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MY LITTLE PONY V

"Appleosa's Most Wanted"

Episode 5##

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TEASER

FADE IN:

SC 1. EXT. APPLEOOSA RODEO GROUNDS - DAY

**

APPLE BLOOM, SCOOTALOO and SWEETIE BELLE (the CMCs) stroll past various corrals, eyes agog. Within each corral rodeo contestants practice varied ponyfied rodeo events, through...

1 APPLE BLOOM
Aren't you glad you came with me to
watch Applejack compete in the
Appleoosa Rodeo?

2 SCOOTALOO
Totally! This place is a cutie
mark gold mine! There's barrel
racing...

In one corral, a pony RACES AROUND A BARREL, cutting it too
close, knocking the barrel over and falling hard.

**
**

3 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
Roping contests...

In another corral, a pony ROPES a scarepony and drags it off.

**

4 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
Rodeo clowning...

**
**

Two RODEO CLOWNS practice their slapstick routine.

**

5 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
Post and rail steeplechase...

Ponies in western hats run a steeplechase featuring old timey
post and rail fences.

**
**

6 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
We could each get a cutie mark in
one of these rodeo events!

**
**
**

7 SWEETIE BELLE
But didn't we come to, you know,
watch the rodeo?

**
**
**

8 SCOOTALOO
(re: her own flank)
Wouldn't a barrel look cool here?

**

9 APPLE BLOOM
I want a lasso!

**

10 SWEETIE BELLE
All right, count me in! Where do
we sign up to compete? **

11 APPLE BLOOM **
What's goin' on over there? **

They notice the burly SHERIFF SILVERSTAR giving orders to
several DEPUTIES.

12 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Spread out and make yourself seen. **
I want this low-down varmint to **
know we mean business! **

Deputies head for their designated positions. Sheriff **
notices the CMCs.

13 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
What are you youngins doin' 'round
here without supervision?

14 APPLE BLOOM
What's goin' on, Sheriff? You want
who to know you mean business? **

15 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Never you mind about that. Now you
git on back to whoever's s'posed to
be mindin' you. Go on.

The CMCs start to walk back the way they came.

16 SWEETIE BELLE
I hope nothing bad is going on. **

17 APPLE BLOOM
Bad? A cutie mark-a-palooza and a **
low-down varmint? This is shaping **
up to be the best rodeo ever! **

18 SCOOTALOO
Yeah! Come on!

She and Apple Bloom race off. Sweetie Belle follows, looking **
nervous. As they pass, we see the shadow of a MYSTERIOUS **
FIGURE lurking behind some hay bales...

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

SC 2. EXT. APPLEOOSA RODEO GROUNDS - ELSEWHERE - SAME TIME

**

APPLEJACK anchors A TEAM OF FOUR PONIES, who TOSS HAY BALES one to the other across a corral. It's Applejack's job to stack them up to a specified height as quickly as possible without the stack toppling first. She's amazing at it.

Meanwhile, BRAEBURN stands corral-side with a bandage around one of his forelegs. He looks on, cheering wildly.

19 BRAEBURN
Woohoo! That's my cousin! Go
Applejack go!

Applejack finishes, gets congratulated by her teammates, then sidles on over to Braeburn.

20 APPLEJACK
It's been a dog's age since I got
to compete. Seems like there's
less and less rodeos around
Equestria these days.

**
**
**

21 BRAEBURN
Well, I guess havin' injured
kinfolk in Appleoosa sure paid off
then, huh cuz?

**
**
**

22 APPLEJACK
Just doin' my best to fill your
horseshoes.

23 BRAEBURN
Keep tossin' like that and I'll be
out of a job! Y'all could finish
the Hay Bale Monster Stack in
record time!

He puts up his injured foreleg and Applejack high-hoofs it.

24 BRAEBURN (CONT'D)
Ow-ow.

25 APPLEJACK
Oh, right. Sorry.
(then, concerned)
Say, where's my sister and her
friends?

26 BRAEBURN
(looking around)
Oh uh, gee I, uh... I guess I got **
so caught up watching you that I -

27 APPLEJACK
Braeburn! You said you'd keep an **
eye on those fillies! How am I
supposed to focus on practicing if
you're not gonna -

28 BRAEBURN
There they are!

ANGLE ON Sheriff Silverstar approaching with the CMCs in tow.

29 BRAEBURN (CONT'D)
Just like I said, they were with
Sheriff Silverstar the whole time.

He withers under Applejack's glare. **

30 APPLEJACK
Y'all can't go running off like **
that, y'hear? There's wild bulls, **
dangerous equipment, ponies runnin' **
this way and that...backstage at a **
rodeo ain't some kinda playground. **

31 APPLE BLOOM
Sorry, Applejack. We won't wander **
off again.

32 APPLEJACK
You best not. Or it's back on the
next train to Ponyville.

33 APPLE BLOOM
You know, big sis, we were **
thinkin'. It'd be a lot harder for **
us to wander off if we were, oh I **
dunno, competing in the rodeo--? **

34 BRAEBURN
Look out!

Braeburn shoves the CMCs out of the way just in time as the **
MONSTER HAY BALE STACK CRASHES TO THE GROUND right where they **
were just standing. **

35 APPLEJACK
What the hay just happened?

36 BRAEBURN
You fillies all right?

They nod that they are.

ANGLE ON Sheriff Silverstar inspecting the hay bale stack. He looks right, looks left, and sees no one. But then he looks down.

37 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Uh-oh.

REVEAL in the dirt near the hay bale OVERSIZED HORSESHOE PRINTS. Braeburn races over to join him, through...

38 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Everypony within the sound of my voice: spread the word. Emergency meeting at the Sheriff's station in ten.

39 BRAEBURN
Is it?

40 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Without a doubt.
(re: hoofprints, darkly)
It's Trouble Shoes.

SC 3. INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - SHORT WHILE LATER

**

The place teems with agitated TOWNSPONIES.

41 TOWNSPONY #1
Rumor has it you spotted oversized hoofprints near the hay bale that fell over. Did they belong to that varmint Trouble Shoes?

42 TOWNSPONY #2
And if they were, you're not gonna shut down the rodeo, are you?

43 TOWNSPONY #1
Of course he is. Everypony knows no rodeo is safe with Trouble Shoes lurkin' about.

44 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Everypony have a seat. I called for a meetin', not a mob scene.

ANGLE ON Applejack and Braeburn.

45 APPLEJACK
So that's why they're shuttin' down
all the rodeos! How could you not
tell me about this Trouble Shoes
fella?

46 BRAEBURN
(sheepish)
Slipped my mind?
(then, obvious ploy #2)
When I hurt my foreleg my head
musta got hit, too. I think ya can
feel the bump if ya rub right -

47 APPLEJACK
That's enough out of you.

Sheriff Silverstar addresses the gathering.

48 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Now as many of you know, the
Equestria rodeo circuit has been
plagued by the dirty dealings of a
notorious outlaw.

Unrest erupts in the crowd.

49 TOWNSPONIES
Trouble Shoes!/ That no good
mongrel!/ Curse the day he got
born!

One of the townsponties SPITS in disgust, then one after
another stands to testify against the varmint:

50 TOWNSPONY #1
He knocked barrels every which way
at the Hoof City Rodeo. Nearly
crushed my Aunt Neighdine!

**

51 TOWNSPONY #2
That's nothin'! He brought down an
entire barn at the Pinto Creek
Rodeo! Had to cancel the whole
dadgum thing!

52 TOWNSPONY #3
At Blind Pony Gulch he sabotaged
the steer pen! There was a such a
stampede at that rodeo they didn't
even bother to cancel it!

The crowd ERUPTS ANGRILY and Sheriff gestures for them to simmer down.

53 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Despite the best efforts of our
volunteer ponies on patrol, a hay
bale stack toppled here at our very
own Appleoosa rodeo moments ago.
Examined the hoofprints at the site
myself.

A beat of pure silence. The crowd hangs on his every word.

54 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
It was Trouble Shoes.

A low tense murmur ripples through the crowd.

55 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
Now I suppose I should cancel this
rodeo like all the others done.

The crowd YELPS in defiance at this notion; a sentiment shared by Sheriff Silverstar.

56 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
But daghoofit, this has gone far
enough. We'll double the patrols!
This rodeo will go on! Appleoosa
will not be intimidated!

The crowd erupts in cheers. TOWNSPONIES RUSH TO VOLUNTEER. **

ANGLE ON Applejack, Braeburn and the CMCs.

57 APPLE BLOOM
Glad that's settled. So,
Applejack, about me and my pals
competing in the rodeo -

SC 4. INT. BRAEBURN'S HOUSE - LATER

**

Applejack packs the CMCs things, through...

58 APPLE BLOOM
Don't send us home! It's not fair!

**

59 APPLEJACK
Now quit your belly-aching. I care
too much about y'all to risk you
falling into the hooves of that
Trouble Shoes fella.

60 APPLE BLOOM
We won't wander off again, promise!

61 APPLEJACK
That don't make no difference so long as Trouble Shoes could turn up at any moment. We gotta practice till late tonight and I can't be busy worryin' about y'all.

62 BRAEBURN
Ya can't be puttin' these youngins alone on a train with that outlaw on the loose.

**
**
**
**

63 APPLEJACK
Then I'll call it quits myself and go home with 'em.

**
**
**

64 BRAEBURN
No! Applejack, you can't. This rodeo is so important to Appleoosa and with you in there we got a real shot at winning.
(escorting AJ to door)
Don't worry, cuz, you can head back to practice without a care in the world. I won't let these youngins outta my sight.

65 APPLEJACK
(across the threshold)
Well... I suppose we could give this one more cha--

**

66 BRAEBURN
You can count on me!

Braeburn SLAMS THE DOOR, BOLTS IT, DOUBLE BOLTS IT, TRIPLE BOLTS IT, and then JAMS A CHAIR A AGAINST IT FOR GOOD MEASURE, then turns to throw the CMCs a determined look.

67 BRAEBURN (CONT'D)
Y'all ain't leavin' my sight.

SC 5. EXT. BRAEBURN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

**

Braeburn SNORES LOUDLY inside as the CMCs CLIMB OUT THE WINDOW. Apple Bloom strides ahead with Scootaloo while Sweetie Belle trails behind. [PRODUCTION NOTE: the window should be low enough for the CMCs to climb out safely.]

**
**

68 SWEETIE BELLE
I thought we weren't going to
wander off again.

69 APPLE BLOOM
This ain't wandering. We know
exactly where we're headed - to
find Trouble Shoes.

70 SWEETIE BELLE
But isn't he a dangerous criminal?

**
**

71 APPLE BLOOM
We only need to find where he is.
We don't need to capture him. We
can come back and tell the Sheriff
and let him handle that.

**
**
**

72 SCOOTALOO
And then everypony will settle the
heck down and before you know it
we're competing and then it's...

**
**
**
**

73 APPLE BLOOM/SCOOTALOO
(high hoofs)
... cutie mark city!

**
**
**

Apple Bloom and Scootaloo disappear into a thicket.

74 SWEETIE BELLE
Worst idea ever.

75 APPLE BLOOM
(pops head back out)
Is it? Or is it the greatest?
Let's go!

**
**

76 SWEETIE BELLE
No risk, no reward... I guess.

**

SC 6. EXT. WOODS - A LITTLE LATER

**

The CMCs trudge through the woods; Apple Bloom leads the way.

77 APPLE BLOOM
Look at the dirt there. Look at
the size of that shoeprint.

78 SCOOTALOO
Whoa!

79 APPLE BLOOM
(stoops to check it)
Fresh. And from the direction it's
pointed he must have headed that
way.

80 SCOOTALOO
This is so great. If we find him
we might not even need the rodeo.
We'll get cutie marks for our
sleuthing skills.

81 SWEETIE BELLE
Do you two have any idea where we
even are--?

THUNDERCLAP. Sweetie Belle's eyes go wide with fear. It
even makes Scootaloo a little nervous.

82 APPLE BLOOM
Come on, y'all!

83 SCOOTALOO
Maybe we should head back and try
again later.

84 APPLE BLOOM
But we're so close! Our cutie
marks might be right over here...
quick, before we lose the trail.

She bounds into the trees. Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle share
a look. Scootaloo shrugs, then follows.

THUNDERCLAP. A downpour of rain begins.

85 SWEETIE BELLE
Eep.

Sweetie Belle races to catch up.

ANGLE ON a hoofprint dissolving.

DISSOLVE TO: **

SC 7. EXT. WOODS - A LITTLE LATER **

The CMCs run along as a torrential rain beats down. **

86 SWEETIE BELLE
Come on, you two, we've gone far
enough! It's time to go back!

87 SCOOTALOO
Maybe she's right, Apple Bloom.
This rain is only getting worse.

88 APPLE BLOOM
But we're so close!

THUNDERCLAP.

89 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
I think.

90 SCOOTALOO
Let's just remember where we are
and try again tomorrow.

They look around. Everything looks exactly the same.

91 APPLE BLOOM
Okay, so how do we get back?

92 SWEETIE BELLE
You mean you weren't paying
attention?

93 APPLE BLOOM
I was too busy sleuthing. I
thought you were keeping track of
where we were!

94 SWEETIE BELLE
Me? I've been too busy panicking!

95 SCOOTALOO
Well, at least we can all agree on
one thing.

96 APPLE BLOOM
What's that?

97 SCOOTALOO
PANICKING!

They scream and huddle together as another THUNDERCLAP
echoes.

FADE OUT.

**

END ACT ONE

**

ACT TWO

**

FADE IN:

**

SC 8. EXT. APPLEOOSA RODEO GROUNDS - SAME TIME

**

Applejack closes the door on a shed and addresses her three teammates. They too are getting drenched with rain.

98 APPLEJACK
Good job, y'all.
(looking up at the clouds)
I know they need lots of mud for
the rodeo tomorrow, but I wish they
woulda warned us about this
rainstorm.

Applejack turns to see Braeburn has arrived.

99 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Braeburn?? Where are the girls?

100 BRAEBURN
Um, that's what I came to talk to
you about.

101 APPLEJACK
What is it?

102 BRAEBURN
Now, don't be mad, but -

SC 9. EXT. THE TOWN OF APPLEOOSA - WIDE SHOT

**

We linger for a beat on the picturesque landscape. Then...

103 APPLEJACK
(echoes through valley)
WHAAAAAAT?!?!?!?

THUNDERCLAP.

SC 10. INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - MOMENTS LATER

**

An ornery bunch of townsponies sit around playing cards. One draws a card from the deck and his eyes light up.

104 TOWNSPONY #1
Fished. My. Wish.

He tosses down his cards a la "gin." Applejack and Braeburn, both drenched, burst in saloon style.

105 APPLEJACK
My sister's gone! And her friends
too!

106 BRAEBURN
I've searched and searched but no
sign of them anywhere.

107 APPLEJACK
Wrangle up a posse! It's got to be
that Trouble Shoes feller!

ANGLE ON Sheriff Silverstar rising to his feet.

108 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Now hold on there. Trouble Shoes
done a lot of bad stuff in his day,
but nothin' like that. He's only
interested in rodeos.

109 APPLEJACK
It's got to be him, Sheriff, I just
know it!

110 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Well... reckon there's no sense
takin' any chances. Come on,
y'all!

Everypony present leaps to their feet.

111 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
Let's ride!

SC 11. EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

**

Soaked to the bone, the CMCs still try to find their way out,
but now Scootaloo leads the way.

112 SWEETIE BELLE
Are you sure this is the way we
came, Scootaloo?

113 SCOOTALOO
I thought I was sure, but we've
been walking so long I thought we'd
be out by now.

114 APPLE BLOOM
So I got us completely and totally
lost, then?

Apple Bloom WAILS IN DESPAIR.

115 SWEETIE BELLE
There there, Apple Bloom, it's not
your fault.

116 SCOOTALOO
Come on, I'm sure if we just keep
going we'll find our way back.

Apple Bloom pulls herself together.

117 APPLE BLOOM
You're right. If we stick
together, we'll get out of this
just fine--

She takes a step and the ground FALLS AWAY BENEATH HER!

118 APPLE BLOOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
AAAAAAHHHHHH!!!!

Scotaloo lunges for her and SLIPS OVER THE SIDE. Sweetie Belle looks panicked, then realizes she has no choice. She jumps down after them.

The CMCs zoom down the mud-slide like Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner in ROMANCING THE STONE. They tumble and splat all the way to the bottom, where they pile on top of each other in a huge puddle.

119 SWEETIE BELLE
(dazed)
Are we home?

120 SCOOTALOO
Look! A light!

Sure enough, a LIGHT FLICKERS in the distance through the thick overgrowth...

SC 12. EXT. WOODS - A SMALL CLEARING - NIGHT

**

As night thickens and the storm persists, the CMCs find themselves at the edge of a small clearing surrounded on all sides by thick forest. At the opposite edge of the clearing is a SMALL DILAPIDATED SHACK with a light on inside.

121 SCOOTALOO
Shelter. Finally a lucky break.

122 SWEETIE BELLE
Wait!

A shadowy figure moves within the shack.

123 SWEETIE BELLE (CONT'D)
Somepony's in there.

124 APPLE BLOOM
We might be stuck out here all
night and there's no telling how
long this storm'll last.

125 SCOOTALOO
But what if it's...

126 ALL THE CMCS
... Trouble Shoes.

A beat as they stand in the downpour, frozen in fear,
glancing back at the shadowy figure moving around inside.

THUNDERCLAP.

127 SCOOTALOO
We have to get out of this storm.

128 APPLE BLOOM
All we gotta do is sneak down there
and peek in the window. If
whoever's in there seems nice, we
knock. If it's a hardened criminal
feared far and wide, then we run
like heck.

129 SCOOTALOO
Who knows? Maybe we'll get our
cutie marks for fleeing in terror.

130 SWEETIE BELLE
Not helping.

SC 13. EXT. WOODS - DILAPIDATED SHACK - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER **

The CMCS belly-crawl up the shack and position themselves out
of sight under one of the window sills. Apple Bloom pokes
her head and peeks inside...

INSIDE - a rustic old shack filled to the brim with stuff.
It's creepy and silent. There's a light somewhere inside,
but no sign of anypony. She drops back down.

131 APPLE BLOOM
Nothin'. But I think the light's
comin' from over there.

SC 14. EXT. WOODS - DILAPIDATED SHACK - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER **

The CMCS belly-crawl into position under another window.
Apple Bloom peeks up again...

INSIDE - a kitchen, again filled with stuff. There's a dim light from the hall. All is quiet.

132 APPLE BLOOM
That's weird. Still no --

Suddenly a HUGE CLYDESDALE'S FACE FILLS THE WINDOW FRAME.

133 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM)

134 TROUBLE SHOES
(BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM)

Apple Bloom stumbles backwards in a panic. Meanwhile, the SOUNDS OF THINGS CRASHING AND BREAKING can be heard coming from inside the shack.

135 TROUBLE SHOES (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(COMICALLY YOWLING IN PAIN)

While Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom cower in the rain, Scootaloo peeks...

INSIDE - where the HUGE STARTLED CLYDESDALE (TROUBLE SHOES) crashes into a table. He attempts to steady himself by leaning on a chair that PROCEEDS TO COLLAPSE...

Scootaloo turns to the others with a confused look. She waves them over and they all look...

INSIDE - Now Trouble Shoes STUMBLES INTO A WALL and GETS CAUGHT UP IN SOME CURTAINS. The more he attempts to free himself from them the more tangled he gets.

**
**
**

ON THE CMCS - their fear has turned to confusion, and is starting to become amusement.

INSIDE - In a mighty effort to free himself, Trouble Shoes instead YANKS THE CURTAIN ROD FREE onto his shoulders and becomes a BUZZSAW OF DESTRUCTION THROUGH THE KITCHEN as he spins in blind confusion before collapsing to the floor in a twisted heap, COCOONED IN DRAPERY. He MOANS FEEBLY.

**
**
**
**

136 SWEETIE BELLE
Is that... Trouble Shoes?

137 APPLE BLOOM
If it is, it looks like he just captured himself.

SC 15. INT. DILAPIDATED SHACK - MOMENTS LATER

**

The CMCs push the door open. The stranger still lies in a cocooned bundle on the floor.

138 APPLE BLOOM
Hello? You all right?

139 TROUBLE SHOES
(muffled)
Surely.

140 APPLE BLOOM
We didn't mean **any harm**. We just
wanted to get out of the rain.

**

141 TROUBLE SHOES
Well come on in. Had some hot
cider cooking in the kitchen.
Doubt it survived.

ANGLE ON the utterly destroyed kitchen.

Trouble Shoes manages to free his mouth, through...

142 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Pardon me for not rising to greet
ya. Awfully rude I reckon, but as
you can see I am the fresh casualty
of an unusually unfortunate
circumstance. My lot in life, I
s'pose.

The apprehensive CMCs remain in the doorway.

143 APPLE BLOOM
Are you... T-T-T-Trouble Shoes.

144 TROUBLE SHOES
That's me. With a capital T, that
stands for Trouble, cuz Trouble
dogs me like hungry alley cat
followin' a cake full of mice.

A beat. The CMCs look on in confusion. Trouble Shoes continues lamenting his fate in his characteristic fashion: with the HARD-BITTEN FATALISM OF A GRIZZLED COAL MINER.

145 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Was somewhat hopin' y'all would
free me from this enormous tortilla
in which I seem to find myself.

Apple Bloom steps forward.

146 SCOOTALOO
Wh-what are you doing?

147 APPLE BLOOM
I'm going to unwrap him.

148 SWEETIE BELLE
You can't do that. That's Trouble Shoes!!

149 APPLE BLOOM
Aw, he don't seem so bad. Relax.

Apple Bloom proceeds as Scootaloo and Sweetie Belle stay huddled in the doorway. Another THUNDERCLAP booms. Apple Bloom pulls the curtains free and Trouble Shoes rises to his hoofs, revealing his full frightening size.

150 TROUBLE SHOES
Ah course guests would arrive while I'm already in my pajamas. Score s'more misfortune points for ol' Trouble Shoes.

Trouble Shoes has a seat. The seat TIPS OVER. Trouble Shoes falls to the floor, KNOCKING OVER VARIOUS ITEMS and CRUSHING OTHERS on the way down. The CMCs stifle laughter.

Then, when the dust finally settles...

151 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Typical. Bad luck never rests.

152 APPLE BLOOM
You sure that's bad luck? Seems more like you're just a bit...

153 SWEETIE BELLE
Klutzy?

Trouble Shoes rises back to his intimidating height.

154 TROUBLE SHOES
Tell that to the flank!

He turns to REVEAL HIS CUTIE MARK: an UPSIDE DOWN HORSESHOE.

155 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Upside down horseshoe cutie mark.
Bad luck literally done follows me
wherever I go like sour on old
milk.
(then, darkly)
(MORE)

TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Klutzin' is the worst sorta bad
luck for a horse like me.

Trouble Shoes grimaces at his gritty destiny.

 156 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Y'all best vamoose a'fore my bad
luck rubs off and sticks to y'all
like pine sap. Get along.
Skedaddle. Amskray.

He throws open the door to a flash of lightning and another
THUNDERCLAP. The CMCs make no move to go back out into the
storm.

 157 SCOOTALOO
Even if we wanted to go back out
there, we don't know the way back
to Appleoosa.

Trouble Shoes hangs his head.

 158 TROUBLE SHOES
Wouldn't ya know it, mah lucky day.

SC 16. EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

**

The rainstorm now over, the PLACID GLOW OF THE FULL MOON
BATHES THEM IN SOFT LIGHT as Trouble Shoes trudges along
while the CMCs trail behind.

**

**

 159 SWEETIE BELLE
It's actually kinda sweet of him to
help us out like this.

 160 SCOOTALOO
(sotto)
Not only that. He's gonna lead us
right back into town and get
captured on the spot. Can't say I
ever pictured myself with a bounty
hunter cutie mark... but now that I
do... me like.

 161 APPLE BLOOM
I dunno. Something don't feel
right to me about this anymore.
Maybe we oughta tell him.

 162 SCOOTALOO
What? And blow our cutie mark
plans to smithereens?

163 APPLE BLOOM

If there's one thing I learned from
my sister, it's when right points
one way and wrong points the other,
go right.

Apple Bloom scampers ahead to walk alongside Trouble Shoes.

164 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)

Say there, Trouble Shoes. You
might not want to take us all the
way back to Appleoosa. Everypony
thinks you're some big bad meanie
aiming to get the whole rodeo shut
down.

165 TROUBLE SHOES

Sounds like my kinda luck that
folks would think that.

166 APPLE BLOOM

But... is it true?

Trouble Shoes stops in his tracks.

167 TROUBLE SHOES

Y'all like stories?

168 ALL THE CMCS

Yes!

169 TROUBLE SHOES

Shucks. Was hopin' you'd say no.
Just my luck.

**

DISSOLVE TO:

SC 17. EXT. RODEO GROUNDS OF THE PAST - FLASHBACK

**

We see some **RODEO EVENTS** in action at a rodeo during days
gone by while a **WIDE-EYED YOUNG TROUBLE SHOES** looks on.

**

**

170 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)

**

When I just a wee colt I wanted to
be a **rodeo star** somethin' fierce,
but never could quite get the hang
of it all.

**

1) A young Trouble Shoes tries **barrel racing** and **smashes**
right into a barrel, his small body BOUNCING RIGHT OFF IT and
hitting the ground hard.

**

**

**

2) A young Trouble Shoes tries to rope a scarepony, but
instead gets himself all tangled in his lasso. **

3) A young Trouble Shoes tries jumping over a post-and-rail
steeplechase fence like the pony ahead of him, and instead
just RUNS RIGHT THROUGH IT. **

171 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
But I practiced and practiced, and
finally one day I wrangled the guts **
to audition for rodeo school. **

We see young Trouble Shoes trying out for a row of judges,
with barrels, ropes, fencing, etc. at-the-ready. He's **
working the lasso and actually doing a much better job of it. **

172 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
Right in middle of my tryout I knew
that was what I was meant to be
doin', and wouldn't ya know it...
in a flash this here cutie mark
come in.

A FLASH as his cutie mark comes in. As he looks at it he **
accidentally lassos a WATERING TROUGH and DRENCHES himself. **
The judges laugh and little Trouble Shoes despairs.

173 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
I can still remember them judges
laughin' at me. I had a whole
routine prepared but didn't get to
do none of it. Right then I knew
bad luck was my fate. I turned
tail and run out of there as fast
as I could.

Young Trouble Shoes leaves town with his belongings in a hobo
bindle. He makes a klutzy fall, picks himself up and keeps
going.

174 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
I tried to keep clear, but I never
lost that love of rodeos. I can't
help myself, so every now and then
I'll sneak down to have me a look
and, wouldn't ya know it, bad luck
strikes again and I make some kinda
mess. Just my lot in life.

SC 18. EXT. WOODS - BACK TO PRESENT **

Trouble Shoes turns to keep on walking. The CMCs, stricken
by this sad story, pause to confer.

175 SWEETIE BELLE
Poor Trouble Shoes. I can't
believe those mean judges would
laugh at him like that.

176 APPLE BLOOM
No, don't you get it? Those judges
weren't laughing at him... they
were enjoyin' the show!

177 SWEETIE BELLE
How do you know? You weren't
there.

178 SCOOTALOO
When we first saw Trouble Shoes
falling all over the place in that
shack, even we couldn't help
laughing a little.

179 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
In a rodeo he'd never stand a
chance.

**
**
**

180 APPLE BLOOM
True. But if we saw a rodeo CLOWN
doing the same thing? We'd think
he was the greatest!

**

181 SWEETIE BELLE
You're right! Trouble Shoes isn't
bad luck. He's just got his cutie
mark all wrong--!

182 APPLEJACK (O.S.)
Gotcha!

Suddenly, Applejack, Sheriff Silverstar and the Appleoosa
posse ambush Trouble Shoes.

183 TROUBLE SHOES
Just my luck.

184 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Trouble Shoes, you are under arrest
for vandalizin' the property and
peace of mind of the good, rodeo-
lovin' folks of Equestria.

**
**

185 APPLE BLOOM
Wait, listen, Applejack -

186 APPLEJACK **
Braeburn, get them someplace safe. **
(then) **
I can't begin to tell you how **
fretful I was for y'all. **

187 APPLE BLOOM **
But Applejack, he's not what you - **

188 APPLEJACK **
At least now with Trouble Shoes in **
custody the rodeo will be a much **
safer place for you youngins. **

Braeburn leads the CMCs away while Applejack runs off to join **
the posse escorting Trouble Shoes away. **

189 SCOOTALOO **
Cutie mark city here we come. **
Right, Crusaders. Heh heh. **

She gets a cold look from her friends. **

190 APPLE BLOOM **
Jerkheadville is more like it. **

191 SCOOTALOO **
Yeah. I know. **

The glum CMCs look on as Trouble Shoes gets led further and **
further away, and hang their heads. **

FADE OUT. **

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

SC 19. INT. BRAEBURN'S HOUSE - DAY **

Applejack suits up for her rodeo competition while getting
hounded by the CMCs as Braeburn looks on.

192 APPLE BLOOM **
But Trouble Shoes isn't the menace **
everypony thinks! **

193 APPLEJACK
Sakes alive, what is with you?
Trouble Shoes this, Trouble Shoes
that.

(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Why in tarnation would you want me to help get Trouble Shoes out of jail when he's the one who ran off with y'all to begin with?

The CMCs exchange awkward glances.

194 APPLE BLOOM

Um... Applejack... what if we told you he didn't run off with us.

A beat.

195 APPLEJACK

Come again.

196 APPLE BLOOM

What if we told you that we wandered off and -

197 APPLEJACK

Wandered off?? After I told y'all not to?? And had me get the whole town in a stir lookin' for y'all? Is that what really happened??

The CMCs freeze in the face of Applejack's fury, then...

198 ALL THE CMCS

No. Of course not. Don't be silly. / Purely hypothetical. Not sure why I brought it up. / There goes ol' Apple Bloom asking weird random questions again.

199 APPLEJACK

Now if y'all will excuse me, I'm off to win me a first place ribbon in the Appleoosa Rodeo Hay Bale Monster Stack!

She's expecting a cheer, but is met with silence.

200 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Y'all comin' or what?

201 BRAEBURN

Actually, I was gonna keep 'em here inside to help me watch 'em better.

202 APPLEJACK

Aw, it's all right. They can wander around some.

(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
With Trouble Shoes in jail how much
trouble could they get into?

As Applejack exits, the CMCs exchange looks.

SC 20. INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - A LITTLE LATER

**

Sheriff Silverstar's fixing up the place. He takes a break
from MOPPING the floor of his station to climb a ladder and
WASH WINDOWS. The only jail cell contains Trouble Shoes, who
stands on his cot to get a look through his barred window.

**

**

**

203 TROUBLE SHOES
Well at least I get me a view of
one small corner of the rodeo from
here.

RRRRRIP! His weight tears through the fabric of the cot and
he comes CRASHING to the floor.

204 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
(flat on his back)
Figures.

205 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Can't have ya injured on my watch,
Trouble Shoes. Here you go, I'll
come help you back up. Again.

**

**

Sheriff opens the cell with a key and helps Trouble Shoes to
his feet, through...

WIDEN TO REVEAL the CMCs CROUCHED OUTSIDE OUT OF SIGHT behind
a window ledge. Sweetie Belle's HORN BEGINS TO GLOW and a
PLAYING CARD MAKES ITS WAY from Sheriff's desk across the
room. He SWINGS THE CELL DOOR CLOSED and the PLAYING CARD
SLIPS IN PERFECTLY to keep it from latching closed with
Sheriff none the wiser. Scootaloo heaps wordless
congratulations on Sweetie Belle. Meanwhile...

**

**

**

... Apple Bloom enters the station.

**

206 APPLE BLOOM
Hey there Sheriff. You know my
sister's about to help defend
Appleoosa's title in the Monster
Hay Bale Stack.

**

**

**

**

**

207 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
(glancing at the clock)
Jiminy!

**

**

**

Sheriff **makes a hasty exit**. A beat. Then the CMCS come RUSHING IN and throw open the cell door. **

208 APPLE BLOOM
Trouble Shoes. Let's vamoose. **
This here's a jailbreak!

Trouble Shoes just sits there, his back to them.

209 TROUBLE SHOES
Ain't no need. Can hear the rodeo just fine from this vantage. Been a long time since I could be close enough to enjoy a rodeo without messin' it all up.

210 SCOOTALOO **
But **we've got a plan to get you** **
into the rodeo and to live your **
dream. **

211 TROUBLE SHOES **
Just my luck. I get rescued from **
jail and it's by a bunch of **
knuckleheads. **
(then) **
How you gonna get a known fugitive **
close the rodeo? **

212 SWEETIE BELLE **
With this disguise. Made it **
myself. **

213 SCOOTALOO **
Your sister would be proud. **

She holds up a rodeo clown outfit. **

214 TROUBLE SHOES **
Uh... that's a rodeo clown outfit. **

215 ALL THE CMCS **
Exactly. **

A beat. **

216 TROUBLE SHOES **
I think I'll just escape back to **
the woods, thanks. **

Trouble Shoes makes a break for it and escapes the cell. **

217 ALL THE CMCS **
No! / Stop! / Come back! **

He CRASHES INTO THE SHERIFF'S DESK, knocking over a bucket of mop water as he struggles back to his feet. **

218 TROUBLE SHOES **
I ain't no clown! I got my dignity **
to think of! **

He goes to run out the door but SKIDS on the mop water. **

219 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D) **
I'm not about to be out there **
looking ridiculous! **

Then as he's about to exit, a LADDER HE ACCIDENTALLY TIPPED OVER FALLS SIDEWAYS IN FRONT OF THE DOOR just as he's about to run through it. **

220 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D) **
Makin' a fool of myself! **

The ladder BLOCKS THE DOOR HORIZONTALLY at exactly the right moment for his SNOUT TO GET STUCK FIRMLY BETWEEN THE RUNGS. **

221 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D) **
(nearly unable to speak) **
So. Um. Okay. What was your plan **
exactly? **

SC 21. EXT. APPLELOOSA RODEO GROUNDS - DAY **

The rodeo is in full swing. The CMCs watch Applejack in the midst of her Hay Bale Monster Stack, cheering her on. **

222 THE CMCS **
Go Applejack! / Woohoo! / You can **
do it! **

WIDEN TO REVEAL Trouble Shoes in an over-the-top ridiculous RODEO CLOWN OUTFIT plus HEAVY MAKE UP. **

223 TROUBLE SHOES **
Go, Apple Bloom's sister! Go! **
(then, sotto) **
It's nice to be this close to a **
rodeo without havin' to sneak **
around like a polecat, I'll grant **
ya that. **

Applejack wins! The home crowd goes wild! The CMCs CELEBRATE. Then... **

224 APPLE BLOOM **
Okay now Trouble Shoes, git. No **
more stallin'. **

Apple Bloom gestures to a nearby corral where some RODEO **
CLOWNS are performing. **

225 SCOOTALOO **
Your turn to get in on the action. **

226 SWEETIE BELLE **
Like we talked about. **

227 TROUBLE SHOES **
I dunno. Never did see myself as a **
rodeo clown. For one thing I can't **
do any of that stuff. **

ANGLE on the impressive acrobatics of the rodeo clowns. **

228 APPLE BLOOM **
You gonna listen to your cutie mark **
or not? **

229 TROUBLE SHOES **
You really think my cutie mark is **
for clownin'? **

230 APPLE BLOOM **
You made folks laugh, didn't you? **

231 TROUBLE SHOES **
But my cutie mark's an upside down **
horsehoe. That means bad luck! **

232 APPLE BLOOM **
Or maybe it means you wouldn't **
follow your destiny without a swift **
kick in the you-know-where. **

Trouble Shoes considers this... then gets up to follow the **
rodeo clowns as they migrate to a new corral. **

SC 22. EXT. APPLELOOSA RODEO GROUNDS - A LITTLE LATER **

The CMCs stand with Trouble Shoes corralside... then... **

233 TROUBLE SHOES **
Forget it. I can't do it. I can't **
have folks laughing at me. **

234 APPLE BLOOM **
Trouble Shoes, I'm gonna level with **
you. The three of us have been **
laughing at you ever since we met. **

Trouble Shoes reacts. Really? The CMCs nod affectionately. **

235 SWEETIE BELLE **
Better than being scared of you, **
isn't it? **

236 SCOOTALOO **
Now go on out there and make a fool **
of yourself, ya big goofball. **

Trouble Shoes takes a deep breath, steels himself, then **
enters the corral to join the other clowns. He other clowns **
take notices of this new and unusually large clown in their **
midst. **

237 TROUBLE SHOES **
'Sup. **
(then, to another) **
There a problem? **

The other clowns shake their heads, intimidated. No problem. **

ANGLE ON a barrel racer cutting the turn on a barrel to **
close, smashing into it and getting injured. The crowds **
GASPS. As medic ponies run out to help, RODEO CLOWNS RUSH **
OUT entertain the crowd with juggling. Trouble Shoes **
hesitates, with a glance back at the CMCs. **

238 APPLE BLOOM **
(waving him on) **
Go on... **

Trouble Shoes rushes to find something to juggle and then, **
racing to join the other rodeo clowns, he TRIPS and balls go **
rolling every which way.

The crowd laughs.

Trouble Shoes seems peeved but presses on. **

Meanwhile, Applejack sidles over with her TROPHY. **

239 APPLEJACK **
There you all are. Aren't ya even **
gonna congratulate me on winning **
this thing? **

240 THE CMCS **
Yeah yeah, sure. / Way to go. / **
Shh! **

By now the rodeo clowns have switched to doing backflips.

241 APPLEJACK **
Since when are y'all so into rodeo **
clowns?? **

ANGLE ON Trouble Shoes rolling his eyes re: the backflips. **
This is hopeless, but he tries one anyway and of course falls **
right on his back and runs his legs like a roach.

The crowd laughs out loud.

242 TROUBLE SHOES **
Darn it ta heck! **

By now the rodeo clowns are making acrobatic pyramids and **
jumping through rings of fire.

243 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Just leave me be, cutie mark, just
leave me be.

Lowering his head, Trouble Shoes goes running at the ring of
fire, which is clearly too small for him to pass through...
...and the clown holding it REGISTERS TERROR and takes off
running.

The crowd begins LAUGHING UPROARIOUSLY at the sight of this
huge horse chasing a smaller horse who flees him while
holding a ring of fire.

244 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Get back here, you little -

Trouble Shoes TRIPS and GETS HIS HEAD STUCK IN A BARREL. He
runs around trying to shake it off and heads straight for the
clown pyramid. Frantic clowns ABANDON THE PYRAMID. He
CRASHES THROUGH A FENCE, and COLLIDES WITH A TREE, which
SMASHES THE BARREL FROM HIS HEAD.

The crowd is in hysterics!

245 CROWD MEMBER (O.S.)
That's the best rodeo clown I ever
seen!

CLOSE ON TROUBLE SHOES -- his entire demeanor transforms. He
hears the roar of the crowd and knows it's for him. He
glances at the CMCs, who give him encouraging shouts.

And now we see his face soften and a smile begin to grow as the weight of a lifetime evaporates from his shoulders. We see a horse realize, for the very first time, that he has misread his entire life.

As he stands, almost in a trance from the revelation of the moment, his disguise catches on the tree and tears away, leaving no doubt that he is...

246 TOWNSPONIES
(gasp)
Trouble Shoes!

ANGLE BACK ON the stunned CMCs.

247 APPLEJACK
What the hay??

**
**

ANGLE BACK ON the angry crowd closing in on Trouble Shoes.

248 TOWNSPONY #1
Escaped from jail!

249 TOWNSPONY #2
Ruinin' another rodeo!

250 TOWNSPONY #3
Let's get him!

251 TROUBLE SHOES
Now hold on! No need to make a
fuss. You're right, it's me. I'll
head back to jail. I won't resist.

They all stop and step back. He has their attention.

252 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
All I ask first is that ya hear me
out.

**
**
**

The crowd goes silent.

253 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
It's hard bein' a rodeo lovin' pony
when ya been klutzy all yer darn
life. Thought if I could find my
way into the rodeo someone anyway
I'd get some respect. Just my luck
my first big splash in the rodeo
has y'all laughin' at me. Don't
make me feel so respected at all.
(then)
But I do see it done brought y'all
some joy.

**
**
**
**
**
**
**
**
**
**
**

(MORE)

TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)

And that feels a darn sight better **
than respect right now to me. And **
I never woulda known if I didn't **
have the good luck of meeting three **
certain little ponies. **

He glances as the CMCs, who smile... and as the crowd warms **
to Trouble Shoes, Sheriff Silverstar steps forward. **

254 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR

Pains me to say so, I still gotta **
take ya back to face charges for **
all the problems you done caused. **

255 TROUBLE SHOES

I didn't mean no harm, honest I **
didn't. I just ain't never loved **
nothin' like I love the rodeo, so I **
kept on sneakin' back only to make **
a bigger and badder mess a things. **
But if I done wrong, I'm here to **
see to it that I take my medicine **
and square my accounts. **

256 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR

That ain't the worst of it. Ya ran **
off with these here littluns! **

ANGLE ON the CMCs, sheepishly digging hooves in the dirt. **

257 APPLE BLOOM

Uh... yeah, about that... **

SC 23. INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - DAY

[PRODUCTION NOTE: We can't tell it's a jailhouse yet.]

The CMCs sit together as Apple Bloom writes in a journal.

258 APPLE BLOOM (V.O.)

Wow. What an adventure. Came just
to watch my sister compete in a
rodeo and maybe score some cutie
marks for me and my friends. Wound
up missing out on both. But me and
my friends helped another pony get
back to doing what he likes best,
and that felt pretty good. And I
learned that even though sometimes
it's scary to trust yourself and
what you think is right, if you
stick with it good things can
happen.

259 APPLEJACK (O.S.)
Even if you make a few mistakes
along the way.

260 APPLE BLOOM
Sorry we wandered off again after
you warned us not to, Applejack.

261 APPLEJACK
I know you are, little sis.

A beat.

262 APPLE BLOOM
So when will you tell Sheriff
Silverstar to let us out?

**

Widen to reveal the CMCs are in SHERIFF SILVERSTAR'S JAIL
CELL. Meanwhile Applejack's playing cards with the Sheriff.

263 APPLEJACK
When the train back to Ponyville
pulls into the station.

**

**

**

264 APPLE BLOOM
But we learned our lesson.

**

**

265 APPLEJACK
And I learned mine. Not takin' any
more chances with you three.

**

**

266 APPLE BLOOM
Braeburn can watch us.

**

**

REVEAL Braeburn's there, too. He smiles a big toothy grin.
Applejack scowls.

**

**

267 APPLEJACK
Like I said, I learned my lesson.
(then, to Sheriff)
Fished my wish.

**

**

She lays down her cards and we...

FADE OUT.

END.

**