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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Somepony to Watch Over Me"
Episode 417
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TEASER**1) 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, MAC and APPLEJACK are debating something. Something important. We can't hear what, but APPLE BLOOM can barely keep it together as she awaits the verdict. SCOOTALOO and SWEETIE BELLE vow that, whatever the decision the other Apples make, they'll support their friend Apple Bloom.

<CRREEEAAK> The door opens. "We've decided," begins Granny as the anticipation builds and builds, "that you're ready to stay home alone overnight."

"I accept your decision," says Apple Bloom maturely.

She and the other CMCS walk away calmly like responsible young lady-ponies. Only to HOOT AND HOLLER and FREAK OUT like little kids as soon as they get OFF SCREEN, around the corner. This is it! Apple Bloom is really going to get to stay home alone!!! It's really happening!!!

ACT ONE**2) EXT. THE APPLE FARM - DAY**

As Granny Smith leaves on an urgent trip to visit some relatives, Apple Bloom and the other CMC's help AJ and Big Mac pack up a couple of delivery carts with Apple Pies. These aren't just run of the mill deliveries. Getting to all the towns where these pies need to go won't be easy.

But nothing can dampen Apple Bloom's mood. She is so excited! Her friends are just as proud for her. Staying home alone! It's like the ultimate rite of passage. It's going to be awesome! And AB is so totally ready for it.

AJ, though, is not ready for it. She takes her job as Big Sister very seriously, and she's nervous about leaving Apple Bloom home alone for the first time. So she's overcompensated by over preparing: AJ has left enough meals in the fridge for AB to last a month. She's laid out so many clean towels for AB's bath that it's impossible to get into the bathroom. And AJ has made a list of everything that AB needs to do to take care of her self while she's home alone. The list is ridiculously exhaustive, including reminders like: "If you want to get a spoon out of the drawer, be sure to open the drawer first." And "when you go to bed, make sure you go up stairs, because that's where your bed is."

AJ is just worried about leaving AB without a big sis to rely on for the first time. "You sure me and Mac shouldn't put off this delivery trip until Granny Smith get back?" she asks.

Apple Bloom, though, is super-psyched to be home alone. It's going to be awesome and she knows she can do it. She doesn't need somepony to watch over her - she's got this.

So despite her worries, Applejack leaves with Big Mac to deliver apple pies to the hard-to-get-to towns.

As soon as everyone leaves her there alone, AB starts going through the list AJ left for her. She really does have this. She is ready - and being home alone is every bit as awesome as she imagined.

3) EXT. ON THE ROAD - DAY

But AJ is not having an awesome time as she pulls her delivery cart next to Big Mac's. AJ is still fretting that she's being a bad big sister. What if Apple Bloom needs her while she's gone? Going over her list in her mind, AJ thinks of a whole bunch of things she forgot to put on there. Like, she didn't write down that AB should turn off the lights before she goes to sleep - what if AB leaves them on and then can't fall asleep all night?

She's probably just being silly, but AJ knows she'd feel a heap better if she could just check on AB one last time. She tells Big Mac to continue with his cart and make his set of deliveries. AJ will just go back for one second, take a quick peak, and then make her deliveries.

4) INT. APPLE HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

AB finishes the last thing on the list AJ left her. The list was ridiculously exhaustive, but still, AB did it all. She knows she's ready for this awesome responsibility and is determined to do it right.

And now that the list is done, its time to kick back and enjoy the perks of being home alone! If she wants to stand here in the kitchen talking to herself, she can. If she wants to just stare out the window, she can do that too. The world is her oyster! Being home alone is everything she imagined - and more!

Just as she decides that the first thing she's going to do as a young adult home alone for the first time is to enjoy a little gander out the window... *GAHHH!!* She's startled to see some pony's face in the window staring back!

Surprised, AB trips backwards, stumble, and ends up bumping her leg.

Applejack rushes in. It was her in the window. She had come back to check on AB, and she is so glad she did! AJ sees the bruise on AB's leg. Clearly, her little sis really needs to have her big sister around.

Well, not to worry - no if, ands, or buts, Applejack is staying home to look after her sister! No way is she leaving Apple Bloom home alone!

ACT TWO**5) INT. APPLE HOUSE/KITCHEN - RESUME**

Despite AB's protests, AJ insists that she is staying home to look after AB. Big Mac going it alone means the pies in Applejack's cart won't get delivered. But what kind of big sister would Applejack be if she left her baby sister with no one to watch over her? AJ knows now how much her sister needs her.

AB sees her chance to be home alone for the night slipping away. And if AJ doesn't think AB can handle being home alone tonight, maybe she never will! AB's got to prove she doesn't need her big sister looking after her - and fast!

6) EXT. AROUND THE FARM - DAY

As AJ lurks over AB's shoulder, making sure she's not in danger, AB sets out to prove to her big sis that she can take care of herself and doesn't need to be babied.

Unfortunately, as AB races around the farm trying prove that, she discovers that AJ has made that impossible.

For example, when AB tries to load some apples into a cart on her own, she finds that AJ has already put rubber stoppers on the ends of the stems so she doesn't hurt herself. AJ even put training wheels on the cart to help her little sister out!

With everything baby-proofed by AJ, there's no way for AB to prove she can handle things without AJ looking out for her.

Apple Bloom is horrified by this turn of events, but AJ just wants to be the best big sister she can be. "I failed you before," says AJ. "I wasn't there for you. Won't happen again."

"No," insists Apple Bloom. "I really don't need you."

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

AJ means well, but the thought that her big sis will always be looking over her shoulder totally freaks AB out! She's got to convince AJ she doesn't need her.

7) INT. APPLE BLOOM'S BEDROOM - DUSK

As Apple Bloom gathers with the CMC's, AJ pokes her head into the room, asking if Apple Bloom or her friends need anything - a snack, a hoof massage, maybe a snack while getting a hoof massage?

Sweetie thinks that sounds delightful, but Apple Bloom pushes AJ out the door. Whew! It's only a matter of time before AJ comes back to check on Apple Bloom again, so AB tells her friends they have to figure out a way that AB can prove to AJ that she doesn't need somepony to watch over her, fast!

After a couple (ridiculous) suggestions, AB and her friends hit upon a surefire way that AB can show AJ that she is as capable of taking care of herself: Apple Bloom will sneak out and deliver the pies that Applejack didn't deliver. Applejack said they were going to some "hard-to-reach" town and that this wasn't just some ordinary delivery run. If AB can do it, that'll show AJ that Apple Bloom doesn't need her big sister to always be looking over her shoulder.

Just one problem: there's no way AJ can keep herself from checking on AB for a whole night. Which means AB needs an escape plan.

AB starts to prop up pillows under her blankets to make it look like she is asleep under there. But Scootaloo insists that that idea is crazy - it'll never work. Scootaloo then proceeds to come up with a much more elaborate and crazy plan/contraption (like the one Ferris Bueller fooled his parents with) that she and Sweetie Belle will work while AB is gone.

What Scootaloo has come up with certainly looks a lot crazier and less likely to work than AB's original plan. But there's no time for other options. If AB's going, she's got to go now!

She does, just as AJ opens the door to check on her. It looks like Applejack is sure to see through the Rube-Goldberg-esque ruse that Scootaloo and Sweetie are operating from under AB's bed. But it works!

And keeps on working as (in a series of rapid cuts) AJ proceeds to check on AB every minute throughout the night, asking "Did I hear a cough?" or "Do you need another blanket?"

But each time, AJ finds “Apple Bloom” dozing peacefully. Seeing that, she finally sits down on the side of AB’s bed and has a heart to heart with what she thinks is AB (but is actually just the contraption that Scootaloo and Sweetie are operating).

“Look at you sleeping so peacefully,” sighs AJ. “Here I am checking on you every five minutes, and you’re fine. Maybe you don’t need me looking over you all the time. Maybe I’m being a little crazy.”

But just then the contraption goes haywire - revealing Scootaloo and Sweetie. And revealing that AB is gone! AJ freaks, more worried than ever. Apple Bloom could be anywhere! She could be lost, cold...

The CMCs swore AB they wouldn’t tell where she went, but they break down immediately. Trying to make AJ feel better, Sweetie says, “Don’t worry. We know exactly where she is - she’s making your delivery run.”

But that makes AJ freak out even more! “No!” she cries. “I told her how dangerous and difficult and impossible it was!”

“Yup,” says Sweetie proudly. “That’s why she’s doing it!”

AJ’s eyes go wide. She doesn’t say where AB has gone, but it’s clear from AJ’s reaction that it’s somewhere very, very bad.

Apple Bloom is in big, big danger!

ACT THREE

8) EXT. THE APPLE HOUSE/ KITCHEN - A FEW MINUTES LATER

As Sweetie and Scootaloo look on, AJ is in full on freak out as she asks, “Ok, did Apple Bloom at least bring a grappling hook? A snake-charming flute? Flame repellant?”

Each time AJ asks, the CMCs say “no” - and AJ races out of the room and comes back with the item she described. Finally, after assembling the odd assortment of very dangerous looking equipment, AJ pauses to catch her breath.

“Ok,” she says. “Maybe there’s still time to catch up to Apple Bloom before she gets there. When did she leave?” The CMCs tell her it was a couple hours ago. AJ bolts up. “Oh no!” she cries. “That means she’s already at the...”

9) EXT. FLAMING GEYSER SWAMP - NIGHT

Apple Bloom pulls a cartload of pies down a VERY SCARY LOOKING path through a DARK SWAMP. It’s late at night and it’s creepy. One good thing though: Apple Bloom has no trouble seeing. Because the path is full of FLAMING GEYSERS that pop up without warning, spouting bright jets of fire wherever AB steps! Okay, so maybe that’s not such a good thing...

Even worse, the path is guarded by a CHIMERA -- a monstrous creature with three heads: a lion’s head, a goat’s head and a snake’s head (at the end of its tail). That many heads means lots of mouths to feed. The Chimera is always hungry. But the different heads can never agree on what to eat. Except pie. Everyone loves pie!

Which is bad news for Apple Bloom. Getting the pies through is going to be tough. The pies are

very delicate. The Chimera is anything but. In fact, its three heads have very biting personalities, arguing and insulting each other like three sisters. (The heads are also very biting in the literal sense).

But Apple Bloom is determined to show her own sister that she doesn't need her. She can't give up or call for help. She's got to do this on her own. And she does! Almost. Taking advantage of the Chimera's penchant for arguing with itself, Apple Bloom cleverly gets the pies past it. But it's clear she's not going to be able get by the Chimera herself.

Face to face to face to face with the Chimera's three heads, AB's finally got to admit that it's not a horrible thing to have a big sister around to protect you *sometimes*. Like, *now* would be nice!

At which point, as if on cue, Applejack arrives just in the nick of time! Using the snake-charming flute, the flame repellant and the other items she brought (these items may have seemed random when she packed them, but we now see that each has a specific use against the Chimera's different heads and the flame geysers) she sends the Chimera packing!

AJ turns to her sister and sees all the bumps and bruises she suffered during her encounter with the Chimera. "See, you do need me!" insists AJ.

Apple Bloom agrees. Then adds: "Just maybe, you know, not all the time."

But AJ isn't listening. She's looking at the pies. AB got all the pies past the Chimera! AJ can't believe it! "I mean, to get them this far in one piece, you must have had to..." AJ goes on to list all the incredibly dangerous things AB did, and all the obstacles she had to overcome to get the pies safely through.

"Huh. I guess my little sister is pretty darn capable on her own without me watching over her," she realizes.

10) EXT. REMOTE SWAMP TOWN - SOME TIME LATER

The CAJUN SWAMP PONIES WHOOP AND HOLLER at how delicious the Apple's pies are.

"You wouldn't have those pies if it weren't for my sister," brags AJ. "You wouldn't have those pies if it weren't for MY sister," echoes AB.

Both of them have realized something valuable: Apple Bloom knows she does need her sister - *some times*. And Applejack knows her sister doesn't need her *all* the time.

11) EXT. FLAMING GEYSER SWAMP - CONTINUOUS

The Chimera has learned something valuable too. All its heads agree that next time, they'll get the pies first and argue about how to divvy them up later!

THE END