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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 APPLES enjoy a pleasant afternoon at the swimming hole.

APPLEJACK, BIG MACINTOSH and APPLE BLOOM splash around on the shore while GRANNY SMITH sits nearby, asleep in her rocking chair-- facing away from the water.

1 APPLE BLOOM 1
(to Big Mac)
Just one more time. Please!

Apple Bloom and Big Mac look to Applejack.

2 APPLEJACK 2
All right, but this is the last one.

Apple Bloom runs and jumps at Big Mac who catches her and tosses her spinning through the air in a tight summersault toward Applejack.

Applejack turns around and gently BUCKS the spinning ball of Apple Bloom high into the air over the water.

At the top of her arc, Apple Bloom unfurls, does a perfect jackknife, then dives toward the water, tucking into a cannon ball at the last minute. She SPLASHES into the water, then * bobs up to the surface. *

3 APPLE BLOOM 3 *
(calling out) *
Sure wish you'd come swimmin' with *
us, Granny. *

4 GRANNY SMITH 4
Sorry, dear, but I just can't bring *
myself anywhere near that there *
swimmin' hole.

Apple Bloom exits the water to join Granny Smith on the * shore. *

5 APPLE BLOOM 5 *
How come? *

6 GRANNY SMITH 6 *
Well, wasn't always this way... *

CUT TO: Granny's reminiscence in the form of an OLD TIME MOVIE REEL.

7 GRANNY SMITH (V.O.) 7
...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.

8 GRANNY SMITH (V.O.) 8
I was an aqua-pony all star. Everything from water ballet to the high dive.

Young Granny proceeds to climb the scaffolding of a ridiculously high diving tower.

9 GRANNY SMITH (V.O.) 9
In fact, 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 below at a deep-dish pie pan filled with water. She laughs in face of death.

10 GRANNY SMITH (V.O.) 10
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 the Apples all sit around Granny, rapt by her story.

11 GRANNY SMITH 11
Falling six stories into a deep-dish pie pan takes a toll on the hind quarters. I was so sore it took years before I could even look at water again.

12 APPLEJACK 12
Six stories? Granny, are you sure you're not exaggerating just a little?

13 GRANNY SMITH 13
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.

14 APPLEJACK 14
Mm-hmm.

15 GRANNY SMITH 15
(with a sigh)
Point is, just the idea of swimming makes my whole body ache. Besides, these old legs can't even paddle fast enough to stay afloat.

Granny takes a step and slips on the wet ground, her legs pinwheeling as she regains her balance.

16 APPLE BLOOM 16
(to Big Mac)
Boy, I sure would hate to be afraid of swimming. Do you think I'll ever be scared of the water?

With that, Big Mac casually pushes Apple Bloom into the water. She bobs up, laughing.

17 BIG MAC 17
Nope. *

FADE OUT. *

END TEASER *

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.

18 APPLE BLOOM 18
Wow, Granny. I can't believe you were a high diver.

19 GRANNY SMITH 19
The best one in Ponyville.

20 APPLEJACK 20
Um... Granny? I thought Ponyville didn't even exist when you were young.

21 GRANNY SMITH 21
Quit your nitpickin'. I was the best high diver around and that's a fact.

22 APPLE BLOOM 22
Gee, Granny, do you think I could be a high diver.

23 BIG MAC 23
Nope.

24 APPLEJACK 24
Absolutely not!

25 APPLE BLOOM 25
But...

26 GRANNY SMITH 26
Now you hold your horse feathers, little seed. I never said being a high diver was a smart decision. Haven't you been listening? It's incredibly dangerous.

27 APPLE BLOOM 27
I know, but--

28 GRANNY SMITH 28
But nothin'. It's the riskiest, scariest, darned fool thing I ever did do. That's not to say I don't wish I was still young and spry and confident, but let's leave flying through the air to the pegasi.

29 APPLE BLOOM 29
Wow, when you put it that way, it doesn't sound so fun.

Apple Bloom looks up.

30 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D) 30
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.

31 BIG MAC 31
Yep.

32 APPLEJACK 32
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.

33 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 33
Now, where in Ponyville do you two think you're going?

34 GRANNY SMITH 34
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 - <u>EXT. FIELD - MOMENTS LATER</u>

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.

35 APPLE BLOOM 35
Come on, Applejack. Aren't you curious?

36 APPLEJACK 36
I am. And that's what worries me.

37 BIG MAC 37
Yep.

SC 4 - <u>INT. TENT - SAME</u>

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.

Granny and Apple Bloom push their way to a pair of front row seats, but 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.

38 VOICE 1 (O.S.) 38
Thank you one and all for your attendance and we guarantee that your time here will not be spent in vain.

39 VOICE 2 (O.S.) 39
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 surprise.

40 APPLEJACK 40
The Flim Flam Brothers! Well, this should be interesting.

41 BIG MAC 41
Yep.

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

42 FLIM 42
Welcome one and all to the demonstration of a lifetime.

43 FLAM 43
A demonstration of a better life.

44 FLIM 44
A demonstration of a better time.

45 FLAM 45
And if we haven't captured your interest just yet, by the time we finish an unfortunate phenomenon practically guarantees we will.

46 FLIM 46
A phenomenon? What's that?

47 FLAM 47
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.

48 FLIM 48
There are aliments all around us,
in everything we touch or smell or see.

49 FLAM 49
There is sickness that just lies waiting,
to crawl into your skin from land and sea.

50 FLIM 50
There are diseases that you come down with,
in every step you take or breath you breathe.

51 FLAM 51
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.)

52 FLIM & FLAM 52
But luckily we've got the thing for you in your time of need.
(MORE)

FLIM & FLAM (CONT'D)
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.

53 FLIM & FLAM (CONT'D) 53
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 and look out at the crowd of ponies, eyes wide with excitement--Granny and Apple Bloom among them.

As the music continues low in the background, Applejack addresses the audience.

54 APPLEJACK 54
Now listen everypony, and I'm sure they mean well,
but Flim and Flam, in fact, just have this tonic to sell.
Not every pony in the world is sick here today.
So think before you buy it.
And that's all that I'll say.

Flim and Flam look down at Applejack and cock their eyebrows.

55 FLIM & FLAM 55
Hmmmm.

They reach back and flip a couple of switches on their cart. More clapper boards flip down with images of hooves slipping on banana peels, falling anvils, etc.

The Music ramps up again as the brothers sing in a quick patter bridge.

56 FLAM 56
Now I understand that some of you don't think that you're sick, but twisted hooves and aching joints don't heal all that quick.

57 FLIM 57
Consider just how dangerous this world is. You might
(MORE)

FLIM (CONT'D)
slip and fall and break or sprain something here tonight.

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

58 FLIM & FLAM 58
But...you're...so...

The brothers flourish handfuls of tonic bottles like playing cards.

59 FLIM & FLAM (CONT'D) 59
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.

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

60 FLIM 60
Now I know our claims seem fantastical.

61 FLAM 61
Impractical, improbable, impossible...

62 FLIM 62
And magical.

63 FLAM (CONT'A) 63
But, frankly, you've no way to know for certain until you try it yourself.

64 FLIM 64
So we welcome every suffering pony to make their way on up to the stage...

65 FLAM 65
Now don't crowd.

66 FLIM 66
And we'll prove our tonic's effectiveness before your very eyes.

Several ponies try to jostle their way forward, but Flam points into the crowd.

67 FLAM 67
You, there.

The music stops as the crowd parts and a SPOTLIGHT falls on an elderly, disabled pony with forearm crutches: SILVER SHILL. Shill blinks up at the stage through a giant pair of HARRY CARAY-STYLE EYE GLASSES.

68 FLIM 68
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.

69 FLAM 69
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...

70 FILM & FLAM 70
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.

71 FLIM & FLAM 71
Lucky that we had the thing for you. It's our special cure.

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

72 FILM & FLAM 72
With Flim Flam's Miracle Curative Tonic, he won't need his crutches to dance out the door.

The Apples look on, stunned.

73 GRANNY SMITH 73
Now, how do you like that?

74 APPLEJACK 74
I don't. There's something funny about this whole thing...

Shill looks up, overhearing Applejack. Their eyes lock for a split second before Shill hurries out of the tent. Immediately the brothers return to their song.

75 FLAM 75
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.

76 FLIM 76
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.

77 FLIM & FLAM 77
So...

The Brothers each hold out a hand to Granny, who lets them help her onto the stage where they dance high kicks around her to the chorus as Applejack tries to get her back to her seat.

78 FLIM & FLAM (CONT'D) 78
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.

The brothers spin Granny out of the their embrace and into Applejack's arms as the crowd pushes forward.

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

79 CROWD 79
We've got swollen hooves and hindquarters and bridle bit cleft,
Saunter sits and gallop plop and mane and tail heft,
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.

80 EVERYPONY 80
It's so simple when you think of it
all we need's the cure.
Flim Flam's Miracle Curative Tonic is

81 FLAM 81
Hot and cold filtered!

82 FLIM 82
And guaranteed pure!

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

83 FLIM & FLAM 83
It...cures...the...

The eyes of every pony in the crowd grow bigger with every condition...

84 FLAM 84
Reins, and spurs, and clipilis, and clydesdale fur blight.
Hooferia, horsyntary cured in one night.

85 FLIM 85
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--

86 GRANNY SMITH (O.S.) 86
SOLD!

The other Apples spin around, looking on in shock as Granny lays down her bits in exchange for a bottle of tonic.

87 FLIM 87
Congratulations, Granny Smith.
You've just made the purchase of a lifetime!

Applejack turns to Big Mac.

88 APPLEJACK 88
Are you as worried as I am?

89 BIG MAC 89
Yep.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC 5 - EXT. RIVER - LATER

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

90 APPLE BLOOM 90
Boy, I just can't believe all the things that Flim Flam tonic can do.

91 APPLEJACK 91
(sarcastic)
Neither can I.

92 APPLE BLOOM 92
What do you mean?

93 APPLEJACK 93
When somepony says something is too good to be true, it usually is.

94 BIG MAC 94
Yep.

95 APPLE BLOOM 95
You mean Granny wasted her money?

96 APPLEJACK 96
Well, I don't know about that, but I don't think there's a tonic in the world that can make an old pony young again.

As the three of them stare into the water, Granny suddenly swims by, doing the backstroke.

97 GRANNY SMITH 97
Howdeee!

All three Apples do a double take.

98 APPLE BLOOM 98
Granny!?

Big Mac tosses his harness into the water like a life preserver, but Granny swims right by it.

99 APPLEJACK 99
Hang on, We'll get you!

Applejack gallops ahead and bucks a tree into the water.

100 GRANNY SMITH 100
Obstacles, eh?

Granny adjusts her course and floats right past the 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.

101 APPLE BLOOM 101
Grab on, Granny!

Granny floats right up to Apple Bloom and stops, pony-paddling.

102 GRANNY SMITH 102
Whatcha doin' there, half seed?

103 APPLE BLOOM 103
Saving you.

104 GRANNY SMITH 104
Who said I needed savin'?

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.

105 APPLE BLOOM 105
Granny, I thought you were too afraid of the water to swim? And what about your hip?

106 GRANNY SMITH 106
Well, I reckon it might have been a problem before I had myself a dose of that there Flim Flam Tonic.

107 APPLEJACK 107
Granny, I'm not so sure that tonic really does anything.

108 GRANNY SMITH 108
Doesn't do anything? What do you call this?

Granny dances a little jig.

109 APPLEJACK 109
I'm glad you're feeling good, but how do you know it's from the tonic?

110 GRANNY SMITH 110
I don't know what else it could be. I looked out at the water this morning and felt the same terrifying aches and pains I always do, but one sip of that magic elixir and it all went away. Just like those pony brothers said it would. Why, I might even get a head start on my chores.

Granny turns to Big Mac.

111 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D) 111
Whatdya say, Big Macadoo, up for a little afternoon apple bucking?

112 BIG MAC 112
Nope.

113 GRANNY SMITH 113
Aw, quit yer belly aching!

With that, Granny drags Big Mac off toward the farm. Apple Bloom turns to Applejack.

114 APPLE BLOOM 114
Gee, it looks like that tonic works after all. I wonder what's in it.

115 APPLEJACK 115
I think maybe it's time we found out.

CUT TO:

SC 6 - <u>EXT. FIELD - NIGHT</u>

Applejack and Apple Bloom walk up to Flim and Flam's tent. The sounds of another demonstration ring out from inside.

Apple Bloom looks up at Applejack.

116 APPLE BLOOM 116
So, you're just gonna walk up and ask them how it works?

117 APPLEJACK 117
I guess, though if it's a genuine cure I don't suppose they'll be too keen on sharing the recipe.

From inside comes a cavalcade of music and applause as the tent flap flies open and a pony with a teased mane and giant Harry Caray-style glasses dances out, twirling a pair of crutches.

As the tent flap closes, Apple Bloom looks up, recognizing Silver Shill by his glasses, even before he tucks the crutches under his leg and pulls off his wig.

118 APPLE BLOOM 118
Hey! That's the same pony from before!

Shill turns around, blinking at Applejack and Apple Bloom through his thick glasses, then ducks around the side of the tent.

119 APPLEJACK 119
Hey!

SC 7 - <u>EXT. TENT - REAR - SAME</u>

The Apples follow Shill to 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 turns to face Applejack and Apple Bloom.

120 SILVER SHILL 120
(stuttering)
W-w-what do you two want?

121 APPLEJACK 121
Our Granny took some tonic and we want to know how it works.

Shill blinks at them confused.

122 SILVER SHILL 122
H-h-how it works?

123 APPLE BLOOM 123
Sure. Granny couldn't swim and now she can. Just like you couldn't walk and now you can.

Shill looks down at his wig and crutches.

124 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D) 124
But what are you doing back here? I mean, if the tonic cured you and all?

125 SILVER SHILL 125
I...

Applejack looks around and notices several boxes of costumes, wigs and other props.

126 APPLEJACK 126
Because he's just part of the act.

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

127 APPLE BLOOM 127
Wow, he sure is fast for a pony that needs crutches.

Applejack looks at Apple Bloom.

128 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D) 128
What?

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

SC 8 - <u>EXT. TENT - STEAM CLOUD - SAME</u>

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

129 APPLEJACK 129
Where did he go?

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

130 APPLE BLOOM 130
This way!

Apple Bloom takes off into the stream.

131 APPLEJACK 131
Apple Bloom, wait!

Applejack takes off after her sister, but gets disoriented by the shadows in the cloud.

When she emerges from the steam, instead of Apple Bloom she finds Shill, cornered in front of a wagon-mounted steam engine.

132 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 132
Now hold it right there, Mr...

133 SILVER SHILL 133
Sh-sh-Shill. Silver Shill.

134 APPLEJACK 134
It's time for you to tell the truth. You never needed crutches at all, did you?

135 SILVER SHILL 135
(conflicted)
I... I don't know what you're talking about.

Shill's quickly turns one of the steam engine's release valves and a plume of steam shoots out.

136 APPLEJACK 136
Hey!

But when the steam clears, Shill is gone.

SC 9 - <u>EXT. TENT - FRONT - SAME</u>

Applejack races around to the front of the tent just as the crowd lets out.

She catches a glimpse of Shill and chases him in and out of the crowd until finally he disappears into the tent.

SC 10 - <u>INT. TENT - SAME</u>

Applejack rushes in to find Shill cowering behind Flim and Flam who are adding up the night’s profits. The brothers look up from counting their bits.

137 FLIM 137
Well, if it isn't our most favorite Apple!

138 FLAM 138
What brings you back to our humble abode?

139 APPLEJACK 139
You two charla-ponies sold my Granny a bottle of tonic and now she's off acting like a filly again.

140 FLIM 140
What's so bad about that?

141 APPLEJACK 141
What's bad is she’s an old mare. If she keeps gallivanting around like a yearling she’s apt to drop from exhaustion or worse.

She points a hoof at Shill.

142 APPLEJACK (CONT’D) 142
What's more, I know for a fact that your friend here is dressing up as a different pony every night so he can pretend to be cured.

Flim and Flam turn and look at Shill who shrugs as he pulls out a crate full of clear, empty vials.

143 FLAM 143
Well, that's quite an accusation.

144 FLIM 144
But let's say that it's true.

Flim sweeps the money off their counting table and pulls out what looks like a stainless steel hand juicer.

145 FLAM 145
Hypothetically.

146 FLIM 146
Theoretically.

Flam dumps a large sack of apples and beet tops, onto the * floor. He picks a few up apples and starts juggling. *

147 FLAM 147
As I understand, your Granny was a famous aqua-pony...

148 FLIM 148
The star of the show, once upon a time...

149 FLAM 149
But hasn’t set so much as a hoof in the water since.

150 APPLEJACK 150
Until today. That's right.

One at a time, Flam tosses his apples through the air to Flim who catches them in his juicer, adds a some of the large beet * leaves and pulverizes them into a greenish liquid that Shill * catches in the empty vials.

151 FLAM 151
Well, then it sounds to me like we did her a favor, I mean if swimming * makes her happy.

152 APPLEJACK 152
It does, but...

153 FLIM 153
Well, then even if our tonic were nothing more than a mixture of * apple juice and beet leaves... *

Shill corks and slaps on a Flim Flam logo on each vial.

154 FLAM 154
Hypothetically.

155 FLIM 155
Theoretically.

156 FLAM 156
The fact is that Granny is happier now than before she tried it.

157 APPLEJACK 157
I guess.

158 FLIM 158
So, the question is...

Flam walks over and hands Applejack a fresh vial of “tonic.”

159 FLAM 159
Do you really want to be the pony who takes all that happiness away?

160 APPLEJACK 160
(uncertain)
I...

Just then, Apple Bloom bursts into the tent. She looks to Applejack.

161 APPLE BLOOM 161
There you are! I've been looking all over. Did you find out what’s in the tonic?

Applejack looks down at the vial in her hoof, then over at the entire crate of “tonic” Flim, Flam and Shill just made.

162 APPLEJACK 162
Honestly, Apple Bloom, as long as it works, I don’t suppose it really matters.

163 APPLE BLOOM 163
If it doesn’t matter to you, then *
it doesn’t matter to me either, *
sis. *

164 FLIM 164
That’s the spirit!

Applejack leads Apple Bloom out as Flam calls after.

165 FLAM 165
Come back anytime!

SC 11 - <u>EXT. SWIMMING HOLE - THE NEXT DAY</u>

Applejack sits on the shore watching nervously as Granny, Apple Bloom and Big Mac splash around in the water.

166 APPLE BLOOM 166
Hey Granny, think you can buck me over the water?

167 GRANNY SMITH 167
I don't see why not. Come on, Big Mac, toss her this way.

Apple Bloom leaps at Big Mac who tosses her toward Granny Smith. Applejack stands as Apple Bloom tucks into her spin (a la her maneuver from the Teaser).

168 APPLEJACK 168
Granny, wait!

But Granny is already bucking the spinning Apple Bloom high over the water.

Apple Bloom does her same jackknife to cannon ball dive, sending a wall of water splashing over Applejack.

The three Apples in the water break out laughing.

169 GRANNY SMITH 169
(to Applejack)
What were you saying, dear?

170 APPLEJACK 170
Granny, don't you think you should take it kinda easy?

171 GRANNY SMITH 171
I've been taking it easy for too long and now thanks to that Flim Flam tonic, I don’t have to.

Granny climbs out and does an impressive dive, tucking into a summersault then breaks into an intricate water ballet maneuver. Apple Bloom looks on, impressed.

172 APPLE BLOOM 172
Yeah, Applejack, I mean Granny's all cured now. Right?

Applejack looks from Granny to Apple Bloom looking at her grandpony with admiration.

173 APPLEJACK 173
Uh... Yeah. I guess she is.

Apple Bloom jumps in and swims over to Granny.

174 APPLE BLOOM 174
Granny, do you think I could be a aqua-pony like you?

175 GRANNY SMITH 175
Of course you can, sapling. There's nothing to it but to do it.

176 APPLE BLOOM 176
Well, the Ponyville swim meet is coming up. We could enter together. A legendary water pony like you? We'd be a cinch to win.

Granny stops for a moment, thinking.

177 GRANNY SMITH 177
I don't know. Being back in the water is one thing, but a competition is a pony of a different color.

178 APPLE BLOOM 178
(disappointed)
Oh. Okay.

Apple Bloom looks down at the water, then swims to the shore and sits. Applejack looks at her sister and comes to a decision.

179 APPLEJACK 179
I don't know, Granny. A swim meet sounds pretty safe. And after all, if that tonic lets you swim in a river and a swimming hole, a pool should be no problem at all.

180 GRANNY SMITH 180
Well, I'll be a tart turnover, you're right! All we need now is more tonic!

Off Applejack's look of concern...

CUT TO:

SC 12 - <u>EXT. TENT - LATER</u>

Ponies line up at the tent opening where Flim and Flam stand next to a small table covered with vials of their tonic.

181 FLAM 181
Welcome friends! Step right up! The next show starts in five minutes.

182 FLIM 182
But why not buy your tonic now and avoid the rush?

Flam starts to let the line of ponies inside. Silver Shill, still recognizable by his glasses, but this time also wearing a horrible toupee and mustache, limps through the line on crutches again.

183 FLAM 183
Right this way, good sir.

Flam gives Shill a wink as he “helps” him inside.

184 GRANNY SMITH (O.S.) 184
We’ll take a whole case!

Flim, Flam and Shill all turn to see Granny Smith drop a satchel of bits onto the table.

A PONY steps out of line and up to Applejack and the other Apples standing nearby.

185 PONY 1 185
Are you saying this stuff actually works?

Applejack looks at Granny who is grinning ear to ear, then the ponies in line awaiting her answer.

186 APPLEJACK 186
It seems to work for Granny.

Pony 1 lays his bits down on the table beside Granny’s.

187 PONY 1 187
Well, if Applejack says it works, that’s good enough for me!

188 FLIM 188
You heard it here first, folks. Flim Flam Miracle Curative Tonic is Granny Smith tested and Applejack approved!

Another pony pushes forward and drops his bits down.

189 PONY 2 189
I'll take a case too!

Suddenly everypony starts to crowd around the table shouting for a chance to buy some tonic.

Applejack slumps as we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC 13 - EXT. PONYVILLE POOL - DAY

At one end of the pool, ponies dive from a high platform into the water as a panel of JUDGES score the dives. At the other end a SHOT goes off as ponies SPLASH into their lanes and race.

Applejack walks past a set of bleachers filled with ponies watching the competition and up to Granny and Apple Bloom at the edge of the water.

Granny does some old-timey stretches and Apple Bloom does her best to follow suit.

190 APPLEJACK 190
Just remember you two, the most important thing is to be safe and have fun. Right?

191 GRANNY SMITH 191
Fiddlesticks! With the routine we've been a'working on, I'll be a plum pudding if we don't win this thing.

192 APPLE BLOOM 192
Yeah, Applejack. Just wait.

193 APPLEJACK 193
Uh... Okay. Good luck, then.

194 GRANNY SMITH 194
Luck? Who needs luck? We've got tonic on our side.

Granny points over to a stall where Flim and Flam sell bottles of tonic like sports drinks.

A picture of Applejack, smiling and holding a vial of tonic, has been pasted to the side of Flim and Flam's Barnum & Bailey-esque logo.

Flim uses a megaphone to address the crowd.

195 FLIM 195
Flim Flam's Magical Curative Tonic, here! Get your Applejack approved tonic! Granny Smith drinks it, why shouldn't you?

The crowd cheers and Granny gives them a wave. Applejack slumps and looks at the ground.

196 APPLEJACK 196
Right.

197 GRANNY SMITH 197
Now if you'll excuse us, we've got some swimming to do.

With that, Granny pulls out a vial of tonic and takes a swig.

Applejack steps back as Granny and Apple Bloom move to the edge of the water and MUSIC plays.

In choreographed hops to the beat, Granny and Apple Bloom jump over each other, then dive into the pool.

In the water, they swim around in sync to the music...

- They interlock hooves and rotate around each other.

- They dive underwater and do a rear leg-waving dance in unison.

- Granny pony-paddles while making a circle with her front legs through which Apple Bloom shoots out of the water and dives through.

- Apple Bloom rises out of the water, giving the impression that she is standing on the surface until she rotates, switching positions with Granny.

- They rotate as above several times, one pony above the water, standing on the hooves of the upside-down pony below the water, until...

Apple Bloom rises out of the water with a lit sparkler in her hoof. She sits on Granny's shoulders as Granny also rises, impossibly, until she is practically above the water herself.

The two of them hold this Statue of Liberty-esque pose until the MUSIC crescendos and Apple Bloom's sparkler turns RAINBOW COLORED and she spits a stream of water out of her mouth like a fountain.

The two of them dive back into the water to uproarious applause.

The judges waste no time in turning over perfect tens.

198 APPLEJACK 198
Well, I'll be.

Granny and Apple Bloom climb out of the pool and into a congratulatory crowd.

With a FLASH, a REPORTER PONY takes a picture as Apple Bloom is handed a trophy.

199 REPORTER PONY 199
That was some of the most amazing aqua-batics I've ever seen. How in the world did you do it? Hard work? Lots of practice?

200 GRANNY SMITH 200
Yeah, but mostly it's the tonic.

Suddenly, Flim and Flam are at Granny and Apple Bloom's sides as the reporter takes another FLASH photo.

201 FLIM 201
That's Flim Flam's Miracle Curative Tonic, to be precise.

202 FLAM 202
Buy it now, while supplies last.

The reporter takes another FLASH photo as the crowd gathers around to congratulate the Apples.

Meanwhile, Applejack spots Silver Shill stumbling his way out of the bleachers. Still wearing his thick glasses, he's dressed like a vendor at a ball game only with bottles of tonic instead of popcorn and peanuts.

203 APPLEJACK 203
What are you doing here?

204 SILVER SHILL 204
Things are going so well, Flim and Flam gave me a promotion. *
(then, proudly) *
(MORE)

SILVER SHILL (CONT'D)
Just made my first bit as a *
salespony. *

He gestures to a SILVER BIT on his tray. *

205 SILVER SHILL (CONT'D) 205 *
No more costumes for this guy. *
(noting vendor costume)
This is more of a uniform.

206 APPLEJACK 206
If you say so.

207 SILVER SHILL 207
I-I-I used to wonder if I was doing the right thing, pretending to be cured, basically lying to folks about this tonic, but thanks to you, I realized that sometimes honesty isn't the best policy.

208 APPLEJACK 208
Thanks to... me?

Applejack looks over as another FLASH goes off. Flim and Flam strike several more poses as Apple Bloom talks to the reporter.

209 APPLE BLOOM 209
With Film Flam's Magical Curative Tonic, my Granny can do anything! Just ask Applejack.

Everypony turns as the photographer takes a picture of Applejack with another FLASH.

On Applejack, her eyes spinning from the flash.

Suddenly, an EPIPHANY RAINBOW swirls around her.

210 APPLEJACK 210
(to Shill)
No. This has gotta stop. If ponies keep believing that tonic can do things it can't, who knows what will happen?

211 SILVER SHILL 211
M-m-maybe something like that?

Shill points a hoof into the air and Applejack looks up to see Granny climbing the diving tower.

212 APPLEJACK 212
Granny!?

Applejack runs over to the base of the high dive.

213 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 213
Granny! You come down from there right now!

But Granny is already too high up to hear. Applejack runs over to Apple Bloom.

214 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 214
What in blazes does she think she's doing?

215 APPLE BLOOM 215
Granny's going to break the Equestria high diving record.

216 APPLEJACK 216
What!?

Granny reaches the top of the platform, then starts climbing another scaffolding that takes her to an even higher perch facing AWAY FROM THE POOL.

Applejack looks over at the small platform and DEEP DISH PIE PAN filled with water that Granny plans on diving into.

217 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 217
Land sakes!

While the crowd watches Granny warm up for her dive, Applejack gallops toward the pool at full speed and leaps onto the diving board, catapulting herself skyward.

Pulling out her rope as she flies through the air, she twirls her lasso and tosses it just as Granny does a deep knee bend and leaps from her perch.

Roping Granny in mid-air with one end of the rope, Applejack uses the other end to lasso onto the high-dive platform, then slides down.

A crowd gathers as Applejack hops to the ground and unties Granny.

218 GRANNY SMITH 218
Now, what in tarnation did you do that for?

219 APPLEJACK 219
That was the most fool-pony thing I've ever seen anypony do in all my life. You can't do a dive like that!

220 GRANNY SMITH 220
Aw, quit your fussin'. I had enough tonic to do a dive ten times as high.

221 FLIM 221
Twenty times by my count.

222 FLAM 222
Thirty with a favorable breeze.

223 APPLE BLOOM 223
Now hold on, everypony. I'll bet Applejack just got scared. She knows Granny coulda done it. Right?

Apple Bloom looks up at Applejack, expectantly. Applejack looks out as everypony waits for her response.

224 APPLEJACK 224
Wrong, little seed. I hate to disappoint everypony, but there's no way Granny could have made that dive because this tonic is a fake.

The crowd suddenly GASPS in unison.

225 PONY 1 225
But you gave it your stamp of approval!

226 PONY 2 226
Are you saying you lied?

Applejack looks out the crowd as they stare at her in disbelief.

227 APPLEJACK 227
I am.

The crowd GASPS again.

228 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 228
I didn't mean to. But everypony seemed so much happier, I couldn't bring myself to tell y'all when I found out the tonic wasn't real. I know it was wrong.
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
I just hope, with time, I can win back everypony's trust.

She turns back to Granny.

229 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 229
I wanted to tell you sooner, but you were having so much fun, I didn't want to take it all away.

230 APPLE BLOOM 230
But if the tonic is a fake then how come Granny can swim again and what about all the aqua-batics we just did?

231 APPLEJACK 231
Well, I reckon sometimes you can forget what you're capable of and it just takes a little extra confidence to remember what was inside you all along.

She turns to Flim and Flam.

232 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 232
But telling ponies your tonic can do things it can't is just wrong.

233 FLIM 233
But you just said it boosts confidence!

234 APPLEJACK 234
Yeah, but--

Flam cuts her off, addressing the crowd with his megaphone as he starts another sales pitch.

235 FLAM 235
And that's not all it does, folks--

Suddenly a voice comes from off screen.

236 SILVER SHILL (O.S.) 236
Yes it is!

Everypony turns as Sliver Shill walks up and stands beside Applejack.

237 SILVER SHILL (CONT'D) 237
In fact, it's not a tonic at all.
It's just apple juice and beet *
leaves. I know because I helped *
make it.

Shill whips out the stainless steel hand juicer, an apple, *
and some beat leaves. By way of demonstration, he squeezes *
the juice into a vial and corks it.

238 SILVER SHILL (CONT'D) 238
I told myself that ponies just
needed something to believe in,
that I was helping, but it turns
out I wasn't doing that at all.

Flim and Flam share a glance, then tip-toe back into the crowd as Shill continues.

239 SILVER SHILL (CONT'D) 239
Watching Applejack save Granny and
then admit to lying, well, that
made me realize I was making ponies
believe in a thing that just wasn't
so.

Applejack gives Silver Shill a smile.

240 APPLEJACK 240
Believing in something can help you
do amazing things, but if that
belief is based on a lie,
eventually it's going to lead to
real trouble.

241 SILVER SHILL 241
Trouble I don't want any part of.

He shakes off his vendor's outfit.

242 SILVER SHILL (CONT'D) 242
Thank you, Applejack.

With that, Shill takes off his glasses. Amazingly, his eyes look fine, better in fact than the beady little dots they were with his glasses on. He retrieves the SILVER BIT we saw *
earlier on his tray. *

243 SILVER SHILL (CONT'D) 243
I got this through dishonest means. *
That was a mistake I won't be *
making again. *

He pushes the bit across the ground to Applejack. *

244 SILVER SHILL (CONT'D) 244 *
I'd like you to have it. As a *
reminder of how you helped me
finally see the truth. *

245 APPLEJACK 245 *
I dunno... *

246 SILVER SHILL 246 *
Don't worry. I'll track down the *
pony I sold that worthless tonic to *
and give them another bit to *
replace this one. *
(then) *
Honest. *

Applejack smiles and accepts the coin. She then turns her *
attention back to Granny.

247 APPLEJACK 247
I'm sorry, Granny. I hope this
doesn't mean you'll stop swimming.

248 GRANNY SMITH 248
Why in tarnation would I do that? I
just can't believe those two
salesponies had me believing I
could near fly.

She looks around.

249 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D) 249
Hey, where'd they go?

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

SC 14 - <u>EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY</u>

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

250 APPLEJACK (V.O.) 250
Being honest sure gets hard when it
seems like the truth might hurt
somepony you care about.

In a QUICK CUT we see Apple Bloom looking at old photos of Young Granny in her aqua-batic gear. Apple Bloom smiles and tucks the pictures back into an old photo album as we CUT BACK TO...

251 APPLEJACK 251
But I think believing a lie can end up hurting even more. Maybe someponies don't care about that...

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

252 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 252
But I sure ain't one of them.

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

253 APPLEJACK (CONT'D) 253
Now, you take it easy, there, Granny.

254 GRANNY SMITH 254
Oh, I plan too.

With that, Granny jumps and we pull out to reveal her "high dive" is a regular diving board set up over the swimming hole.

Granny splashes into the water and comes up spitting a stream into the air as she floats on her back.

FADE OUT.

END.