Distribution:

Production:
Devon Cody
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
Jim Miller
Ashley Irving-Scott
Lesley Crawford

The HUB:
Donna Ebbs
Carin Davis
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Patrick Callan

Hasbro Studios:
Stephen Davis
Michael Vogel
Brian Lenard
Kathy Page
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro Brand:
Mark Wiesenhahn
Matt Mattus

MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Somepony to Watch Over Me"
Episode 417
Written by: Scott Sonneborn

Locked Polish: January 17, 2013

Polish: January 11, 2013

2nd draft: January 4, 2013

1st draft: December 17, 2012

Outline: November 14, 2012

Premise: October 31, 2012

TEASER

INT. THE APPLE HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY

The three CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS wait nervously in front of the closed door to Granny's room.

Behind the door, GRANNY SMITH, BIG MAC and Applejack are debating something. We hear <MURMURS> of something important. But we can't hear exactly what.

APPLE BLOOM can barely keep it together as she awaits the verdict.

1 SCOOTALOO
Whatever they decide, Apple Bloom, we'll be here for you.

2 SWEETIE BELLE
Totally. (then, super dramatic) Even though it could change everything for you! For ever! And ever!

That leaves AB even more nervous. <CRREEEAAK> The door opens!

The three CMCs strain to hold it together as Granny, Big Mac and AJ solemnly walk out into the hallway.

3 GRANNY SMITH
So. We here've decided…

Apple Bloom and her friends TREMBLE, as the anticipation builds and builds.

4 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
That you're old enough to stay home alone and take care of the chores yourself for the afternoon.

5 APPLE BLOOM
(calmly and maturely)
I accept your decision.

She and the other CMCS walk away calmly like responsible young lady-ponies.

Granny, Mac, and Applejack smile as they watch them go - looks like they made the right decision.

But as soon as the CMCS walk OFF SCREEN around the corner - they <HOOT AND HOLLER> and FREAK OUT LIKE LITTLE KIDS.

6 AB/SWEETIE BELLE/*SCOOTALOO* (O.S.)
I'm staying home alone!/You really are! /*We're so proud of you!! Ahhhh!!!!*

As they hear that AJ, Granny and Big Mac's faces go from proud contentment to …what in the heck did we get ourselves into?!?

END TEASER

CUT TO:

MY LITTLE PONY TITLE SEQUENCE

TRANSITION TO:

ACT I

EXT. THE APPLE FARM - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

As the sun rises over the farm…

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE FARM HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Apple Bloom "helps" AJ and Big Mac pack up a couple of delivery carts with apple pies.

Actually, AJ and Big Mac are doing all the work - Apple Bloom's so excited she's mostly just bouncing around.

(NOTE: Apple Jack has a PACK on her back, full of items that will be important later. For now, we don't need to make a big deal of it. But we do need to show her wearing the pack here and in the following scene when she's on the road).

7 APPLE BLOOM
Staying home alone. By my self! On my own! I can't believe I'm really doin' it!

8 APPLEJACK
Now, hey there, filly. I know you're excited. But bein' the only pony here to take care of the day's chores is a big responsibility.

Apple Bloom nods, super proud.

9 APPLE BLOOM
I know it! An' it means <u>everything</u> to me that ya'll think I'm grown up enough to handle it! I won't let you down!

Granny walks up - her packed bags hanging over her flanks.

10 GRANNY SMITH
Well, if'n I'm gonna make my train, I best be off. When great-aunt Pine Apple says a pony's got to arrive by a certain time, you best be there!

Granny NUZZLES up to Apple Bloom.

11 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
You be sure to take care now, Apple Bloom.

12 APPLE BLOOM
I will!

Granny turns to AJ and Big Mac with their carts.

13 GRANNY SMITH
You two take care too.

Granny nods to the MAP pinned to the front of Applejack's cart (there's a different map pinned to the front of Big Mac's cart). The map has a route marked on it in bright red.

14 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
I don't know which of your delivery routes is tougher. You're each headed to a mighty hard-to-reach town.

15 BIG MAC
Yup.

16 APPLEJACK
We know, Granny. That's the only reason I agreed to let Apple Bloom stay behind alone.

17 APPLE BLOOM
It is?

18 APPLEJACK
Oh, I didn't mean it like that, sugar cube.
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
It's just - I take my job as your big sister real serious.

With her teeth, AB pulls out a folded piece of paper.

19 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Which is why I spent all night making this.

She passes the paper to AB.

20 APPLE BLOOM
(excited) What is it?

21 APPLEJACK
Just a little list of helpful reminders.

AB opens the paper. It UNROLLS into a HUGE scroll, the edge of which flows all the way past the carts.

22 APPLE BLOOM
(reading) "There's some soup for you in the fridge. Be sure not to heat it up too much. If its hot, blow on it to cool it off. And take little sips - if ya gulp, ya could get hiccups." *

Apple Bloom rolls her eyes - but she understands that this is hard for AJ.

23 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
You don't have to worry about me. I can take of myself - and the chores. I've done every job there is to do around here with you guys. I'm ready for this!

Applejack sees how excited her little sister is.

24 APPLEJACK
I guess you are. I'm just not so sure I am. If the town my pies are goin' to didn't need 'em tonight for their big celebration, I'd stay with you til Granny and Mac get back.

Apple Bloom reassures her sister:

25 APPLE BLOOM
But you don’t have to because you trust me and believe I’m grown up enough to handle this, right?

Big Mac and Granny nod proudly. Applejack doesn't look so sure. But she takes a deep breath and --

26 APPLEJACK
Right. Ok, then. Good luck, little sis. I’ll be back by nightfall-

But Apple Bloom is already nudging Applejack's cart, pushing it onto the road.

27 APPLE BLOOM
(superfast) Okgreatseeyousoonbye!

Applejack pulls her cart alongside Big Mac's, heading one way down the road.

Granny moseys the other way down the road, carrying her flank bags. As they part ways, they all say goodbye to each other:

28 GRANNY SMITH/APPLE BLOOM/APPLEJACK
Goodbye/So long/See ya!/ Adios!/ Bye!/ See you soon!

29 BIG MAC
E-yup.

The goodbyes drift away as Granny, Applejack and Big Mac disappear down the road. Suddenly its quiet. Everyone is gone.

Hold for a beat, as Apple Bloom stands there, alone.

Then she leaps up into the air!

30 APPLE BLOOM
Woo-hoo! I'm alone! At home! I'm home alone! This is going to be so AWESOME!

EXT. ON THE ROAD - LATER THAT DAY

Miles from Sweet Apple Acres, AJ pulls her delivery cart next to Big Mac's. She's distracted.

So distracted, she nearly runs both her and Big Mac's carts off the road - until Big Mac nudges her back.

31 APPLEJACK
Sorry, Big Mac. I was just frettin' a bit about Apple Bloom. You think she's gonna be okay on her own?

32 BIG MAC
Yup.

33 APPLEJACK
I just keep thinking of things I forgot to put on her list. Like, I didn't write down that if she wants to get a spoon out of the drawer, she needs to open the drawer first.

Big Mac just gives her a look.

34 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
I know I'm probably just being silly -

35 BIG MAC
Yup.

36 APPLEJACK
But I know I'd feel a heap better if I could just check on Apple Bloom one last time.

Applejack stops and turns her cart around.

37 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
You go on and make your delivery. I'm just gonna take quick peek and then I'll make mine.

As Applejack and Big Mac head their separate ways…

INT. APPLE HOUSE/KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY

AB races around the kitchen with a pencil in her mouth.

38 APPLE BLOOM
Ok, number 172 - "Make sure to pump the bellows to keep the stove warm."

She steps on the bellows at the base of the stove. <FWOOM> The stove gives a little blast of fire.

She runs back over to the list Applejack gave her and crosses that off.

39 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Check! (reading off list) "Make sure the Hats and Bows closet is fully stocked."

She opens a closet door - it's so full of Applejack's hats and Apple Bloom's bows, that they tumble down on her.

She scoops them up and shoves them back in.

She runs back over to the list and crosses that off. Then she spits out the pencil and rolls up the scroll with her nose.

40 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Check! That's everything on Applejack's list!

Apple Bloom stands in the middle of the kitchen, smiling.

41 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
And now that my chores are done, since there's no one else here, I get to make all the decisions! If I want to listen to music, I can! If I want to read a book, I can! If I wanna just stand here in the kitchen talking to myself while staring out the window I can-

Just as she's doing just that, a SHADOWY FIGURE POPS UP in the window. AB is startled.

42 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Gah!

She's so startled that she stumbles backwards, trips and falls on to the BELLOWS, which propel her back up into the air!

43 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Whoaaaa!!

She lands on the scroll. It unrolls. She dances on top of it, trying to maintain her balance as it smashes jelly jars and chairs before being thrown into the Hats and Bows Closet.

44 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Ahhhhhhh --- Ommmph!

Applejack rushes in.

45 APPLEJACK
Apple Bloom!

Apple Bloom stumbles out of the closet, covered in hats and bows.

46 APPLE BLOOM
<groans> Applejack? Wait - that was you in the window?

47 APPLEJACK
I came back to check on you. And I am so glad I did!

AJ helps her sister up, pulling hats and bows off her. AJ looks around at the broken jars... the tipped over chairs...the mess of hats and bows.

(Note: none of the broken glass is anywhere near the ponies).

48 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
I never thought about how dangerous things are around here. You could've fallen off a chair and broken a leg! Cut your hoof on one of them jars! Gotten all tangled up in bows and whatnot!

49 APPLE BLOOM
Thanks. But I'm really going to be okay.

50 APPLEJACK
You are now. Because I'm here, and I'm staying!

Applejack HUGS her sister tight, confident she's doing the right thing.

51 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
No way am I leaving my little baby sister home alone all by herself!

As AJ hugs her tight, but Apple Bloom pushes her sister off of her.

52 APPLE BLOOM
I'm not a baby! I can take care of myself. And what about the pies you're supposed to deliver?

53 APPLEJACK
Pies? Family's way more important than pies.

Applejack takes a nearby broom in her teeth and starts sweeping up the mess.

54 APPLE BLOOM
But I'm fine.
(re: the mess)
And actually, this was kind of your fault.

That really hurts AJ.

55 APPLEJACK
I know. I should never have left you. But I'm here now and I'm not leaving you home alone ever again.

56 APPLE BLOOM
No, I meant you startled me and - wait, you don't think I'll <u>ever</u> be able to take care of myself?

Applejack's back is to AB as she sweeps the mess towards the door.

57 APPLEJACK
Oh, no, I'm sure you will. One day. In the future. Far in the future. When you don't need me lookin' after you.

Applejack's sweeping takes her OUT OF THE ROOM.

58 APPLE BLOOM
But I don't need you looking after me! I'm perfectly capable of stayin' home alone! Really! Just look!

Apple Bloom looks at the unfurled list on the ground and reads the first thing she sees.

59 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(reading) "There's some soup for you in the fridge."

Apple Bloom opens the fridge and scrambles up to reach the top shelf.

60 APPLEJACK (O.S.) (FROM NEXT ROOM)
What was that?

Apple Bloom turns to answer.

61 APPLE BLOOM
(annoyed) I said watch me-

But in turning, she isn't looking what she's doing. She slips and tumbles all the way down to the floor.

62 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Whooa - <IMPACT GRUNT>

<CRASH> The soup comes down on top of her. And everything else in the fridge.

AJ rushes back in.

63 APPLEJACK
Oh, no! This's worse 'n I thought! Well, don't worry Apple Bloom. From now on, I won't even leave the room! I'm sticking right by your side - always!

AJ smiles. But the look on Apple Bloom's soup-and-spaghetti covered face says it all: this is terrible!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. APPLE FARM/ORCHARD - A LITTLE LATER THAT DAY

CLOSE ON Apple Bloom as she trots through the orchard.

64 APPLE BLOOM
(to self) Applejack's just over reactin' a bit. I'm sure she'll snap out of it.

AB stops - and Applejack bumps right into her. AJ was hovering right behind her!

65 APPLEJACK
You need something? I'm right here!

Apple Bloom pushes her off.

66 APPLE BLOOM
I know you mean well, but I don't need you watching over me. I can take care of things myself. Look.

Apple Bloom sees a mess of leaves and rake leaning against a tree (positioned so we can't see the bottom end of the rake).

Apple Bloom grabs the rake in her mouth and tries to rake up some leaves. But it's not working.

67 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Huh?

She turns the rake upside down and sees…safety stoppers on the ends of the rake's tines.

68 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Hey! Who put safety stoppers on the rake?

69 APPLEJACK
(big smile) Oh, I don't know. Maybe some one who really loves her little sister and doesn't want her to get poked?

70 APPLE BLOOM
<annoyed GRUNT>

EXT. UNDERNEATH A BIG APPLE TREE -A LITTLE LATER

Apple Bloom prepares to buck some apples off a tree into a bucket.

71 APPLE BLOOM
(calling off screen) Hey, Applejack, watch me buck these apples on my own without anything bad happening to me.

She <KICKS> the tree. But no apples fall in her bucket. She kicks again. Nothing.

72 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Huh?

She looks up - and sees that all the apples are caught in a net, which AJ is happily holding over her sister's head (one end in her teeth, the other tied to the tree).

Net in her teeth, AJ SMILES.

73 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Grrrr.

MONTAGE - AROUND THE ORCHARD

* AB strains to run on the treadmill that they use to make cider. Suddenly, running on it becomes a lot easier. She smiles - until she looks back and sees AJ running behind her, doing all the work. AJ winks.

* As AB pulls a cart over to a pile of apples, she looks down and sees AJ put training wheels on the cart.

* AB takes WINONA the dog on a walk on a leash. WIDEN TO REVEAL: AJ trotting behind them, with holding Apple Bloom's reigns in her teeth. AB looks like one of those kids whose parents have them on a leash. As she is walked past a GIGGLING DIAMOND TIARA and SILVER SPOON, AB's humiliation is complete.

END MONTAGE ON…a very frustrated Apple Bloom.

74 APPLE BLOOM
Oh for the love of - you've gone and baby-proofed everything!

Applejack smiles proudly.

75 APPLEJACK
Yup! Your big sister let you down once. But I promise it won't ever happen again!

76 APPLE BLOOM
But really - I'm fine. I can take care of myself. I don't need you watching over me.

77 APPLEJACK
Aw, that's sweet. I appreciate you trying to make me feel better. But don't worry - I'll ALWAYS be here for you!

AJ walks off, smiling the contented smile of someone who means well. All Apple Bloom can say is…

78 APPLE BLOOM
Grrrrr!!!

INT. APPLE BLOOM'S BEDROOM - DUSK

As Apple Bloom gathers with the CMC's....

79 APPLE BLOOM
And that's the reason I asked y'all to come over quick--

AJ pokes her head into the room.

80 APPLEJACK
Hey, Apple Bloom, you need anything? A snack? A hoof massage?
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Maybe a snack while havin' a hoof massage?

81 SWEETIE
Why that sounds delightful!

But Apple Bloom is already pushing her sister out the door.

82 APPLE BLOOM
No thank you!

83 APPLEJACK
Ok, well, you can count on me being close by if'n you need anythin-

Apple Bloom pushes her out and slams the door behind her.

84 APPLE BLOOM
Whew! Ok, you see what I mean? She thinks she's gotta look out for me all the time. If this keeps up, I'm never going to be able to do anythin' without Applejack hoverin' over me!

The Cutie Mark Crusaders nod solemnly. That is very bad news. Sweetie tries to put a brave face on the situation.

85 SCOOTALOO
So what can we do?

89 APPLE BLOOM
Help me figure out a way to prove to Applejack I can take care of things myself.

The three girls think. And think.

90 SCOOTALOO/SWEETIE
Hmmm...Well… Uh…

91 APPLE BLOOM
Hang on a sec!

REVEAL: The three are under a LANTERN which hangs on a hook overhead.

AB turns on the light-bulb in it with a brainstorm-y <PING> sound effect.

92 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Any idears now?

The three girls STRAIN to come up with an idea. Their straining gets them up on their hind legs, closer to the lantern, as if being closer to it will help generate an idea.

93 APPLE BLOOM/SWEETIE/SCOOTALOO
<Straining to think of an idea>

From this vantage point, AB has a view out her window of…

Applejack's pie cart! Apple Bloom is so excited she leaps up and head taps the lantern which <PINGS> with a brainstorm-y sound.

94 APPLE BLOOM
I got it!

95 SWEETIE
What?

96 APPLE BLOOM
The pies! I'll sneak out and deliver them! Granny said they were going to some incredibly hard to reach town. If I can do it alone, that'll show Applejack I don't need somepony watchin' over me!

Sweetie nods excitedly, but Scootaloo has a reservation:

97 SCOOTALOO
Just one problem: your sister's gonna come back and check on you any minute!

Apple Bloom's face falls.

98 SWEETIE BELLE
Which means you need an escape plan!

Scootaloo leaps up excitedly and head-taps the lantern. <PING>

99 SCOOTALOO
Oooh! And I got an idea for one.

Scootaloo zips out…

INT. APPLE HOUSE/ KITCHEN - SECONDS LATER

…and zips into the kitchen. Right to the hats and bows closet. She grabs a couple bows with her teeth.

INT. APPLE BLOOM'S BEDROOM - SECONDS LATER

…. and then zips back in with bows. With her teeth, she slams one on Sweetie's head. Then ducks into one herself.

Scootaloo dives under the covers of AB's bed. With just the bow sticking out. It looks like Apple Bloom is sleeping under there.

100 SCOOTALOO
See? It'll look just like you're sleeping in bed. Sweetie and I can take shifts. That way, when one of us gets tired, the other can take over.

101 APPLE BLOOM
So when one of you gets tired <u>pretending</u> to sleep, you can switch places before you <u>really</u> fall asleep?

102 SCOOTALOO
Brilliant, huh?

Sweetie nods in agreement.

103 APPLE BLOOM
You know what? It is! I got a feelin' this just might work!

Suddenly, the lighting and background changes! A big orchestral number starts!

The CMCs are about to break into a song!

Apple Bloom starts the PREAMBLE to a song - STILL SPEAKING, not yet singing.

104 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(SPOKEN preamble to a song)
We're going to make my sister see/I don't need her watchin' over me!

But just then -- <CLOMP! CLOMP!> They hear Applejack coming up the stairs!

105 SCOOTALOO
Stop! There's no time for a song! Applejack's coming!

And with that, the MUSIC DIES DOWN and the BACKGROUND RETURNS TO NORMAL.

106 SWEETIE
(to AB) If you're going to go, we've got to get you out of here now!

Apple nods - then puts her hoof up. The other two smack it with their own hooves.

107 APPLE BLOOM
Cutie Mark Crusaders - let's do it!

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE APPLE BLOOM'S WINDOW - MOMENTS LATER

As MISSION IMPOSSIBLE style music plays…Sweetie opens the window, climbs out, and hangs off the ledge. (NOTE: The window should not be too high off the ground. *

Then Scootaloo climbs down her body, clamps her teeth on the end of Sweetie's tail and hangs down off of her.

SWEETIE BELLE *
Whoa! *

Apple Bloom shimmies down her two friends. *

SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D) *
Oof. *

SCOOTALO *
Urgh. *

Once she is close enough to the ground, she jumps down. *

APPLE BLOOM *
<IMPACT GRUNT> *

108 SCOOTALOO
(mumbled through a mouth full of tail)
Good luck!

Apple nods and scurries off.

INT. APPLE BLOOM'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sweetie and Scootaloo climb back in the window, just as…

The door knob starts to turn!

109 APPLEJACK (THRU DOOR)
Everything all right in there, sugar cube?

110 SCOOTALOO
(whisper)
Quick - get in while I hide!

Sweetie nods, puts on her bow, and dives under the covers, with just her bow sticking out. It looks perfect. But Scootaloo pokes her head out of hiding in the wardrobe.

111 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
(whisper)
Sweetie, No! You gotta sleep like Apple Bloom!

Sweetie pokes her head out.

112 SWEETIE
(whisper) How does she sleep?

113 SCOOTALOO
(whisper)
Like she does everything - with sass!

Sweetie nods and dives back under. She looks exactly the same as before, but apparently she's doing it with enough sass to satisfy Scootaloo, who shuts herself in the wardrobe.

Just as Applejack enters!

UNDER THE COVERS - Sweetie shakes nervously. Is AJ going to see through the ruse?

114 APPLEJACK
Huh. I guess you must've been so tuckered out you sent your friends home and went to bed. Then again, you are a delicate flower.

Applejack turns to go back out, but stops at the door.

115 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Sleep tight, Apple Bloom. I'll check on you again in a bit.

And with that, she closes the door behind her.

Sweetie and Scootaloo both poke their heads out to <breathe a sigh of relief.>

Only to dive back under the covers/in the wardrobe as the door opens again.

116 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Just checking in on you again. Need anything now?

QUICK SERIES OF CUTS - Applejack pokes her head into the room again and again, asking…

117 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
How about now?

CUT TO:

118 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Need another blanket?

CUT TO:

119 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Did I hear a cough?

CUT TO:

120 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Want a glass of water?

CROSS DISSOLVE WITH: A CLOCK ON THE WALL SPINNING FORWARD as…

BACK ON THE DOOR TO APPLE BLOOM'S ROOM. Applejack opens it one more time to ask…

121 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
<YAWN> Just checkin' on you again-

But seeing "Apple Bloom" (really Sweetie wearing one of AB's bows) sleeping peacefully in the bed, AJ stops herself.

Moonlight shines in through the window. Everything seems right with the world. AJ smiles.

AJ steps softly over to the bed and sits on the edge. She speaks softly, having a heart-to-heart with her "sleeping" "sister."

122 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Look at you, dozin' so peaceful-like. Here I am, checkin' up on ya every five seconds - and you're totally fine. Maybe you don't need me frettin' over you all the time.

123 SCOOTALOO (FROM INSIDE THE WARDROBE)
(can't contain her excitement)
Wow! Apple Bloom will be so glad to hear that!

Applejack bolts up.

124 APPLEJACK
Huh? Scootaloo?

She turns to the wardrobe.

125 SCOOTALOO (FROM INSIDE THE WARDROBE)
(covering)
Uh, no. Why would you think I was in here?

AJ lifts the covers to reveal Sweetie Belle.

126 APPLEJACK
Sweetie Belle? But where's Apple Bloom?

Frantic, Applejack races around opening the wardrobe and drawers, looking for AB. Her mind races.

127 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
She's not here! She could be anywhere! She could be lost, cold, hungry, itchy, stuffed up, needin' to go to the bathroom--

As AJ says all that, Sweetie and Scootaloo share a guilty look. Finally, they interrupt to reassure a frantic AJ.

128 SWEETIE
Don't worry. We know exactly where she is.

129 SCOOTALOO
Yeah. She's making your pie delivery.

But that makes AJ freak out even more!

130 APPLEJACK
What? No! Didn't she hear how difficult 'n dangerous it was?

131 SWEETIE
(proud)
Yup! That's why she's doing it!

AJ's eyes go wide. It's clear from her reaction that Apple Bloom is in big, big danger!

132 APPLEJACK
No! There's no way she can do it alone!
(then - big realization)
I may never see my sister again!

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. THE APPLE HOUSE/ KITCHEN - NIGHT

As Sweetie and Scootaloo look on, AJ gets THE PACK WE SAW HER WEAR IN ACT ONE ready.

133 APPLEJACK
Ok, Rarity's on her way to look after you two. Now tell me, did Apple Bloom at least bring flame-proof boots? A lion tamer's chair? A snake-charming flute? A hunk of ricotta?

Each time AJ asks, she pulls the item in question from the pack. Each time, the CMCs shake their heads "no."

AJ quickly repacks the items.

134 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
OK. Maybe there's still time to catch her before she gets there. When did she leave?

135 SWEETIE
It must have been hours ago.

AJ bolts up.

136 APPLEJACK
Oh no! That means she's already at the…

EXT. THE FLAME GEYSER SWAMP - NIGHT

The dense foliage blocks out the moon. Apple Bloom looks back at the map pinned on the cart, but can barely see it.

137 APPLE BLOOM
Can't see a darn thing in this swamp--

Suddenly <FWA-OOSH!> a geyser of flame spurts out of the ground right next to her.

138 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
YOW! Ok, well at least I can see.

As the first flame geyser dies down, another spurts up - revealing a monstrous CHIMERA standing in her path!

139 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
And now I wish I couldn't!

The Chimera has three heads: a lion's head, a goat's head and a snake's head. It's an imposing and terrifying sight!

Apple Bloom tries to go back, but <FWOOSH!> a geyser of fire behind her blocks her way. Same thing when she tries to go left, and then right.

140 LION HEAD
I'd stay where you are. This is the only safe spot around here.

<FWOOSH!> Another flame geyser spurts up nearby. True to the Lion Head's word, the spot where AB and the Chimera face each other is safe from the flames.

The flames let AB get a good look at the Chimera. Its three heads are on a powerful lion's body (the snake head is at the end of its tail).

And all three heads have lots of very sharp teeth!

141 APPLE BLOOM
It don't look so safe to me.

142 LION HEAD
Oh, we just mean from the flames.

Each of the Chimera's heads speaks with a female voice - they're like three sisters.

143 GOAT HEAD
Yeah, not from us.

144 SNAKE HEAD
What wasssss that? Can you guyssssss sssspeak up? Ssssoometimes it really ssssstinks being back here!

The Lion Head smiles evilly.

145 LION HEAD
I was about to tell our guest how we haven't eaten in days.

146 GOAT HEAD
(annoyed) Uh, yeah - because we can never agree on what to eat! Seriously - I don't know what you two have against ricotta. It’s really a delicious cheese.

147 SNAKE HEAD
Yeah, well, why won’t you eat ratsss?

148 LION HEAD
<disgusted plah!> Because I prefer something meatier, like Goa-

149 GOAT HEAD
Don't even think it.

150 LION HEAD
What? I was going to say “goat.” Not “goat-head.” Totally different.

Goat Head shakes her head. Then she turns to AB.

151 GOAT HEAD
Anyway, point is, my sisters and I can never agree on what to eat.

152 SNAKE HEAD
Exccccccccept pie.

153 LION HEAD
Oh, yes, pie!

154 GOAT HEAD
(nodding) We all love pie.

155 APPLE BLOOM
(nervous) You don't say…

AB tries to nonchalantly back away with the pies.

156 APPLE BLOOM (CONT’D)
Well, unfortunately, I got to get these pies to a town on the other side of the swamp.

The lion head smiles sinisterly.

157 LION HEAD
Oh, you don't have to worry about that.

The goat head matches the lion's malevolent smile.

158 GOAT HEAD
Yeah, you don't have to worry about anything anymore.

159 SNAKE HEAD
Because we're gonna have our apple pie with a sssside of filly filet! (then) That is what you guysss meant, right? That we're gonna get her?

The Lion and Goat Heads both <sigh>, the mounting tension they were building suddenly deflated.

160 GOAT HEAD
(annoyed)
Yes. That’s what we meant.

161 SNAKE HEAD
Don't get ssssssnippy with me! It's hard to hear back here!

162 LION HEAD
Can you two get back on track, please?

The Chimera gets its game face(s) back on. All three heads <GROWL> or <HISS> at AB.

163 LION HEAD (CONT’D)
Very good. Now sisters, on three. One.

Apple Bloom starts backing away.

164 GOAT HEAD
Two!

AB moves a little quicker. But the Chimera doesn’t budge. Goat and Lion Head turn back and shoot snake a dirty look:

165 LION HEAD
Snake!

166 SNAKE HEAD
What? I couldn’t hear you! My turn? Ok...Three!

The Chimera LUNGES at Apple Bloom!

Apple Bloom runs! Pulling the pies and dodging BURSTS of fire that spring up on either side of the path.

167 APPLE BLOOM
Gah!

Suddenly - <WHAM!> The massive Chimera pounces and lands nearby!

<ROAR!> The Loin head snaps at AB, but misses.

168 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Yow!

But the Lion Head bites off the bar that connected AB to the cart!

AB is able to run faster than before and put some distance between her and the Chimera.

169 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Whew!

But when she looks back, she sees going faster because she's lost the cart!

170 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
No! I gotta deliver those pies. I gotta show Applejack I can take care of things myself!

AB goes back for the cart. But suddenly the Chimera pounces down between her and the cart.

171 LION HEAD
Where do you think you're going?

<WHAM!> Snake tail whips out and trips AB! She hits the ground hard.

172 APPLE BLOOM
Oomph!

The Chimera is between AB and the cart. The Snake head, facing Apple Bloom, <HISSES>.

Facing the cart, the lion and Goat heads lick their lips as they look at the pies.

173 LION HEAD
Snake, please tie up the pony's legs so she can't get away.

Back on the other end with AB, Snake Head didn't quite get that.

174 SNAKE HEAD
What? What am I tying up?

Apple Bloom thinks fast.

175 APPLE BLOOM
Uh, your legs.

176 SNAKE HEAD
Oh. Thanksssss.

The snake tail wraps around the chimera's legs. Before Goat Head and Lion Head realize what's happening...

177 LION HEAD
What?!

They've fallen over in the confusion!

Allowing Apple Bloom to escape! She gets to the cart.

With no way to pull it, she PUSHES it instead, looking back over her shoulder for any sign of the Chimera.

She’s headed back in the right direction, but it's tough going.

178 APPLE BLOOM
<effort>

REVEAL: she's actually pushing the cart to the top of a hill in the swamp. Where it gets away from her - and zooms down the other side of the hill.

The cart disappears down the road through the trees.

179 APPLE BLOOM (CONT’D)
No!

But before she can chase after it -

<BOOM!> The Chimera lands like a lion in front of her. All three heads look around.

180 LION HEAD
Where are the pies?!?

The snake tail faces the other way.

181 SNAKE HEAD
They’re not back here!

The Chimera sees no sign of the pies.

182 GOAT HEAD
(to Lion Head) This is your fault! Just because you're the Lion Head, you think you always got to be in charge. And this is what happens!

Lion head just <SIGHS> and turns to Apple Bloom.

183 LION
<sigh> You’re lucky, you know. You've got no idea what its like to have a sister constantly looking over your shoulder.

184 APPLE BLOOM
Uh, actually…

Goat Head ignores AB and speaks to her sister.

185 GOAT HEAD
Let’s try listening to me for a change. And I say: if there are no pies, let’s settle for the filly filet.

The Snake Head snakes around, joining the other two in baring their sharp teeth at AB.

186 SNAKE HEAD
Any lassssssst wordssssss?

Face to face to face to face with the Chimera's three heads, AB is terrified.

187 APPLE BLOOM
I really wish my sister were here!

At which point, as if on cue, Applejack arrives, running in from out of the darkness! Carrying the FLANK PACK (the same one she wore in act one and packed at the beginning of this act).

188 APPLEJACK
Hang on, Apple Bloom! I’m a’comin’!

189 SNAKE HEAD/GOAT HEAD/LION HEAD
What?!?

190 APPLE BLOOM
Applejack!

<FWOOM! FWOOM!> Flame geysers erupt right under AJ's feet as she gallops. But AJ doesn't even notice, because she's wearing the flame-proof boots!

191 APPLEJACK
Apple Bloom! Get behind me!

Applejack leaps in between Apple Bloom and the Chimera.

192 LION HEAD/GOAT HEAD
Get her!

193 GOAT HEAD
Hey, I thought I was in charge now!

Snake Head follows her sister(s)'s command and lunges at Applejack.

194 SNAKE HEAD
<hisss!>

Apple Bloom flips the SNAKE CHARMING FLUTE out of her pack and into her mouth. And <BLOWS A LITTLE SNAKE-CHARMING TUNE.>

The Snake Head instantly hits the ground, fast asleep.

195 SNAKE HEAD (CONT'D)
<snores>

196 LION HEAD
<ROAR!>

The Lion Head lunges, flashing its teeth. AJ drops the flute and flips the LION TAMER'S CHAIR out of her pack.

AJ catches the chair in her teeth and uses it to force the Lion Head back.

197 APPLEJACK
Ha-ya!

The Lion head is forced back into the crook of a nearby try. Where it gets stuck! It can't pull free!

198 LION HEAD
<ROARS in frustration>

But then the Goat Head lunges at AJ!

AJ bucks up her hindquarters, flinging something out of her pack that lands in the goat's mouth.

199 GOAT HEAD
Mmmm. Ricotta!

The goat stops attacking and happily chomps away.

AJ turns to AB.

200 APPLEJACK
Let's go!

Apple Bloom hops on her back and AJ runs off! <FWOOM! FWOOM!> Fire geysers burst up harmlessly underneath her boots.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE FIRE SWAMP - A LITTLE LATER

Applejack and Apple Bloom race out of the swamp, then pause to catch their breath.

201 APPLE BLOOM/APPLEJACK
<BREATHING HARD>

AJ turns to her sister and sees all the bumps and bruises she suffered during her encounter with the Chimera.

202 APPLEJACK
You okay?

Apple Bloom nods.

203 APPLE BLOOM
Thanks to you.

Now that the danger has passed, Apple Bloom isn't happy with her sister.

204 APPLEJACK
I told ya ya need your big sister looking after you! I'm just glad this wasn't a whole lot worse! I mean, sure, we lost the cart and all the pies, but at least you're--

AJ stops short, her eyes caught on something OFF SCREEN. She's looking at…

The cart! With all the pies! It's sitting right there.

205 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
The cart! And all the pies!

Applejack is stunned.

206 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
You actually got them all the way here, in the dark, through the Flame Geyser Swamp, past that monster. By yourself?

Apple Bloom SHRUGS.

207 APPLE BLOOM
Well... yeah.

Applejack considers that. Genuinely impressed. She looks at her sister in a new light.

208 APPLEJACK
Wow. That's...that's mighty impressive. Anypony who can do that on her own...well, she don't need someone like me babying her, that's for sure.

Apple Bloom smiles.

EXT. REMOTE SWAMP TOWN - SOME TIME LATER

MALE CAJUN SWAMP PONIES <WHOOP AND HOLLER> as they chow down on pies under streamers and decorations.

209 MALE CAJUN SWAMP PONY
Andouille! Dis pie's even tastier den ma mama's swamp-water casserole!

All the other Swamp Ponies nod as they happily chow down - except for one, older Female Swamp Pony, who is obviously the first one's mother.

Her eyes well up with tears.

210 MALE CAJUN SWAMP PONY (CONT'D)
Aw, now, Mama, don be like dat!

As the rest of the swamp ponies chow down, WIDEN TO REVEAL Applejack and Apple Bloom happily passing out pies from the pie cart.

211 APPLEJACK
Just remember, you fellers wouldn't be enjoyin' these pies if it weren't for my sister!

212 APPLE BLOOM
And MY sister!

As the pie-eating revelry continues in the background, AJ turns to her sister.

213 APPLEJACK
This don’t change the fact that trying to make this delivery on your own was a plumb crazy thing to do.

Apple Bloom hangs her head.

214 APPLE BLOOM
I know.

215 APPLEJACK
But...I guess I did get a little carried away watching over ya. And if you hadn't snuck out like you did, maybe I wouldn't have figured that out.

216 APPLE BLOOM
So we're good?

217 APPLEJACK
Little sister, <u>we're</u> always good!

They side hug.

218 APPLEJACK (CONT’D)
<u>You</u>, though, are in a heap of trouble! I bet Granny Smith grounds you for a month for sneakin' out! And if me, and Mac and Granny ever have to be away for the day again...

Apple Bloom looks down, sure that she’s not going to like what AJ has to say. But AJ Smiles.

219 APPLEJACK (CONT’D)
I would totally trust you to stay home and take care of things on your own. And if Mac ‘n Granny don’t agree, they’ll have to talk to me!

Apple Bloom literally jumps for joy.

220 APPLE BLOOM
Yes! (then) Now <u>that</u> is the kind of looking out for me I can definitely appreciate!

EXT. FLAMING GEYSER SWAMP - CONTINUOUS

PAN ACROSS the Chimera - the Snake Head still snoring on the ground, the Lion Head still struggling to pull free of the tree.

The Goat Head is the only face we can see.

221 GOAT HEAD
(to self, darkly) One sister knocked out, the other stuck where I can't even see her face. If we ever meet those two ponies again...

The Goat Head smiles.

222 GOAT HEAD (CONT'D)
I'm gonna have to thank them!

As she happily takes another bite of ricotta cheese, we are at...

THE END!