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MY LITTLE PONY 5
Appleosa's Most Wanted
Episode
Written by: Dave Polsky

Premise: Nov.18, 2013

APPLEOOSA'S MOST WANTED

Premise by Dave Polsky

Appleoosa is hosting this year's Equestria Rodeo and Applejack is headed there to compete. While there she plans to stay with family. This prompts Granny Smith to urge Applejack to bring Apple Bloom along, too. Applejack objects, the demands of competing in the rodeo are going to be pretty consuming (which is why she plans to go without the rest of the Mane 6). Applejack has learned that win, lose, or draw, her friends and family will love her, but still, she wants to make sure she gives this year's rodeo her all. As much as Applejack loves her little sister, it'll be hard to focus on looking after her while attempting to take the top rodeo prize at the same time... but Granny Smith won't take "no" for an answer. Acquiescing, Applejack readies to travel with Apple Bloom, but Apple Bloom doesn't want to go without Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo; she insists the three of them are heckbent on figuring out their Cutie Marks and can't really be apart right now. Applejack, seeing a perfect excuse to go alone as she originally planned, assures Apple Bloom that's perfectly okay with her, but it's too late: the other CMCs get excited about all going to Appaloosa and now Applejack's got three little ponies to look after on this trip instead of just one! Applejack now turns to the rest of the Mane 6 for help, but they all have other plans. Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie, however, are able to break those plans and lend Applejack a helping hoof on her trip. But when the six of them - Applejack, Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy and the CMCs - arrive in Appaloosa, they're told to turn back and go home. This is no place for little ones! The dreaded Bad Luck Bart is on the loose! The town is shuttered, the rodeo is cancelled, and - for safety's sake - every out-of-town pony needs to go back home!

Applejack's ticked off at her own back luck. Who is this Bad Luck Bart anyway? The Appaloosans all relate breathless tales... but after each tale it becomes increasingly clear that Bad Luck Bart has never done anything particularly bad. Though everypony's unanimous about Black Luck Bart's intimidating demeanor, nopony can remember anything he's done that's been unequivocally bad. "There's always a first time" seems to be the general agreement, but Applejack declares she didn't all travel all this way after weeks of preparations to turn back now: she's gonna see to it that the rodeo goes on as planned. The fear-sapped Appaloosans put their faith in brave Applejack and decide to carry on with the rodeo after all, while Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy find ways to keep the CMCs occupied. But while Applejack's off prepping herself to complete, the CMCs are all intrigued by this legendary Black Luck Bart, and hound Pinkie Pie about this till she's excited to go looking for him, too. It takes every ounce of Fluttershy's assertion to keep the others reigned in. At last she succeeds, but this backfires: although they didn't go looking for Bad Luck Bart, Bad Luck Bart has found them. Thinking the house they're in was abandoned and perfect as a Bad Guy Hideout, Bad Luck Bart snuck inside only to discover Pinkie, Fluttershy and the CMCs. Bad Luck Bart is livid: "Dagnabbit, Bad Luck Bart's Bad Luck done struck again!"

The ponies' initial fears at encountering this bad guy quickly melt away when they discover that, although Bad Luck Bart is convinced he's a bad guy and talks a big Bad Guy Talk, his behavior indicates that he's more of a misunderstood softie and a blowhard buffoon. Bad Luck Bart points to his own Cutie Mark (an upside-down horseshoe) as evidence that he was born with bad luck, and so he had no choice but to become a fearsome crook to take luck into his own hands. But his plans never go well, so he's really a fairly unsuccessful crook. Darn this bad luck of his! In fact, it turns out that the things he's done that have scared the Appaloosans so much in the past weren't intended by him at all... but were in fact examples of more bad luck. True to his name, Bad Luck Bart just can't seem to catch a break. Meanwhile, the Appaloosans find out where Bad Luck Bart's hiding out (more bad luck!) and the rodeo gets cancelled again. When the news reaches Applejack that Bad Luck Bart has captured her sister and her friends, she snarls that Bad Luck Bart's bad luck is just beginning. Applejack resolves to rescue everypony and put Bad Luck Bart's marauding days to an end once and for all.

Sensing the approach of Applejack's posse, Bad Luck Bart escapes the hideout to run for cover, but the CMCs want to follow him (more bad luck!) because they can't believe that somepony would get stuck with a Cutie Mark that portends a negative destiny. And Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie fail to prevent the CMCs from chasing Bad Luck Bart

(more bad luck!). So while the CMCs chase Bad Luck Bart, and while Pinkie and Fluttershy chase the CMCs, Applejack and the Appaloosans follow close behind and a huge showdown takes shape. Eventually, just as the showdown is about to get completely out of hand, the CMCs are able to get Bad Luck Bart to tell them the story of how he first got his Cutie Mark (TBD), and they realize that his interpretation of his Cutie Mark is all wrong. When Bad Luck Bart hears the CMCs interpretation of his Cutie Mark story (maybe he's meant to be a horseshoes champion? or a blacksmith?), Bad Luck Bart realizes he got it all wrong and it was really trying to tell him something positive after all... and that he'd built his whole life on seeing his destiny in the wrong way.

In the end, and huge confrontation is averted. Applejack gets to compete in her rodeo, Bad Luck Bart learns a lesson about questioning one's negative beliefs about oneself, and the CMCs learn they may have a hidden talent of their own: helping ponies reinterpret their destinies. The CMCs agree this collective talent of theirs merits further exploration.