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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Leap of Faith"
Episode 421
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TEASER

SC 1 - EXT. SWIMMING HOLE - DAY

The MANE SIX and the APPLE FAMILY enjoy a pleasant afternoon at the swimming hole.

BIG MAC suns himself beside GRANNY SMITH, asleep in her rocking chair-- facing away from the water.

Nearby, RARITY sits beneath an elaborate umbrella situation, while SPIKE fans her with a giant puffy feather.

The others swim over.

1	APPLEJACK	1
	(to Rarity)	
	Seems sort of a waste not to go swimming at the swimming hole.	

2	TWILIGHT	2
	Yeah, Rarity, you should come in.	

Rarity tilts down her sun glasses.

3	RARITY	3
	It looks lovely, but I have a hairstyle to consider.	

4	RAINBOW DASH (O.S.)	4
	BOMBS AWAY!	

RAINBOW DASH suddenly drives into a fly by of the shoreline, inches above the water, sending a tall spray of water over the sunbathers.

Rarity's hair and Spike's feather both turn to flat, dripping messes while Granny awakes with a start.

5	GRANNY SMITH	5
	What? Where am I? Who's raining?	

Big Mac uses his hoof to turn Granny's chair to face the water as Rarity and Spike jump in, splashing with the others.

6	APPLE BLOOM	6
	Come on in, Granny. The water's great!	

7	GRANNY SMITH	7
	Oh, not me, sugar plum. I can't stick so much as a hoof into that swimmin' hole.	

8 APPLE BLOOM 8
Why not?

9 GRANNY SMITH 9
Well...

We watch as Granny's reminiscence takes the form of an OLD TIME MOVIE REEL.

10 GRANNY SMITH (V.O.) 10
*...time was, I'd a'hopped into that
there water quicker than a 'tater
pixie makes a homefry.*

In sepia tones, a YOUNG Granny steps into frame wearing an old-timey swimming getup and proceeds to climb the scaffolding of a ridiculously high diving tower.

11 GRANNY SMITH (V.O.) 11
*I was the only Apple to ever come
close to breaking the Equestria
high diving record.*

Young Granny reaches the top and looks down far, far below at a deep-dish pie pan filled with water. She laughs in face of death.

12 GRANNY SMITH (V.O.) 12
*Sure, it was dangerous, but I was
young and nigh on invincible. Or so
I thought.*

In perfect old-timey form, she points her arms out and bounds off the board. As she falls through the air, our old time movie strip "breaks," taking us back to the swimming hole where everyone sits around Granny, rapt by her story.

13 GRANNY SMITH 13
Falling six stories into a deep-
dish pie pan can take a toll on the
hind quarters. And I never did
break that record.

14 APPLEJACK 14
Six stories? Granny, are you sure
you're not exaggerating just a
little?

15 GRANNY SMITH 15
It was six stories surer than a
wheatgrass fairy bakes bread! At
least that's how I remember it.
'Course my memory ain't what it
once was.

16 APPLEJACK 16
Mm-hmm.

17 GRANNY SMITH 17
Point is, I'm too old now to even
get my tail wet. These old legs
can't paddle fast enough to stay
afloat.

18 TWILIGHT 18
I think you're selling yourself
short, Granny. I'm sure you can
still swim.

19 APPLEJACK 19
Even so, staying clear of the water
might be a good idea. We wouldn't
want you to have a slip and fall.

20 PINKIE PIE (O.S.) 20
What's so bad about that?

PAN UP to see Pinkie Pie climbing out on a low tree branch
over the water.

21 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) 21
Slipping and falling is the best
part!

With that, Pinkie takes another step, intentionally slipping
her hooves out from under her as she bounces onto her hind
quarters and falls into the water.

22 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) 22
WHEEEEEEE!

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC 2 - EXT. ROAD - DAY

The Apple Family heads along the road back to Sweet Apple
Acres. Apple Bloom walks beside Granny.

23 APPLE BLOOM 23
Wow, Granny. I can't believe you
were a high diver.

24 GRANNY SMITH 24
The best one in Ponyville.

25 APPLEJACK 25
Um... Granny? I thought Ponyville
didn't even exist when you were
young.

26 GRANNY SMITH 26
Quit your nitpickin'. I was the
best high diver around and that's a
fact.

27 APPLE BLOOM 27
Gee, Granny, do you think I could
be a high diver.

28 BIG MAC 28
Nope.

29 APPLEJACK 29
Absolutely not!

30 APPLE BLOOM 30
But...

31 GRANNY SMITH 31
Now you hold your horse feathers,
little seed. I never said being a
high diver was a smart decision.
For one, it's incredibly dangerous.

32 APPLE BLOOM 32
It is?

33 GRANNY SMITH 33
Of course. It's the riskiest,
scariest, darned fool thing I ever
did do. That's not to say I don't
miss being young and spry and
confident, but I think I'll leave
flying through the air to the
pegasusi.

34 APPLE BLOOM 34
Wow, when you put it that way, it
doesn't sound so fun.

Apple Bloom looks up.

35 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D) 35
Hey, have you all noticed how
crowded the road's gotten?

SNAP ZOOM OUT to reveal the Apple Family is now walking in the middle of a crowd of ponies all headed along the road.

36 BIG MAC 36
Yep.

37 APPLEJACK 37
Wow. I wonder where everypony's
going.

Before they can ask, the sound of CALLIOPE MUSIC drifts across a field to the side of the road.

The crowd of ponies files through a gap in the fence and heads into the field toward the sound. Apple Bloom and Granny start to follow.

38 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 38
Now, where in Ponyville do you two
think you're going?

39 GRANNY SMITH 39
Oh, quit being such a worry worm
and follow your ears.

With that, Granny leads Apple Bloom after the other ponies. Big Mac and Applejack follow.

SC 3 - EXT. FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The Apples reach the crest of a rolling hill and look down on a big top style tent set up in the middle of the field.

Groups of ponies head through the tent opening, flanked on either side by two steam powered pipe organs playing Fairground Music.

Granny and Apple Bloom head toward the tent. Apple Bloom looks back.

40	APPLE BLOOM	40
Come on, Applejack. Aren't you curious?		

41 APPLEJACK 41
I am. And that's what worries me.

42 BIG MAC 42
Yep.

SC 4 - INT. TENT - SAME

The Apples enter the tent to find rows of ponies in folding chairs set in front of a small stage.

While the CALLIOPE MUSIC drones on in the background, Applejack notices the large number of afflictions in the crowd: swollen hooves, sprite infested manes, and a whole collection of ponies on crutches and walkers.

43 APPLEJACK 43
Alright, I think we've seen enough.
Right Apples?

Applejack starts to head out, but Big Mac stops her.

44 BIG MAC 44
Nope.

He points a hoof toward the stage where Granny and Apple Bloom have already pushed their way to a pair of front row seats.

Just as Applejack starts to head after them, the gas lamps inside the tent fade down. She and Big Mac grab a couple of nearby seats as the CALLIOPE MUSIC ramps up.

A steam-powered, clapper board cart rolls out into a spotlight on the stage. The cart's wheels, gears and tubes control a set of drums and cymbals attached to the side, adding to the already loud calliope.

As the crowd settles in, two VOICES come from off stage in a carnival barking, sing-song patter.

45 VOICE 1 45
Thank you one and all for your
attendance and we guarantee that
your time here will not be spent in
vain.

46 VOICE 2 46
In fact, we think it will prove to
be the most valuable time you've
ever spent.

The drums and steam organ really get going, as the cart's clapper board flips down revealing painted busts of THE WORLD FAMOUS FLIM FLAM BROTHERS who step out from behind their Barnum & Bailey inspired logo.

Applejack looks on with disdain.

47 APPLEJACK 47
The Flim Flam Brothers! I might
have known.

48 BIG MAC 48
Yep.

Applejack and Big Mac try to make their way to the front as
Flim and Flam continue.

49 FLIM 49
Welcome one and all to the
demonstration of a lifetime.

50 FLAM 50
A demonstration of a better life.

51 FLIM 51
A demonstration of a better time.

52 APPLEJACK 52
 (from the audience)
A demonstration of baloney.

53 FLIM 53
Now I know not everypony here is
interested in what we have to
share.

54 FLAM 54
Not yet.

55 FLIM 55
But by the end of our presentation
an unfortunate phenomenon
practically guarantees you will be.

56 FLAM 56
A phenomenon? What's that?

57 FLIM 57
It's a circumstance perceptible by
the senses, but in this case it's
the simple fact that...

With a WHISTLE and a BURST OF STEAM, the clapper board flips
down revealing the image of an invalid pony as the Brothers
break into song (in a meter similar to "There's a Sucker Born
Every Minute" from Barnum).

*Note: Clapper board images flip down throughout, like the
Ponyville-steampunk equivalent of a power point presentation.*

58 FLIM (CONT'D) 58
*There are aliments all around us,
in everything we touch or smell or
see.*

59 FLAM 59
*There is sickness that just lies
waiting,
to crawl into your skin from land
and sea.*

60 FLIM 60
*There are diseases that you come
down with,
in every step you take or breath
you breathe.*

61 FLAM 61
*It is amazing just how infected,
the natural world and all it's
things can be.*

(chorus in a meter like "Join the Circus" from Barnum.)

62 FLIM & FLAM 62
*But luckily we've got the thing for
you in your time of need.
It's so fortunate for you that
we're here with the cure for all of
your peeves.*

Flim and Flam move to either side of the cart as another clapper board swings down to reveal shelves upon shelves of small, vial-like bottles.

63 FLIM & FLAM (CONT'D) 63
*It's so simple when you think of it
all you need's the cure.
Flim Flam's Miracle Curative Tonic
is just what the doctor would order
I'm sure.*

Applejack and Big Mac finally push their way to the front near Apple Bloom and Granny. As the music continues in the background, Applejack turns to address the crowd.

64 APPLEJACK 64
*Now, I know these two ponies and I
guarantee that if they say you're
sick, you've never been healthier
in your life.*

65 FLIM 65
Why it's the Apples!

66 FLAM 66
Thank you, friends. We're so glad
that you're here.

67 APPLEJACK 67
You are?

68 FLIM 68
Of course. And you've brought your
ailing Granny.

69 FLAM 69
Come on up here, my dear.

Granny starts to go, but Applejack puts out a hoof.

70 APPLEJACK 70
Granny Smith ain't ailing. She's
fine.
 (to the audience)
And the only thing these two are
selling are empty promises.

71 FLAM 71
Why, we aren't selling anything at
all.

72 APPLEJACK 72
You're not?

73 FLIM 73
No! This is a medical trial. And
all we ask for is a small
donation...

Flim holds out his hat and Flam drops two bits inside with a CLINK (and accompanying RIMSHOT from the steam-powered drums). Applejack frowns.

The Music ramps up again as the brothers go back to their song (in a quick patter bridge) and more clapper boards flip down with images of broken bones, falling anvils, etc.

74 FLAM 74
*Now I understand that some of you
don't think that you're sick,
but broken bones and aching joints
don't heal all that quick.*

75 FLIM 75
*Consider just how dangerous this
world is. You might
slip and fall and break or twist
something here tonight.*

(drawn out, key-changing progression back to chorus)

76	FLIM & FLAM	76
<i>But...you're...so...</i>		

The brothers flourish handfuls of tonic bottles like playing cards.

77	FLIM & FLAM (CONT'D)	77
<i>Lucky that we've got the thing for you in this little jar. Flim Flam's Miracle Curative Tonic can mend broken bones and hearts and won't leave a scar.</i>		

The music fades down as they set their bottles of tonic on a small table.

78	FLIM	78
Now I know our claims seem fantastical.		

79	APPLEJACK	79
(like a laundry list) Impractical, improbable, impossible...		

80	FLIM	80
And magical.		

81	FLAM (CONT'A)	81
But, frankly, you've no way to know for certain until you try it yourself.		

82	FLIM	82
So we welcome every suffering pony to make their way to the stage...		

83	FLAM	83
Don't crowd.		

84	FLIM	84
And we'll prove our tonic's effectiveness before your very eyes.		

Several ponies make their way forward.

Granny - starts to join them, but the other Apples' shoot her looks that make her think better of it. Flam points into the crowd.

85 FLAM 85
You, there.

The music stops as the crowd parts and a SPOTLIGHT falls on an elderly, disabled pony with forearm crutches: SILVER SHILL.

86 FLIM 86
Come up here, good sir.

As Shill meekly hobbles to the stage, a DRUMROLL starts, low at first, building as the brothers hand him a vial of tonic.

87 FLAM 87
I'll wager you're tired of those
crutches, my friend.

Shill nods as he takes the tonic and drinks. The DRUMROLL gets louder as he convulses and the brothers start their extended progression back to the song's chorus...

88 FILM & FLAM 88
That's...why...you're...so...

In unison they kick the crutches out from under Shill and he joins them in dancing to the chorus.

89 FLIM & FLAM 89
*Lucky that we had the thing for
you. It's our special cure.*

Shill dances, spinning his crutches, down the aisle toward the exit as the Brothers continue to sing...

90 FILM & FLAM 90
*With Flim Flam's Miracle Curative
Tonic, he won't need his crutches
to dance out the door.*

The Apples look on, stunned.

91 GRANNY SMITH 91
Now, how do you like that?

92 APPLEJACK 92
I don't. There's something funny
about this whole thing...

The MUSIC shifts as the spotlight falls onto Applejack who sings (in the meter of "Don't Fence Me In").

93 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 93
*There's a thing that is missing
from your magic tonic cure.
(MORE)*

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

*It's honesty.
It don't matter if you claim that
it cures ailments by the score,
without honesty.
You can trick everypony with a song
if they let you,
Hurt anypony without sense to
reject you,
But even those are things you know
you can correct through
True honesty.*

SHILL - looks back from the exit, obviously affected by Applejack's song, but immediately the brother's music ramps back up as they make their way toward Granny.

94 FLAM 94
*Now some of you might suffer from
feelings of despair,
you're old, you're tired, your legs
don't work, there's gray in your
hair.*

95 FLIM 95
*Just listen and I'll tell you that
you don't need to fear,
your ears will work, your muscles
toned, your eyes will be clear.*

96 FLIM & FLAM 96
So...

The Brothers each hold out a hand to Granny, who let's them help her onto the stage where she dances high kicks with them to the chorus as Applejack tries to get her back to her seat.

97 FLIM & FLAM (CONT'D) 97
*If you're feeling not your best
we've got the thing for you.
Flim Flam's Miracle Curative Tonic
will make you feel seven feet tall
when you're blue.*

Granny spins out of the Brother's embrace and into Applejack's arms as the crowd pushes forward.

Bits outstretched, they sing along to the bridge as the Brothers sell bottles of tonic leg over hoof.

98 CROWD 98
*We've got swollen hooves and
hindquarters and bridle bit cleft,
Saunter sits and gallop plop and
mane and tail heft,
(MORE)*

CROWD (CONT'D)

*It's ridiculous how sick it is we
now know we are,
Thank goodness that you've come to
town with cures by the jar.*

99 EVERYPONY 99
*It's so simple when you think of it
all we need's the cure.
Flim Flam's Miracle Curative Tonic
is*

100 FLAM 100
Hot and cold filtered!

101 FLIM 101
And guaranteed pure!

As the song reaches its climax, Flim and Flam lay out a lengthy list of ailments their Tonic can cure.

102 FLIM & FLAM 102
It...cures...the...

Granny's eyes grow bigger with every condition...

103 FLAM 103
*Reins, and spurs, and clipilis, and
clydesdale fur blight.
Hooferia, horsyntary cured in one
night.*

104 FLIM 104
*It can make you short or make you
tall or even grow old.
But who'd want that when with one
drink you can be young--*

105 GRANNY SMITH 105
SOLD!

The other Apples look on in shock as Granny lays down her bits in exchange for a bottle of tonic.

106 FLIM 106
*Congratulations, Granny Smith.
You've just made the purchase of a
lifetime!*

Applejack turns to Big Mac.

107 APPLEJACK 107
Are you as worried as I am?

108 BIG MAC 108
Yep.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC 4 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - FARM - LATER

Applejack, Big Mac and Apple Bloom sit around the kitchen table staring at the bottle of Flim and Flam's tonic.

109 APPLE BLOOM 109
I just can't get over how
convincing Flim and Flam were.

110 APPLEJACK 110
They're good salesponies. No doubt
about it.

111 BIG MAC 111
Yep.

112 APPLE BLOOM 112
But this tonic has to be a fake.
Right, Applejack? I mean, it can't
possibly cure all those things. Can
it?

113 APPLEJACK 113
Well, I don't know, but they sure
convinced a whole lot of ponies to
pay for it.

114 BIG MAC 114
Yep.

Granny paces in the background.

115 GRANNY SMITH 115
What's so bad about that? They sold
it and I bought it. All that's left
now is to drink it.

She reaches for the bottle, but Big Mac holds it up.

116 BIG MAC 116
Nope.

117 GRANNY SMITH 117
Aw, what's the harm?

118 APPLEJACK 118
Granny, we don't even know what's
in it. For all we know it could
make you sick.

119 BIG MAC 119
 Yep.

Big Mac puts the bottle up on a high shelf, far out of
Granny's reach.

120	GRANNY SMITH	120
Aw, fiddlesticks!		

With that, Granny storms out.

121 APPLE BLOOM 121
Boy, I've never seen Granny so
agitated.

122 APPLEJACK 122
I'll say. Normally, Granny would
never fall for this kind of thing,
but that Flim and Flam have her
turned around every which way.

123 BIG MAC 123
 Yep.

124 APPLE BLOOM 124
Granny's not the only one. If those
two salesponies have their way,
every pony in Ponyville will buy
this tonic whether it works or not.

125 APPLEJACK 125
Well, then I guess we'll just have
to find some kind of proof that
it's a fake.

126 APPLE BLOOM 126
How are we gonna do that?

Off Applejack's look...

CUT TO:

SC 5 - EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Applejack and Apple Bloom peer through the grass at the top of the hill overlooking Flim and Flam's tent.

127 APPLE BLOOM 127
Okay. So, where do we start?

From around the side of the tent, Silver Shill appears, though he's sporting a wig and glasses and is back to limping on his forearm crutches again.

128 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D) 128
Hey. Isn't that the same pony who
was cured the last time?

Shill limps into the tent while inside we hear Flim and Flam, deep into their sales pitch...

129 FLIM (O.S.) 129
 (from inside tent)
...You sir! I'll wager you're tired
of those crutches...

Applejack turns to Apple Bloom.

130 APPLEJACK 130
It sure is. And I'd say we start
with him.

CUT TO:

SC 6 - EXT. TENT - MOMENTS LATER

The tent flap flies open to a cavalcade of music and applause as Shill dances out, twirling his crutches.

Outside, he tucks the crutches under his leg, closes the flap and heads off behind the tent.

Applejack and Apple Bloom emerge from the shadows and follow.

SC 7 - EXT. TENT - REAR - SAME

Shill walks into a small camp at the back of the tent. A couple of extra carts and clapper boards with freshly painted images of sick and infirm ponies lay on the ground.

Shill walks over and drops his crutches, wig and glasses into a box of other props and costumes. When he turns around, Applejack and Apple Bloom are standing in front of him.

Shill looks at them for a moment, then ducks behind some of the steam-powered machinery that powers Flim and Flam's show.

131 APPLE BLOOM 131
He sure is fast for a pony that
can't walk.

A BURST OF STEAM shoots out of the machinery and Applejack and Apple Bloom take off into the cloud after Shill.

SC 8 - EXT. TENT - STEAM CLOUD - SAME

Applejack and Apple Bloom make their way through the cloud of steam, ducking under pipes and around valves.

132 APPLEJACK 132
Which way did he go?

133 APPLE BLOOM 133
This way, I think.

Their shadows stretch out, distorted against the dense vapor. Suddenly, Shill's shadow goes running past.

134 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D) 134
There!

Apple Bloom takes off into the stream with Applejack close behind.

They both emerge from the steam to find Shill, cornered in front of a wagon-mounted steam engine.

135 APPLEJACK 135
Now just hold on there, Mr...

136 SILVER SHILL 136
Sh-sh-Shill. Silver Shill.

137 APPLE BLOOM 137
You don't even need crutches do
you?

138 SILVER SHILL 138
(stuttering)
N-n-no, but...

139 APPLEJACK 139
Well, I don't know what kind of
arrangement you have with Flim and
Flam, but you can't just keep
pretending their tonic does things
it don't.

140 SILVER SHILL 140
(conflicted)
I... I don't know what you're
talking about.

Shill's eyes dart back and forth, finally landing on the steam engine's release valve. He quickly turns the wheel, releasing a plume of steam.

141 APPLEJACK/APPLE BLOOM 141
Hey!

But when the steam clears, Shill is gone. Applejack takes off in pursuit.

142 APPLEJACK 142
(to Apple Bloom)
Come on!

SC 9 - EXT. TENT - FRONT - SAME

The two Apples race around to the front of the tent just as the crowd lets out. They chase Shill in and out of the crowd until finally the ponies part to reveal Shill standing behind Flim and Flam.

143 FLIM 143
Well, hello Apples! Back so soon?

144 FLAM 144
If Granny's already gone through
her supply of tonic, I'm sure we
could work out a bulk rate.

145 APPLEJACK 145
Thanks, but that won't be
necessary. We just wanna talk to
Silver Shill.

146 FLIM & FLAM 146
Who's that?

Apple Bloom steps forward and points a hoof.

147 APPLE BLOOM 147
Him!

Flim and Flam step aside, smiling at Shill. Shill steps forward.

148 APPLEJACK 148
Now, tell me the honest truth, Mr.
Shill. Did Flim and Flam's tonic
really cure your legs?

Shill looks from Applejack to the crowd to Flim and Flam,
then...

149 SILVER SHILL 149
Y-y-yes?

150 APPLE BLOOM 150
But...

151 FLIM 151
 (cutting her off)
Well, there you have it! Unshakable
testimony!

152 FLAM 152
Proof of the curative properties of
our tonic!

The crowd cheers. Applejack looks at Shill who looks away.

153 APPLEJACK 153
Well, it's gonna take more than the
word of one pony to prove to me
you're selling anything more than
fancy bottles.

154 FLIM 154
How many do you need?

155 APPLEJACK 155
Well...

Flim reaches into the crowd and pulls out a PIMPLE-FACED
PONY.

156 PIMPLE-FACED PONY 156
 (his voice cracking)
It cleared up my horseshoe chafe,
so I could finally talk to girls.

Flam elbows a SLEEPING PONY, who's eyes snap open.

157 NARCOLEPTIC PONY 157
It cured my narcolepsy so I'd stop
falling asleep standing up.

Finally, Cranky Doodle Donkey steps out of the crowd, sans
toupee.

158 CRANKY DOODLE DONKEY 158
It even grew back my hair.

159 APPLE BLOOM 159
It did?

160 APPLEJACK 160
Where?

161 CRANKY DOODLE DONKEY 161
There.

Cranky points to his head and Applejack leans in close. In an EXTREME CLOSE UP we see the tiniest piece of hair-like fuzz.

Cranky smiles up at her, pleased with himself.

162 APPLEJACK 162
 (humoring him)
Oh. Oh, yeah.

163 FLAM 163
And these are just a few of the
ponies who feel that we've helped
them.

164 FLIM 164
I guess you have to ask yourself
why it's so important to you to
prove these honest ponies wrong.

Applejack looks from Narcoleptic Pony (asleep again) to Pimple Face (making eyes at a receptive filly) to Cranky (appreciating his reflection in a hand mirror).

165 APPLEJACK 165
I... I don't know.

SC 10 - EXT. RIVER - THE NEXT DAY

Applejack and Apple Bloom sit next to Big Mac who casts a fishing line into the river.

166 APPLE BLOOM 166
...and none of them were really
better.

167 APPLEJACK 167
It's true. I think. But they sure
felt better. Maybe that's all that
matters.

168 BIG MAC 168
Yep.

169 APPLEJACK 169
I guess Granny's right. If ponies
really do feel better, what's the
harm in Flim and Flam making a few
bits?

The three of them stare into the water for a second,
thinking, when suddenly Granny swims by, doing the
backstroke.

170 GRANNY SMITH 170
Howdeee!

All three Apples do a double take.

171 APPLE BLOOM 171
Granny!?

Big Mac stands and casts his fishing line, catching Granny's
clothes.

172 APPLEJACK 172
Hang on, Granny! We'll get you!

Granny looks down at the snag.

173 GRANNY SMITH 173
What in tarnation?

She reaches down, pulls the hook free and continues down the
river.

Applejack gallops ahead and bucks a tree into the water.

174 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D) 174
Obstacles, eh?

Granny adjusts her course and floats right past the tree
branches.

The rest of the Apples run ahead again, this time forming a
chain of ponies into the river. Big Mac holds onto Apple Jack
who holds onto Apple Bloom who reaches out for Granny.

175 APPLE BLOOM 175
Grab on, Granny!

Granny floats right up to Apple Bloom and stops.

176 GRANNY SMITH 176
Whatcha doin', half seed?

177 APPLE BLOOM 177
Saving you.

178 GRANNY SMITH 178
Who said anything about needin' to
be saved?

With that Granny turns and swims to the shore. The rest of
the Apples join her. As she steps out of the water, we see
she has her old-time swimwear on.

179 APPLEJACK 179
What in the world are you doing?

180 APPLE BLOOM 180
I thought you said you couldn't go
swimming any more.

181 GRANNY SMITH 181
Well, I reckon that was true, until
I got myself a stool, climbed up to
that shelf in the kitchen and drank
my Flim Flam Tonic.

182 APPLEJACK 182
Granny!

183 GRANNY SMITH 183
Now I've never felt better.

Granny dances a little jig as proof.

184 APPLE BLOOM 184
Granny, that tonic doesn't do
anything. You could have hurt
yourself.

185 GRANNY SMITH 185
Doesn't do anything? We'll just see
about that when I finally break the
Equestria high diving record.

With that, Granny heads off toward the farm.

186 APPLEJACK 186
Well, I guess now we know what the
harm is. If every pony who bought a
bottle thinks it can do whatever
Flim and Flam say it can, they
could be in real trouble.

187 APPLE BLOOM 187
What do we do?

188 APPLEJACK 188
Big Mac, you stick close to Granny
and don't let her so much as dive
into her pillows. You understand?

189 BIG MAC 189
Yep.

Big Mac takes off after Granny. Applejack turns to Apple Bloom.

190 APPLEJACK 190
I guess it's time to prove that
tonic's a fake once and for all.

191 APPLE BLOOM 191
Yeah, but how?

192 APPLEJACK 192
If there's one thing Flim and Flam
respond to it's competition.

Applejack bucks and nearby tree, then kicks a falling apple into her front hoof.

193 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 193
We're gonna fight fire with fire.

Off of Apple Bloom's look of concern...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC 8 - EXT. TENT - DAY

Flim and Flam stand on either side of the tent opening, welcoming a new crop of ponies to their amazing demonstration.

194 FLIM 194
Welcome friends!

195 FLAM 195
Step right in, there's enough room
for all.

Flam shakes the hand of a pony with a cane, leading him right inside. Flim pats a healthy looking pony on the back and leads him to a long line waiting to get in.

196 FLIM 196
And if you don't make it in to this
show, fear not, we'll be here all
week.

Silver Shill limps up on his crutches again. Flam leads him inside, slipping a few bits into his pocket.

197 FLAM 197
 (to Shill)
And longer if you keep playing your
part.

Suddenly, from up the road comes the sound of PIANO MUSIC. Several ponies in the crowd look up as the music gets louder and Big Mac appears, pulling a trailer up the road.

While Flim and Flam watch, Big Mac pulls the trailer right up beside their tent. He undoes a latch and pulls down the side of the trailer to reveal Apple Bloom playing an upright piano.

She wears a stripped vest and straw hat and plays a REPRISE of the song from act one.

Granny stands behind the piano looking inside. She looks up suddenly.

198 GRANNY SMITH 198
My swim things aren't in here.
What? Where are we?

Big Mac helps her down.

199 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D) 199
Are you trying to take away my
tonic again?

Applejack steps out in front of the trailer. She's wearing a carnival barker outfit similar to Flim and Flam's.

200 APPLEJACK 200
Absolutely not, Granny. In fact,
you can have all the tonic you
want.

201 GRANNY SMITH 201
I can?

Ponies from inside the tent come out (Silver Shill among them) to see what all the commotion is as Applejack continues.

202 APPLEJACK 202
Of course. But you may want to
consider which one you wanna try.

203 GRANNY SMITH 203
Which one?

A confused murmur goes through the crowd as Apple Bloom gets going on the piano and Applejack starts to sing...

204 APPLEJACK 204
*It might surprise you to discover,
there's more than one potion that
you can take.
There is a new one on the market,
that is superior in every possible
way.*

Surprised ponies look to each other in the crowd as Flim and Flam step forward, singing along.

205 FLIM 205
A new one?

206 FLAM 206
Why, that's impossible.

207 FLIM 207
*Our product is simply a one of
kind.*

208 FLAM 208
As for superior...

209 FLIM 209
Highly improbable.

210 FLAM 210
*Dear friends, this Apple's clearly
out of her mind.*

Apple Bloom eases off the piano as Applejack addresses the audience.

211 APPLEJACK 211
I guess it all comes down to trust.

212 FLAM 212
Well, there's a place we agree.

213 APPLEJACK 213
And whether you'd rather put your
faith in something you've known
your whole lives or...

Applejack shifts into the bridge...

214 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 214
*Two strange ponies here from out of
town who've come with a tent,
They said their stuff's the best
but that is not what they meant.
Their tonic is a discount brand and
isn't so great.
Don't give them your bits since you
deserve one that's first rate.*

Flim and Flam turn to each other as Applejack pulls a CRATE
down off of her trailer.

215 FLIM 215
I don't like where this is going.

216 FLAM 216
Me neither.

The Apples shift into the chorus...

217 APPLEJACK 217
*Luckily we've got the thing for
you,
Right here from our farm,
Sweet Apple Acres Magic Elixir
is better than theirs because of
Sweet Apple charm.*

Applejack opens the crate to reveal cases of cider jugs with
medicinal labels.

218 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 218
*It's so simple when you think of
it, buy a name you trust.
Sweet Apple Acres Magic Elixir
comes straight here to you from our
Sweet Apple dust.*

Ponies crowd around, singing the quick-patter bridge as they
line up for Applejack's elixir.

219 CROWD 219
*We didn't know we had a choice in
picking a cure.
Buying from a pony friend is better
for sure.
Flim and Flam are great of course
and so is their show,
but we'd rather buy our tonic from
somepony we know.*

Applejack looks out at the eager crowd.

220 APPLEJACK 220
Wow, ponies sure are interested.

221 APPLE BLOOM 221
Of course! Sweet Apple Acres is a
name ponies trust.

A one-eared pony pushes ahead of the crowd and holds out her bits.

222 ONE-EARED PONY 222
If you say yours is better than I
know it's true.

223 APPLEJACK 223
Of course it is!

224 FLIM 224
Oh, really?

Flim and Flam, their arms around each other, high kick forward like Rockettes as they sing the extended progression...

225 FLIM & FLAM 225
Does...It...Cure...

226 FLIM 226
Garden spurs?

227 APPLEJACK 227
Yep.

228 FLAM 228
Stirrup Trap?

229 APPLEJACK 229
Sure.

230 FLIM 230
Loping disease?

231 APPLEJACK 231
Why not?

Flim and Flam turn to each other.

232 FLIM 232
Wow. I thought she was the honest
one.

233 FLAM 233
Me too.

Applejack continues, getting swept up by the crowd.

234	APPLEJACK	234
<i>It cures everything.</i>		
<i>It grants you powers.</i>		
<i>Give it a try.</i>		
<i>Even just a small sip can make</i>		
<i>Earth Ponies fly!</i>		

Apple Bloom stumbles on the piano as she turns to Applejack, incredulous. Big Mac also looks on, surprised.

235 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 235
Ah... I mighta got a little carried
away with that last part.

But it's too late as the crowd presses forward singing the chorus...

236 CROWD 236
*Luckily you've got the thing for
us,
Direct from your farm.
Sweet Apple Acres Magic Elixir
will make us impervious to any
harm.*

Flim, Flam and Shill watch as the Apples try to handle the excited crowd. Flim grabs one of Shill's crutches and uses it to surreptitiously purloin a bottle of the Sweet Apple Elixir. He and his brother take a swig.

```
237          FLIM          237
It's delicious.
```

238 FLAM 238
A little too delicious, if you ask
me.

Flam points to the medicinal label, peeling it away a little to reveal a REGULAR SWEET APPLE ACRES CIDER LABEL beneath.

Applejack joins them to the side of the trailer, leaving Apple Bloom and Big Mac to handle the crowd.

```
239      APPLEJACK      239
Hey, that there is private
property.
```

240 FLIM 240
Well, now. Isn't this a pickle.

Flam peels the label off all the way, holding up the plain cider label for Applejack to see.

241 FLAM 241
Pretty clever, I'll admit, but you
can't cheat the cheaters.

242 APPLEJACK 242
I wasn't aiming to cheat.

243 FLIM 243
Oh, I'm sure. Everypony knows how
honest you are.

244 FLAM 244
That's why it'd be catastrophic if
anypony found out that you've been
less than up front.

245 FLIM 245
Why, they'd be devastated.

246 APPLEJACK 246
What are you two trying to say?

247 FLIM 247
Not a thing. You win. You're
elixir's a hit.

Flam licks the medicinal label and sticks it back onto the jug.

248 FLAM 248
We'll keep your secret and even
leave town...

249 FLIM 249
...for just a tiny slice of the
pie. Say fifty-fifty?

Applejack looks from Flim and Flam to Shill.

250 SILVER SHILL 250
Th-th-that seems fair.

Applejack takes her jug back.

```

251          APPLEJACK                                251
No deal. I can't go on telling
everypony this cider does things I
know it can't.

```

252 SILVER SHILL 252
B-b-but, you'd win.

253 APPLEJACK 253
Like I said, "no deal".

The brothers shrug.

254 FLAM 254
Suit yourself.

With that the brothers walk off toward the crowd where Apple Bloom and Big Mac are still trying to calm everypony down.

255 APPLE BLOOM 255
Now, settle down everypony. We've got enough here for all of you.

256 FLIM (O.S.) 256
I'm sure you do!

The crowd goes quiet as Flim and Flam walk up. Flam points to one of the jugs of elixir.

257 FLAM 257
May I?

He takes it without waiting for an answer and starts to sing a reprise of Applejack's honesty solo (to the meter of "Don't Fence Me In").

258 FLAM (CONT'D) 258
*Sweet Apple Acres is a name that
you have all now come to trust.
Their cider's great.*

259 FLIM 259
*Applejack has said that buying
their new tonic is a must,
for all of your aches.*

260 FLAM 260
*And you believe that it's the truth
because she isn't a phony...*

261 FLIM 261
*Applejack is always the most honest
of ponies...*

262 FLIM & FLAM 262
*And we'd agree with everything she
says if only,
she wasn't a fake.*

With that, Flam pulls the label off the elixir jug to reveal to everypony that it's just a plain old bottle of cider.

A GASP echoes through the crowd. One-Eared Pony walks up to Applejack.

263 ONE-EARED PONY 263
I don't understand. Your cider is
an elixir?

264 APPLEJACK 264
Nope. It's just plain cider. Magic
tonics and elixirs aren't real.
That's the whole reason I did this.

265 FLIM 265
Do tell.

266 APPLEJACK 266
I had to convince everypony to stop
buying Flim and Flam's fake tonic,
so I pretended to have an even
better one.

267 ONE-EARED PONY 267
But it's a fake?

268 APPLEJACK 268
(nods)
I was going to tell everypony,
right after I drove Flim and Flam
out of business.

269 FLIM 269
That's a convenient story.

270 FLAM 270
A clever ruse.

271 FLIM 271
But how do we know that that's what
you'd do?

272 APPLEJACK 272
Because I say so, and I...

273 FLIM 273
Always tell the truth?

274 APPLEJACK 274
Yes--

Applejack stops short.

She looks from Flim and Flam to One-Eared Pony. As she does
so and her epiphany rainbow appears.

She looks out at the crowd.

275 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 275
No.

A <GASP> from the crowd.

276 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 276
I lied about the elixir. I thought
I was doing the right thing, but
trying to beat a couple of liars at
their own game just turned me into
a liar too.

The One-Eared Pony looks down, crestfallen.

277 FLIM 277
Wow. I just don't know what to
think anymore.

278 FLIM & FLAM 278
You said yourself that trust is the
most important thing, but how can
anypony trust you now?

Applejack and Shill exchange a look.

279 APPLEJACK 279
They can't.
 (to the crowd)
I guess the only thing for me to do
now is to try to win back
everypony's trust.

280 FLAM 280
Well, good luck with that, but in
the meantime...

Flim and Flam stand back by their tent.

281 FLIM 281
Welcome one and all to the only
honest tonic sellers in Ponyville.

The One-Eared Pony casts a lingering look at Applejack before
leading the crowd back into Flim and Flam's tent when
suddenly...

282 SILVER SHILL (O.S.) 282
W-w-w-wait!

Everypony turns to see Silver Shill standing up holding his
crutches. He walks to Applejack, without using the crutches,
and turns to the crowd.

283 SILVER SHILL (CONT'D) 283
Flim and Flam paid me to pretend I
needed these crutches so it would
look like their tonic healed me.

284 FLIM 284
I've never seen this pony before in
my life.

285 FLAM 285
Me neither!

286 SILVER SHILL 286
(ignoring them)
I convinced myself that I was
giving ponies the boost they needed
to do or be what they wanted, but
really...

He points at Flim and Flam.

287 SILVER SHILL (CONT'D) 287
I was just helping them lie.
Applejack was only trying to show
everypony the truth.

CUT TO:

SC 9 - EXT. RIVER - FLASH BACK

Sliver Shill stands behind a tree listening while Applejack
talks to Apple Bloom.

288 APPLEJACK 288
We're gonna fight fire with fire.

289 APPLE BLOOM 289
What do you mean?

290 APPLEJACK 290
If Flim and Flam can sell a fake
tonic then so can we. We'll tell
everypony there's a Sweet Apple
Acres Elixir and beat Flim and Flam
at their own game. Once they've
moved on, we'll tell everypony how
neither one was real to begin with.

CUT BACK TO:

SC 10 - EXT. TENT - DAY

291 SILVER SHILL 291
Applejack made a mistake, but she
owned up to it, even when she could
have kept on lying and even though
someponies might never trust her
again. And if she can do it, then
so can I.

With that, Shill hands Applejack one of his crutches. (NOTE:
This will be her key).

Cranky Doodle Donkey and the Pimple-Faced Pony step out from
the crowd.

292 CRANKY DOODLE DONKEY 292
But what about all my hair that's
grown back?

293 PIMPLE-FACED PONY 293
And my chafing? Their tonic helped
that.

294 SILVER SHILL 294
Sometimes you can want or believe
something so much you'll find ways
to prove it's true even when it
isn't. I thought I was helping
ponies, but I was wrong.

Suddenly Granny steps forward.

295 GRANNY SMITH 295
Well, I really could swim again and
that's nothing to sneeze at.

296 APPLEJACK 296
Granny, you only needed to believe
that you weren't too old to give it
a try.
 (then)
Just don't go back to high diving,
okay?

297 GRANNY SMITH 297
I can't believe these two
charlatan's even let me entertain
the notion.

She looks around.

298 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D) 298
Hey, where'd they go?

The whole crowd turns to see Flim and Flam are gone.

SC 11 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY

Applejack sits against a tree writing in the Journal of Friendship.

299 APPLEJACK (V.O.) 299
Being honest sure is hard when you
have to deal with ponies that have
no trouble lying.

In a QUICK CUT we see Film and Flam riding their steam-powered wagon to the next town, then BACK TO...

300 APPLEJACK 300
And even when you mean well, if you
tell too many lies it's hard for
anypony to trust you again. But you
have to try because there's nothing
quite so powerful as trust and
belief.

Applejack looks up as we SWISH PAN to Granny standing on what looks like a high dive platform.

301 GRANNY SMITH 301
I can do it. I trust and believe I
can do it.

Finally she jumps and we pull out to reveal her "high dive" is only a few inches off the ground.

FADE OUT.

END.