesn't like you?
That's ridiculous.

108 RARITY
Oh, Spike, how could you ever know what it's like to be totally obsessed with a pony only to find they're obsessed with somepony else?

Spike stares at her with his arms crossed.

109 SPIKE
Really?

110 RARITY
I mean, what could Applejack possibly have that I don't?

Spike shrugs. Rarity looks at him for a moment, thinking.

111 SPIKE
What?

SC 8 - <u>EXT. PONYVILLE - LATER</u>

Applejack walks through town, carrying an extra heavy load of apples. Trend follows close behind.

112 TREND
You know, I have such respect for the work ethic of Earth Ponies. I've always admired it.

113 APPLEJACK
Gee, thanks. Granny Smith always said, "Pick an apple a day and keep trouble away."

A few apples fall from Applejack's baskets. Trend smiles, but makes no move to help. Applejack bends down to pick them up.

114 TREND
How many varieties of apples do you think there are?

115 APPLEJACK
On the farm or in all of Equestria? Because--

116 TREND
I once had an apple so rare, they thought it was extinct.
(beat)
I ate four of them.

117 APPLEJACK
Is that a fact?

118 TREND
That's my thing. I find something quaint that nopony would ever see, like Ponyville, and I provide-- a window. *

119 APPLEJACK
A window?

120 TREND
Access. I take the mundane, the simple, the... unappreciated, and I make it relatable. *

121 APPLEJACK
(flatly)
Well, I sure hope you can relate to Ponyville.

122 TREND
(oblivious)
Me too.

Trend moves around in front, blocking Applejack's path.

123 TREND (CONT'D)
But enough about me. I want to know about you. What do apples mean to Applejack?

124 APPLEJACK
Look, I'm glad you're interested in Ponyville and all, but I'm kinda busy with my chores and if I can't get 'em done, there won't be a Ponyville Days Festival for you to write about.

125 RARITY (O.S.)
Well, that will never do!

WHIP PAN to reveal-- Rarity in a new Pony of Ceremonies outfit: Silk overalls, a sequin studded straw sun hat, and apple baskets done in gingham.

126 APPLEJACK
Rarity, what are you wearing?

127 RARITY
(coy)
What, this old thing?

128 APPLEJACK
Aren't you too busy planning the Festival to keep making new outfits for it?

129 RARITY
I am, but the thought of hauling apples inspired me and I just couldn't stop myself.

130 APPLEJACK
(suspicious)
Really?

131 RARITY
Of course.

Rarity walks up to Applejack's overflowing baskets and selects exactly TWO APPLES. She places one in each of her baskets, smiling at Trend the whole time.

132 RARITY (CONT'D)
(to Trend)
If there's one thing I love, it's hauling apples.

133 TREND
(to Applejack)
I'm growing fond of it, myself.

Trend winks at Applejack who continues on her way, still struggling under her load.

134 APPLEJACK
(under her breath)
Maybe you two should try it sometime.

Trend and Rarity follow.

135 TREND
I feel a tad inspired, myself. Do you mind if I write something?

136 RARITY
Right now? Oh, please.

137 APPLEJACK
Suit yourself.

Trend's horn glows as he whips out a quill and parchment, writing as he talks.

138 TREND
Without farm life there'd be such disparity.
These thoughts I think with great clarity.
Apples high to the sky,
She's the one of eye.
That fruit hauling pony named...

Rarity looks toward Trend, hopeful.

139 TREND (CONT'D)
...Applejack.

Rarity's expression drops. Applejack rolls her eyes.

140 APPLEJACK
(flatly)
That's real nice.

SC 9 - <u>EXT. FIELD - LATER</u>

Spike watches while Rarity, still in her silken overalls, tries to put on a PLOW HARNESS backwards. *

141 RARITY
Is it me or could this ensemble use a splash of color, and maybe a wash?

142 SPIKE
Rarity, why do yo want to plow a field? Don't we need to check on the gala decorations?

143 RARITY
Yes, yes. Of course. But Trend obviously has a thing for farm life. If I can't convince him that I'm just as much a farm hoof as Applejack, I'll never get him interested in the Festival. *

144 SPIKE
The Festival. Right.

145 RARITY
And I do appreciate your help ever so much. I couldn't do a thing without you.

146 SPIKE
(flattered)
Well... That's what friends are for.

147 RARITY
Right. So...

Rarity gives a tug on the harness, but the plow doesn't budge.

Spike gets behind and tries to push, but even with both of them trying, the thing won't move.

148 RARITY (CONT'D)
(straining)
Come... On... Farm... Thing!

Rarity pulls with all her might and-- slips right through the harness, flipping over and landing in front of it.

149 RARITY (CONT'D)
How does Applejack do it?!

150 APPLEJACK (O.S.)
Well, it helps if the harness is tied on right.

WHIP PAN TO - Applejack standing in the field with Trend.

151 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Rarity, what are you doing?

152 RARITY
I'm simply lending a hoof with the chores...
(to Trend)
...which I love doing ever so much.

Rarity walks over and tries to move the plow by pulling on the harness with her teeth.

153 APPLEJACK
(sighs)
Rarity, since when have you been interested in plowing?

Rarity keeps tugging on the harness, her horn glowing.

154 RARITY
Maybe... You... Don't... Know... Everything... About... Me..!

Finally the harness slips from her mouth and Rarity falls backwards, right into Trend's arms.

155 APPLEJACK
Well, if you're still interested after the Festival I can teach you all about it. But right now, I need to get the plowing done if you don't mind.

Still in Trend's arms, Rarity beams up at him.

156 RARITY
Not at all.

With that, Applejack slips on the harness and proceeds to zip through the field, crisscrossing it several times. Trend drops Rarity to watch.

157 SPIKE
She makes it look so easy.

158 TREND
(mooning)
I know. Isn't she fantastic?

Off Rarity's expression dropping...

SC 10 - <u>EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - LATER</u>

Applejack stands in the orchard and bucks a tree. The baskets beneath fill to overflowing while Trend applauds wildly.

Applejack rolls her eyes and looks over at Rarity sizing up a tree.

159 RARITY
I really don't see what all the fuss is about.

160 APPLEJACK
Now, Rarity, you be careful. If you don't get the bucking just right, you could sprain a hoof.

161 RARITY
I am perfectly familiar with the applebucking process, but while you seem to rely on raw power, I believe a certain amount of style is required.

Rarity backs toward the tree, but notices Trend isn't watching.

162 RARITY (CONT'D)
It's really more of a dance, if you ask me.

With that, Rarity twirls and trots, side-stepping, dressage-style in front of Trend, ending with a hop-step toward the tree.

163 RARITY (CONT'D)
Et voilà.

Rarity hits the tree with the tiniest of taps and a SINGLE APPLE falls delicately into her basket.

164 APPLEJACK
Well, your way is definitely long on style.

165 RARITY
Thank you.

166 APPLEJACK
Now if you all will excuse me, I have more chores to do...

Trend starts to follow, but Applejack spins around.

167 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
...inside!

With that Applejack heads into the farmhouse and shuts the door behind her.

Trend turns to Rarity, who beams back at him.

168 TREND
Rarity, can I ask you something?

169 RARITY
Why, Trend, you can ask me anything.

170 TREND
I've been meaning to ask for awhile and, frankly, I'm sort of embarrassed. I hope you don't think I'm foolish.

171 RARITY
Oh, never!

172 TREND
Rarity...

Rarity's eyes brighten.

173 RARITY
Yes, yes, yes?

Trend looks deeply into her eyes.

174 TREND
Do you think Applejack would be my date for the Festival?

Rarity stares at him for a long beat, a whimper frozen on her face. Finally...

175 RARITY
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER YOURSELF?!!

With that, she storms off.

SC 11 - EXT. FARM HOUSE - LATER

Applejack sticks her head out the front door, checking for any sign of Trend. The coast looks clear, but as she turns the corner she spots...

Trend - looking up at a nearby tree.

Applejack jumps back, peering around the side of the house as Trend makes a go at applebucking -- and misses the tree entirely.

While Trend looks around embarrassed, Applejack ducks back behind the house and tiptoes away, slipping into the barn.

SC 12 - INT. BARN - SAME

Applejack closes the door behind her with a <SIGH> of relief.

176 APPLEJACK
That was close.

177 RARITY (O.S.)
If you've come to apologize,
there's really no need.

Applejack looks over to see Rarity, levitating farm equipment into a wheelbarrow: a sack of FEED, a bucket, a pitch fork...

178 APPLEJACK
Rarity, what are you talking about?

179 RARITY
Oh, Applejack, let's dispense with
the charade, shall we?

180 APPLEJACK
Listen, I know you really want
Trend to like you.

181 RARITY
And he does. Despite somepony's
best efforts.

Rarity tosses more stuff into her wheelbarrow-- a wagon wheel, a roll of barbed wire, an anvil...

182 APPLEJACK
I swear, I don't know why he's
paying so much attention to me. And
I don't know anypony who's that
interested in farming. Not even me.

183 RARITY
Well, maybe it's time Trend met a <u>real</u> country pony.

184 APPLEJACK
What the hay is that supposed to mean? *

185 RARITY
Oh, you'll see.

186 APPLEJACK
Rarity, shouldn't you be working on the Festival instead of coming up with new ways to impress Trend?

187 RARITY
Oh, I'm sure you'd love that.

188 APPLEJACK
I sure would. And I think Small Town Chic is a great theme.

189 RARITY
Well, I have a new vision for the Festival.

Rarity tops off her wheelbarrow with a very surprised cow.

190 RARITY (CONT'D)
And it's gonna be more country than the whole Apple Family put together.

Off Rarity's crazed expression...

SC 13 - <u>EXT. PONYVILLE - MOMENTS LATER</u>

Applejack hurries through town looking for the others. Finally she comes across Rainbow Dash spreading HAY AND MUD through Town Square.

191 APPLEJACK
Rainbow, what are you doing?

192 RAINBOW DASH
Rarity just said to start decorating like this. I guess she's making some last minute changes.

193 APPLEJACK
And that doesn't seem odd to you?

Rainbow looks up, her hooves covered in mud.

194 RAINBOW DASH
What do you mean?

195 APPLEJACK
Never mind. Where's Pinkie?

196 RAINBOW DASH
Oh, she's taking care of the animals.

197 APPLEJACK
Animals?

Just then a rumbling HERD OF HOGS rushes by and Applejack has to jump out of the way to keep from being trampled.

Pinkie Pie hops after the herd.

198 PINKIE PIE
Do you know how hard it is to steer a herd of hogs? Because I didn't.

As Pinkie follows the hogs, Applejack breaks into a gallop, finally arriving at...

SC 14 - <u>EXT. RARITY'S BOUTIQUE - SAME</u>

Spike sits on a stool outside, wearing a straw hat. He plucks the first few notes on a banjo of something akin to <DUELING BANJOS (but that is in no way reminiscent of Deliverance)>.

SC 15 - <u>INT. BOUTIQUE - SAME</u>

Inside, Applejack joins Twilight and Fluttershy already standing by Rarity's small proscenium-- only the red velvet curtain has been replaced with a patch-covered sheet.

Spike ushers the mud-covered Rainbow Dash and Pinkie inside.

199 FLUTTERSHY
Isn't it a little late to be changing the theme?

200 TWILIGHT
Applejack, what's going on?

201 APPLEJACK
I'm too scared to guess.

From behind the sheet comes Rarity's voice, only she speaks with a HORRIBLY EXAGGERATED, HEE-HAW-STYLE, HILLBILLY ACCENT.

202 RARITY (O.S.)
(with hillbilly accent)
Firstly, I just wanna thank y'all for comin' and second I just know y'all will adore my new Ponyville Days Festival theme...

Opal steps out, wearing a red bandana. She plays a tambourine drum-roll as the sheet opens to reveal...

Rarity in a new Pony of Ceremonies outfit: torn denim and a corn husk hat with a blacked out tooth and chewing on a piece of hay.

203 RARITY (CONT'D)
(with hillbilly accent)
Simple Ways!

The others stare in stunned silence. Off Applejack's look of horror we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC 16 - INT. BOUTIQUE - RESUME

Applejack stares at Rarity's exaggerated version of a Country Pony and bursts out <LAUGHING>. The others try not to join in. Rarity continues to talk with her EXAGGERATED ACCENT.

204 RARITY
(with hillbilly accent)
Well, what's so funny?

205 APPLEJACK
Rarity, that is the silliest getup I have ever seen.

206 FLUTTERSHY
It is a little funny.

207 RARITY
(with hillbilly accent)
Funny?

208 TWILIGHT
Rarity, you aren't serious are you?

Flustered, Rarity drops her Hee Haw accent for a moment.

209 RARITY
Well, of course I'm serious!
Ahem...
(with accent again)
Why wouldn't I be?

210 APPLEJACK
Because you would never dress like that. You like fashion and high society and fancy things.

211 RARITY
(with hillbilly accent)
And I can like plowing fields and hauling apples just as much.

212 APPLEJACK
But you don't!

213 RARITY
(with hillbilly accent)
How do you know what I like?

214 APPLEJACK
Because I know you.

215 RARITY
(with hillbilly accent)
Well, maybe you don't know me as well as you think. Maybe I've been a little bit country my whole life.

216 APPLEJACK
And I suppose it's just a coincidence that Trenderhoof seems so interested in country life too?

217 RARITY
(with hillbilly accent)
I don't know what you're gettin' at.

218 APPLEJACK
Well, then I guess I'll just have to show you.

219 RARITY
(with hillbilly accent)
Be my guest. Now, if y'all will excuse me, I have a hootenanny of a Festival to put on.

With that, Rarity marches out. The others hesitantly follow. Applejack looks after, determined.

SC 17 - <u>EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - ESTABLISHING - SUNRISE</u> *

<u>INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - BARN - SAME</u> *

A runway has been set up for Rarity's fashion show, although in keeping with her new theme, it looks less like New York Fashion Week and more like a barnyard Toddlers & Tiaras.

Rarity (still talking in her EXAGGERATED HILLBILLY ACCENT) and Spike audition models, walking back and forth in front of some younger ponies, APPLE BLOOM among them.

220 RARITY
(with hillbilly accent)
Now, to be a model in the Simple Ways fashion show, you might think simple means less is more. Well, that just ain't so. If you want to be <u>real</u> simple, more is more.

Rarity's horn glows as she grabs various supplies and sets in on a flurry of activity around Apple Bloom.

221 RARITY (CONT'D)
(with hillbilly accent)
And vwah lah...

Rarity steps away to reveal Apple Bloom's new look:

An enormous Minnie Pearl-style hat littered with dead flowers * sits on her head and she wears a tattered, mud-splattered pair of overalls.

Apple Bloom looks down at her outfit, trying not to seem embarrassed. The other ponies stare in shock.

222 RARITY (CONT'D)
(with hillbilly accent)
Now y'all go off and make yourselves look just like that.

The young ponies file out. Apple Bloom follows, struggling under the weight of her hat. Rarity turns to Spike. *

223 RARITY (CONT'D)
(with hillbilly accent)
Who's left.

Spike looks down at his clip board.

224 SPIKE
Um...
(reading)
Apple Jewel? *

225 RARITY
(with hillbilly accent)
Who the hay is that? *

Spike shrugs as a SPOTLIGHT pops on, hitting the stage. The curtain pulls apart to reveal...

APPLEJACK, sans-hat, her hair blown out in an exact copy of Rarity's usual style.

She wears an elegant Rarity-inspired ball gown onto which a Rarified version of her own cutie mark (crystal apples) appears. Rarity looks up at her.

226 RARITY (CONT'D)
(with hillbilly accent)
Is this some kinda joke?

Applejack speaks in an overly proper manner, without a trace of her normal twang.

227 APPLEJACK
(overly proper accent)
Why, Rarity, what ever would make you think I was joking?

Flustered, Rarity drops her accent.

228 RARITY
Because you would never wear an ensemble like that! You like plowing fields and hauling apples...

229 APPLEJACK
(overly proper accent)
And I can like fashion just as much.

230 RARITY
But you don't!

231 APPLEJACK
(overly proper accent)
Well, maybe you don't know me as well as you think.

232 RARITY
But... I...

Realizing Applejack is echoing her own words, Rarity ramps her COUNTRY ACCENT back up.

233 RARITY (CONT'D)
(with hillbilly accent)
Fine. But I got a whole Festival to plan, so if you're gonna start modelin', just get on with it.

Applejack nods and the house lights dim. Her spotlight brightens. *

234 APPLEJACK
Life is a festival, and you should * celebrate it by looking just like * me, because I'm a trend-setting * Fashionista!

A second SPOTLIGHT shines down on Rarity, standing near a pig pen. *

235 RARITY
Look like you? No, thanks! I like * the dirt and hay. I couldn't care * less how I look as long as the * chores get done. *

Both ponies face off. *

236 APPLEJACK *
Oh? Is that so? Well, I am all * about elaborate style and being * flashy and glitzy! *

236A RARITY *
Good for you. But I like life slow * and simple, and all my things to be * drab and rusty! *
*

236B APPLEJACK *
I love my hair perfectly coiffed * without a hair out of place. Always * have, always will. *

Rarity points a hose at the pig pen, while the pigs roll and *

splatter mud everywhere. *

236C RARITY *
I like it when it rains, * flat hair and muddy hooves are the * best. I Don't know the difference * between gumboots and dress shoes *

Several TUXEDOED PONIES appear with Applejack on the runway. *

236D APPLEJACK *
Gumboots? You'll never find me in a *
pair of those. I'm all about *
fashion and style and being covered *
in pretty glittery things. I'm *
surprised you never noticed that *
before. *

Applejack dances with the group of Tuxedo Ponies a la *
"Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend"/"Material Girl". *

236E RARITY *
I'm surprised you never noticed *
that I'm only impressed with how *
fast somepony can dig a hole, or *
how big they can grow an apple *
plant, or how dirty their big *
sweaty pig is!

236F APPLEJACK *
I'd never go near a dirty pig. *
Wouldn't want their horrible smell
to rub off on me. *

Rarity dances a jig in the mud with a chorus of pigs in straw *
hats, accompanying herself by blowing into a cider jug.

236G RARITY *
I don't care how I smell! *

The Tuxedo Ponies lift Applejack over their heads. *

Rarity and the pigs do synchronized swimming number in the *
mud, a la Busby Berkeley. *

236I RARITY (CONT'D) *
I don't care how I smell! In fact, *
I like to swim in slop!

The Tuxedo Ponies help Applejack down from the runway as *
Rarity stomps through the mud toward her...

236J APPLEJACK *
Sparkles! *

236K RARITY *
Sweat! *

*

236L APPLEJACK *
MAKE-UP! *

236M RARITY *
MUD!! *

MUD flings off the end of Rarity's hooves. In SLOW-MO, *
Rarity's expression drops as she watches the mud fly through *
the air (also in SLOW-MO) and hit...

APPLEJACK, splattering across her fancy gown. Applejack *
recoils (still in SLOW-MO) like she's been shot.

244 RARITY (CONT'D)
(dropping her accent)
Goooodness! You're couture!!

Rarity rushes over to assess the stain.

245 RARITY (CONT'D)
Oh, it's bad. I'll need three
gallons of boiling water and one
ounce of detergent, stat!

She reaches for the stain, then realizes her hooves are
covered in mud.

246 RARITY (CONT'D)
And will somepony bring me a towel
to wipe this repulsive filth from
my hooves!

247 APPLEJACK
(dropping her accent)
There's the Rarity I know!

248 RARITY
Oh, Applejack, I'm sorry I said all
those things. You are a true friend
who probably knows me better than I
know myself. I don't know what I
was thinking wearing this
ridiculous outfit.

Applejack looks down at her own mud-spattered gown.

249 APPLEJACK
I kinda know how you feel.

250 RARITY
But you were just trying to help me
see how silly I was being. And you
were right. Besides, that gown
looks gorgeous on you. I just wish
I hadn't ruined it.

251 APPLEJACK
Thanks. It's nice ain't it?

252 RARITY
It's magnificent! Whereever did you get it?

253 APPLEJACK
Oh. It's ah... one of yours.

Off Rarity's shock, Applejack smiles sheepishly.

Suddenly, Trend, wearing FARM CLOTHES, bursts through the barn doors.

254 TREND
I'm moving to Ponyville!

Applejack, Rarity, Spike, Apple Bloom and the other models, Opal and the pigs all stare slack-jawed at Trend and his new country pony look: denim, straw hat, etc.

255 APPLEJACK/RARITY
What!?

Trend walks up to Applejack, totally oblivious to her mud soaked "Marilyn Monroe Pony" outfit.

256 TREND
Being the most interesting Pony in Equestria is exhausting. I want to leave my exotic, exciting life behind and live on a farm.

257 APPLEJACK
Well, that's real nice, but I sure hope you weren't thinking of Sweet Apple Acres.

Trend's expression drops.

258 TREND
Oh.

259 APPLEJACK
Look, you're a fine pony, but I'm... Well, um...

Rarity steps forward.

260 RARITY
I think what Applejack is trying to say, is that there's something unappealing about a pony who'd change themselves so much just to impress somepony else. If somepony doesn't like you for who you are, it's their loss.

261 APPLEJACK
Exactly!

Trend pulls off his straw hat.

262 TREND
Well, this is awkward.

263 RARITY
Not at all. In fact...

Rarity looks around at her Hee Haw inspired Festival: Pigs, hay, mud, etc.

264 RARITY (CONT'D)
I think I know just how you feel.

Applejack walks up.

265 APPLEJACK
What do you think, Rarity? Is it too late to go back to Small Town Chic?

Rarity looks up at her with a confident smile.

266 RARITY
Not if I can help it!

SC 18 - <u>PONYVILLE DAYS FESTIVAL MONTAGE</u>:

In a quick series of shots we see Rarity's original "Small Town Chic" sketches come to life as everypony celebrates the Ponyville Days Festival:

SKETCH - Elegantly coiffed ponies fill champagne glasses from barrels clearly labeled, CIDER.

THE SKETCH FALLS AWAY TO REVEAL...

SWEET APPLE ACRES - Spike and his silver cup are first in line as the townsfolk line up for Rarity's - CIDER TASTING.

SKETCH - Strings of twinkle lights drape from the Fountain in Town Square, while ponies dance under the stars.

THE SKETCH FALLS AWAY TO REVEAL...

TOWN SQUARE - Ponies dance in the same scene as the sketch.

Trend, back in his fashionable attire, walks up to Applejack and Granny Smith. Applejack starts to balk, but Trend extends his hoof to... Granny and leads her to the dance floor.

SKETCH - A pony in an exquisite gown stands at the end of a runway.

The final sketch FALLS FROM FRAME to reveal a nearly identical image of Apple Bloom standing at the end of the runway in an elegant gown.

All the models walk out as the fashion show ends and Rarity follows (like a designer at the end of a real fashion show) as all of Ponyville applauds.

Off Rarity's satisfied smile...

END MONTAGE.

TAG

SC 19 - INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY

Rarity sits at her desk, writing with a quill in the Journal of Friendship.

267 RARITY (V.O.)
Organizing the Ponyville Days Celebration was one of the hardest things I've ever done, but I learned an important lesson.

Rarity thinks for a moment. Opal jumps on the desk and nuzzles her as Rarity continues.

268 RARITY (V.O.)
Real friends will like you for who you are and changing yourself to impress them is no way to make new ones.

Rarity sets the quill down, then has a thought and picks it back up.

269 RARITY (V.O.)
And when you are as fabulous as I am... it’s practically a crime.

With that, Rarity closes the book and smiles.

FADE OUT.

END.