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MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Safety First"
Episode 417
Written by: Scott Sonneborn

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“Safety First”

Premise by Scott Sonneborn

Everyone in the CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS' class is going on a field trip to the CARLSGOOD CAVERNS. Everyone, that is, except APPLE BLOOM - because APPLEJACK won't let her go! Applejack took a tumble there as a kid and she's never forgotten how awful it was. She doesn't want to risk Apple Bloom having the same experience. Applejack loves her sister and sees it as her job to look after her. Apple Bloom is annoyed at her sister's over-protectiveness -- she can take care of herself!

Embarrassed and frustrated by having to stay home while her friends go on a field trip, Apple Bloom figures out a clever way to get back at her sister: by taking advantage of her over-protectiveness. When AB has a chore or annoying job to do, both on the farm and out in Ponyville, she makes it seem like she's in danger. Applejack swoops in, and in saving the day, also ends up doing AB's job for her. Soon, Apple Bloom has Applejack convinced that *everything* is too dangerous for her, which means Apple Bloom doesn't have to do a thing for herself. To the point where Applejack even gives AB a pony back ride rather than "risking" her falling down the stairs - even though there's only one step!

Apple Bloom is really starting to enjoy not having to do anything for herself, when SWEETIE and SCOOTALOO return from the field trip and tell Apple Bloom she missed an awesome time! It was so awesome, in fact, that Sweetie and Scootaloo are going back in tonight to see it again - and Apple Bloom has to come with them! AB knows there is no way that Applejack is going to let her go. Especially after Apple Bloom spent the whole day getting Applejack to save her from every little "danger" in Ponyville.

But Apple Bloom really wants to go with her friends, so she sneaks out behind her overprotective sister's back. The Caverns turn out to be awesome. But Apple Bloom has come to expect Applejack to leap in and take care of anything that even seems a tiny bit dangerous. So when really minor dangers pop up (like having to jump over a small rock), Apple Bloom isn't sure how to handle it without her sister. Apple Bloom's hesitation and lack of confidence gets her in to trouble in the caverns. And suddenly she finds herself in real danger! Of course, Apple Bloom knows there's only one thing to do: get her big sister to save her!

But as soon as Apple Bloom sends Scootaloo and Sweetie to go get her sister, it becomes clear that Applejack's not going to get there in time. Apple Bloom is going have to save herself this time - even though she's pretty sure she can't. AB wishes she hadn't manipulated her sister into coddling her so much. If she hadn't, she never would have freaked out over those minor dangers and gotten into this mess. AB had been trying to teach her sister a lesson, but now she's learned one too.

But it's a realization that has come to late. If she's going to save herself, she's got to try to do something now. She does - and surprises herself by pulling it off! Only to be even more surprised when she turns and sees that Applejack is there! AJ had gotten there in time to swoop in if AB had really needed her too. But AJ learned her lesson too: AJ had been trying to protect her sister from all the dangers in the world, but only ended up making the world more dangerous for AB. Apple Bloom apologizes to her sister for sneaking out and the two agree that from now on, things will be different. Apple Bloom will take her own bumps and bruises - which is probably going to be equally painful for both of them!