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MY LITTLE PONY 5

Nightmare Mark

Episode

Written by: Josh Haber

Premise: Oct. 11, 2013

Nightmare Mark

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The CMCs practice for the upcoming Field Day (or other Ponyville-wide event for which we already have designs) where Ponyville celebrates athletics, arts and crafts, baking, farming, you name it. It's a whole day of ponies doing what ponies do best and the CMCs are particularly excited. It's basically a day designed to get their Cutie Marks, so naturally they are trying their hands at everything.

Diamond Tiara tells them not to bother. She and Silver Spoon have taken the prize for Best All Around Ponies three years straight. This year they are running a jewelry-making booth, so it's pretty much a lock. Scootaloo insists the CMCs will beat them, just as soon as they figure out what they'll do. DT sarcastically suggests the sack race and, just to spite her, the CMCs agree to give it a shot.

Applejack is preoccupied as she prepares for Field Day. Between the apple bucking demonstrations, the cider making expo, and providing all the refreshments, it's a day the Apple Family really shines. The Mayor worries the Apples are taking on too much, but Applejack reassures her. "We've even got out of town Apples coming in to help. I personally guarantee it will go off without a hitch."

Apple Bloom can't wait. For the first time she'll man the cider booth on her own AND Babs Seed is coming to help. But a letter arrives from Babs. She took a few beauty classes and was so good she got her Cutie Mark! She can't wait to tell Apple Bloom all about it, but unfortunately enrollment at Mane & Tail Academy starts this week and she won't be able to make Field Day.

Applejack is glad for Babs, but is surprised her Cutie Mark isn't Apple-related. Maybe it's best she can't come help after all. Worried the Apples have bitten off more than they can chew, Applejack considers telling the Mayor. Apple Bloom insists that even with the sack race, she'll be able to handle the cider booth on her own. Applejack is proud and tells her that kind of determination is what being an Apple is all about. She gives Apple Bloom the okay as long as she, "doesn't make a liar out of me."

The next day at the fair, AB comes across Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon's jewelry making booth and gives it a try. It turns out she's a natural and everypony is amazed at her beautiful creation. Even DT and SS can't get over it. As ponies line up for a chance to see it, AB's Cutie Mark appears—a jeweler's tweezers holding a gem.

Excited, AB runs to tell Applejack who isn't excited at all. In fact, since the Cutie Mark isn't Apple-related, she's downright disappointed. Now Applejack will have to run the cider stand herself since apparently Apple Bloom isn't a real Apple after all.

AB wakes up terrified. It was all a dream. Too scared to face her family, Apple Bloom skips the cider stand to practice with the CMCs for the sack race. Turns out she's a natural and presto! She gets her Cutie Mark—a sack of apples. Unfortunately, AB is so much better her friends can't keep up. At race time AB stands at the starting line when Mail Pony delivers a letter saying her friends aren't coming. She's so much better, they feel like they are holding her back. All alone, AB looks out at the field and—wakes up. It was all a dream—again.

The next day at the fair, she lies and tells the CMCs that she can't do the race because she has to help out with the cider stand. She walks off leaving her friends holding the bag...er, sack. But when she doesn't show up at the cider stand either, both Applejack and the CMCs confront her. She tells them she can't bear to have them all reject her and runs off.

AB runs and runs until she arrives at the fair but it's empty, like a post-apocalyptic desert plain. All the stands and booths are there, but all of the ponies are gone. She's alone, but at least now there's no one to reject her. Suddenly she sees the fair on the other side of an infinite wall of glass (like Under the Dome or something). On the other side everything is going great without her. She knocks on the glass but no one can hear her.

Desperate, she charges at the glass and it shatters. She runs through the fair, but it's like no one can tell she's there. Luna appears (like Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life*). "They can't hear you, Apple Bloom. They can't hear you because you were never there." Luna takes AB to the closed cider stand where Applejack has to tell the Mayor the

Apples couldn't handle everything after all. Next Luna and AB visit the sack race where Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon mock her friends who can't even compete without a full team.

Apple Bloom realizes how terrified she is of getting the wrong Cutie Mark. What if she ends up getting something that makes the ponies she cares about reject her? Luna tells her the ponies she cares about care about her—the only thing they would reject is if she weren't there for them when they needed her.

AB wakes up (for real this time) and knows what she has to do. At the cider stand things go great. The whole family thanks her for her help and wishes her luck at the sack race. The CMCs win the race hands down, but don't win the prize for Best All Around Pony. AB tells them it's okay that they didn't win or get their Cutie Marks because the important thing is that they will always be there for each other. Of course, Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon don't win either. Best All Around Ponies goes to Snips and Snails who, under Fluttershy's tutelage, have raised the smartest pig in Equestria.