Distribution:

Production
Devon Cody
Meghan McCarthy
Mitchell Larson
Jayson Thiessen
Jim Miller
Lesley Crawford
Melinda See

The HUB
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Allegra Newman
Linda Shima Tsuno
Wayne Winstead

Hasbro Studios
Stephen Davis
Kathy Page
Michael Vogel
Brian Lenard
Gabriel Monje
Lauren Solomon
Finn Arnesen
Nina Scales

Hasbro Brand
Donna Tobin
You Sun Hwang
Samantha Lomow
Gretchen Forrest
Marissa Mansolillo

MY LITTLE PONY V

“Appleoosa's Most Wanted”

Episode 506

Written by: Dave Polsky

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TEASER

FADE IN:

SC1. 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 y'all came with me to see 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 clownin'...

In a third corral, RODEO CLOWNS practice their slapstick -- pratfalls, tripping each other, etc.

5 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
Steeplechase...

In a fourth corral, ponies in western hats run a steeplechase featuring old timey post and rail fences.

6 APPLE BLOOM
If we can get into some of these events, we could all three walk off the train back in Ponyville with brand spankin' new Cutie Marks!

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

8 APPLE BLOOM
I want a lasso!

9 SWEETIE BELLE
I dunno. All these events look a little, well, dangerous.

10 APPLE BLOOM
No risk, no reward.

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

11 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
We need a big presence at this here rodeo, so make yerself plenty seen! I want that low-down varmint to know we mean business!

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

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

13 APPLE BLOOM
What's goin' on, Sheriff? You want <u>who</u> to know you mean business?

14 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.

15 SWEETIE BELLE
I hope nothing bad is going on.

16 APPLE BLOOM
A Cutie-Mark-a-palooza <u>and</u> a low-down varmint? This is shapin' up to be the most exciting rodeo ever!

17 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 1

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.

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

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

19 APPLEJACK
It's been a dog's age since I got to compete. All the rodeos 'round Ponyville have closed down for some reason.

20 BRAEBURN
Well, I guess having injured kinfolk in Appleoosa sure paid off then, huh cuz?

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

22 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.

23 BRAEBURN (CONT'D)
Ow-ow.

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

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

26 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 -

27 BRAEBURN
There they are!

ANGLE ON the CMCs walking over, smiles on their faces.

28 BRAEBURN (CONT'D)
Right where I left 'em.

He withers under Applejack's glare.

29 BRAEBURN (CONT'D)
Don't be mad.
(then, obvious ploy)
Ouch. Mah foreleg. Hurts so much.

Applejack shakes her head, then greets the arriving CMCs.

30 APPLEJACK
Y'all can't go running off like that, y'hear? There's dangerous equipment everywhere and ponies runnin' this way and that... backstage at a rodeo ain't no kinda playground.

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

Scootaloo gives her a "go on" look.

32 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
But, uh, speakin' of the rodeo, what would you say about me and the Crusaders maybe competin' in one teensy weensy little event or three-

33 BRAEBURN
Look out!

Braeburn races over and gets all three CMCs out of the way just in time as the MONSTER HAY BALE STACK TOPPLES OVER right onto where they were just standing, while also CRUSHING A FENCE AND SOME EMPTY BLEACHERS behind them.

34 APPLEJACK
What the hay just happened?

35 BRAEBURN
You fillies all right?

They nod that they are. Sheriff Silverstar races over and starts inspecting the hay bale stack.

36 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Well I'll be...

REVEAL in the dirt near the hay bale OVERSIZED HORSESHOE PRINTS.

37 APPLEJACK
What is it, Sheriff?

38 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
(yelling)
All right, everypony, listen up!
Emergency town meetin' at the
Sheriff's station in ten minutes!

39 BRAEBURN
Is it him?

40 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Ain't no doubt.
(re: hoofprints, darkly)
It's Trouble Shoes.

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

The Sheriff stands on the wood porch before a crowd of agitated TOWNSPONIES.

41 TOWNSPONY #1
Is it true? Is Trouble Shoes here?

42 TOWNSPONY #2
You ain't gonna shut down the
rodeo, are you?

43 TOWNSPONY #1
He's got to! No rodeo is safe with
Trouble Shoes lurkin'!

44 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
All right, now, 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 TOWNSPONY #3
He knocked barrels every which way at the Hoof City Rodeo! Nearly crushed my Aunt Bay Mare!

50 TOWNSPONY #4
That's nothin'! He sabotaged the steer pen at Pinto Creek Rodeo, settin' off such a stampede they cancelled the whole dadgum thing!

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

The Sheriff gestures for them to simmer down.

52 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
It's true, we had an incident this mornin' at our own Appleoosa rodeo.
(MORE)

SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
Hay bale stack come down pret' near on top of three little fillies. Now I examined them hoofprints myself, and...
(pin-drop pause)
It was Trouble Shoes, all right.

A low tense murmur ripples through the crowd.

53 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
I reckon I oughta cancel this rodeo like all the others done...

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

54 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
But daghoofit, this has gone far enough! We'll double the patrols! This rodeo <u>will</u> go on! Appleoosa ain't gonna be intimidated!

The crowd erupts in cheers. TOWNSPONIES RUSH TO VOLUNTEER.

ANGLE ON Applejack, Braeburn and the CMCs.

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

SC 4. INT. BRAEBURN'S HOUSE - LATER

Applejack packs the CMCs things, through...

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

57 APPLEJACK
Now quit your belly-aching. I can't have y'all around here with some outlaw on the loose.

She looks at her sister's sad eyes.

58 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Aw, maybe I oughta call it quits and go home too.

59 BRAEBURN
No, you can't! This rodeo is so important to Appleoosa and with you in there we got a real shot at winnin'.
(escorting AJ to door)
Come on, now, you head on back to practice and don't worry none about these three. I won't let 'em outta my sight.

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.

60 BRAEBURN (CONT'D)
Ya hear? 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.]

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

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

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

64 APPLE BLOOM
We only need to find him, we don't need to capture him. The Sheriff can handle that.

65 SCOOTALOO
And once he's in jail, we'll be competing, and then it's...

66 APPLE BLOOM/SCOOTALOO
(high hoofs)
...Cutie Mark city!

Apple Bloom and Scootaloo disappear into a thicket.

67 SWEETIE BELLE
Worst idea ever.

SC 6. EXT. WOODS - A LITTLE LATER

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

68 APPLE BLOOM
Look there! It's another giant hoofprint!

69 SCOOTALOO
We might not even need the rodeo 'cause we'll get Cutie Marks for our sleuthing skills.

70 SWEETIE BELLE
Do either of you have any idea where we are--?

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

71 SCOOTALOO
Uhh...maybe we should head back and try again later.

72 APPLE BLOOM
Come on, 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.

73 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.

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

75 SCOOTALOO
This rain is only getting worse, Apple Bloom. Let's come back tomorrow.

Apple Bloom glances up from what remains of the hoofprint trail to see everything looks exactly the same in every direction. Then she looks back down at the trail as the last remnants of hoofprints wash completely away. Not good.

76 APPLE BLOOM
Maybe y'all are right. So how do we get back?

77 SWEETIE BELLE
You mean you don't know?

78 APPLE BLOOM
I was too busy sleuthin'. I thought you were keeping track of the way home!

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

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

81 APPLE BLOOM
What's that?

82 SCOOTALOO
PANICKING!

They scream and huddle together as another THUNDERCLAP echoes.

FADE OUT.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

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.

83 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.

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

He gives a sheepish smile, then...

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

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

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

THUNDERCLAP.

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

An ornery bunch of deputies sit around playing cards. One draws a card from the deck and his eyes light up. He rearranges his cards and sets them down dramatically (a la "gin").

86 DEPUTY #1
Fished. My. Wish.

The others react with disappointment. Applejack and Braeburn, both drenched, burst in saloon style.

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

88 BRAEBURN
I've searched and searched but no sign of 'em anywhere.

89 APPLEJACK
Wrangle up a posse! It's rainin' and stormin' and there's an outlaw on the loose!

ANGLE ON Sheriff Silverstar rising to his feet.

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

91 APPLEJACK
You really want to take that chance? 'Cause I sure don't!

92 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Well... reckon you got a point there. Come on, y'all!

Everypony present leaps to their feet.

93 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.

94 SWEETIE BELLE
You sure about this, Scootaloo?

95 SCOOTALOO
I thought I was, but now I'm not.

96 APPLE BLOOM
So I pretty much got us completely and totally lost...

Apple Bloom WAILS IN DESPAIR.

97 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
How could this get any worse--

Suddenly, the ground FALLS AWAY BENEATH HER!

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

Scootaloo 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 at the edge of a...

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

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

99 SCOOTALOO
Look!

100 SWEETIE BELLE
What, a creepy old shack? Is that supposed to be exciting?

101 APPLE BLOOM
We gotta get out of this rain. There’s no tellin’ how long this storm could last.

102 SCOOTALOO
But what if it belongs to...

103 CRUSADERS
... Trouble Shoes.

A beat as they stand in the downpour, frozen in fear.

THUNDERCLAP.

SC 13. INT. - DILAPIDATED SHACK - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

The door CREAKS open. It’s dark and shadowy and quiet inside the small shack. And dry.

The CMCs exchange a look. They’re nervous. THUNDERCLAP.

They step inside, the floorboards GROANING LOUDLY, and close the door quietly behind them. The rustic shack is filled to the brim with stuff. It’s dusty and cluttered.

They point to a doorway and head to the...

KITCHEN -- again, filled with stuff. The only sound is the rain.

104 APPLE BLOOM
(whispering)
It looks abandoned. Let’s go see if we can find some blankets or something.

They tiptoe back into the main room and start looking through the clutter for blankets.

Suddenly, there are LOUD HOOFSTEPS on the wood porch outside. The CMCs huddle together, their eyes wide.

105 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Oh no!

106 SWEETIE BELLE
What do we do?

The door CREAKS open slowly. They see a LARGE SILHOUETTE, but it's so dark outside they can't make out who it is. Rain continues to pour behind the figure.

ON THE CMCS -- SO SCARED!

THUNDERCLAP -- LIGHTNING FLASHES, BACKLIGHTING THE FIGURE! It's a huge, scary CLYDESDALE (TROUBLE SHOES)!

107 CRUSADERS
(BLOOD CURDLING SCREAMS)

108 TROUBLE SHOES
(BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM)

Trouble Shoes stumbles against the door frame, then pirouettes inside the shack. He pinballs off the clutter, the SOUNDS OF THINGS CRASHING AND BREAKING everywhere in the dark.

109 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
(COMICALLY YOWLING IN PAIN)

ON THE CMCS -- continuing to watch, huddled together, but their terror has started to be replaced by confusion.

Trouble Shoes crashes into a table. He attempts to steady himself by leaning on a chair that PROCEEDS TO COLLAPSE...

ON THE CMCS -- they unhuddle and give each other confused looks.

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 confusion is starting to become amusement.

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. Moments later, he CRASHES back into the main room as he spins in blind confusion before collapsing to the floor in a twisted heap, COCOONED IN DRAPERY. He MOANS FEEBLY.

110 SWEETIE BELLE
Is that... Trouble Shoes?

111 SCOOTALOO
If it is, it looks like he just captured himself.

The stranger lies in a cocooned bundle on the floor.

112 APPLE BLOOM
Hello? You all right?

113 TROUBLE SHOES
(muffled)
Surely.

114 APPLE BLOOM
We didn't mean no harm. We just came in to get out of the rain.

115 TROUBLE SHOES
Welcome. 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...

116 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
I ain't gonna rise to greet ya. Awfully rude I reckon, but as you can see I'm the fresh casualty of an unusually unfortunate circumstance. My lot in life, I s'pose.

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

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

A beat. The CMCs look on in confusion. He's not what they were expecting. Trouble Shoes continues lamenting his fate in his characteristic fashion: with the HARD-BITTEN FATALISM OF A GRIZZLED COAL MINER.

Apple Bloom steps forward.

119 SCOOTALOO
Wh-what are you doing?

120 APPLE BLOOM
I'm gonna unwrap him.

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

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

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.

123 TROUBLE SHOES
A'course guests would arrive while I ain't got no pie to offer. 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...

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

125 APPLE BLOOM
You sure that's bad luck? Seems like maybe you're just a little...

126 SWEETIE BELLE
Klutzy?

Trouble Shoes rises back to his intimidating height.

127 TROUBLE SHOES
Tell that to the flank!

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

128 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Upside down horseshoe. Bad luck. Follows me wherever I go like sour on old milk.
(then, darkly)
Klutzin' is the worst sorta bad luck for a horse like me.

Trouble Shoes grimaces at his gritty destiny.

129 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Y'all best vamoose a'fore my bad luck rubs off and sticks to y'all. 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.

130 SCOOTALOO
Um...we don't really know the way back to Appleoosa.

Trouble Shoes hangs his head.

131 TROUBLE SHOES
(heavy sigh)
But a'course I do. Wouldn't ya know it, mah lucky day.

SC 14. 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.

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

133 SCOOTALOO
I know. What do we do if he takes us back to Appleoosa and the Sheriff arrests him? If I get a Cutie Mark for that I'll feel guilty every time I see it.

134 APPLE BLOOM
If there's one thing my sister taught me, it's when right points one way and wrong the other, go right.

Apple Bloom scampers ahead to walk alongside Trouble Shoes.

135 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
Say there, Trouble Shoes, you might not want to take us all the way back to Appleoosa. The Sheriff sorta has it in his mind that you're a no good outlaw lookin' to shut down the rodeo.

136 TROUBLE SHOES
My kinda luck he'd think that.

137 APPLE BLOOM
But... is it true?

Trouble Shoes stops in his tracks.

138 TROUBLE SHOES
Is it true I want to shut down the rodeo?

The look up at him, waiting for the answer.

139 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Y'all like stories?

They nod.

140 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Was hopin' you'd say no. Just my luck.

DISSOLVE TO:

SC 15. 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.

141 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
When I was a colt I wanted to be a rodeo star somethin' fierce, but I just didn't seem to have a knack for it...

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.

142 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
I practiced and practiced, and finally 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.

143 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
Right in middle of that tryout I knew I was doin' what I was meant to. And wouldn't ya know it... in a flash come this here Cutie Mark.

A FLASH as his Cutie Mark comes in. Surprised, he looks at it and accidentally lassos a WATERING TROUGH and DRENCHES himself. The judges laugh and little Trouble Shoes despairs.

144 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
I can still remember them judges laughin'. I didn't even finish my routine 'cause right then I knew bad luck was my fate.

Young Trouble Shoes leaves town, his belongings in a hobo bindle. He trips, falls, picks himself up and keeps going.

145 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
That fire for rodeos never did leave me, though. I couldn't keep away from 'em. So I'd sneak down and have a look and wouldn't ya know it, bad luck'd strike again.

We see Trouble Shoes watching a rodeo from behind the scenes. He adjusts for a better view and knocks over a barrel, then cringes as he watches the chain reaction of destruction that happens OFF SCREEN. He races away in shame.

146 TROUBLE SHOES (V.O.)
Just my lot in life, I reckon.

SC 16. EXT. WOODS - BACK TO PRESENT

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

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

148 APPLE BLOOM
Don't ya see? They weren't laughing <u>at</u> him... they were just enjoyin' the show!

149 SCOOTALOO
What are you saying, they liked his audition? He's such a klutz he wouldn't stand a chance in a real rodeo!

150 APPLE BLOOM
Think about it. If we saw a rodeo CLOWN doin' what he did back in that shack, we'd think he was the greatest!

151 SWEETIE BELLE
You're right! He could still be in rodeos, just not the way he thought.

152 SCOOTALOO
So he's been looking at his Cutie Mark wrong this whole time! It's not bad luck, it's--

153 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (O.S.)
Gotcha!

Suddenly, Applejack, Sheriff Silverstar and the Appleoosa posse ambush Trouble Shoes. They start to drag him toward town.

154 TROUBLE SHOES
Just my luck.

155 APPLE BLOOM
Wait, no--

156 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Trouble Shoes, yer under arrest for vandalizin' the property and peace of mind of the good, rodeo-lovin' folks of Equestria, not to mention fillynappin' and generalized mayhem.

157 APPLEJACK
Braeburn, get these fillies someplace safe.

158 APPLE BLOOM
Wait! No! Listen, Applejack--

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

159 CRUSADERS
No!

FADE OUT.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

FADE IN:

SC 17. INT. BRAEBURN'S HOUSE - DAY

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

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

161 APPLEJACK
Sakes alive, what's with you? Trouble Shoes this, Trouble Shoes that. Why in tarnation would you want me to help get him out of jail when he's the one who ran off with y'all to begin with?

The CMCs exchange awkward glances.

162 APPLE BLOOM
Um... Applejack? What if we told you he maybe didn't exactly quite run off with us.

A beat.

163 APPLEJACK
Come again.

164 APPLE BLOOM
What if we sorta kinda perhaps maybe wandered off and -

165 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 happened??

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

166 ALL THE CMCS
Of course not. / Purely hypothetical. / There goes ol' Apple Bloom asking weird random questions again.

167 APPLEJACK
That's what I thought.

Applejack puts on her hat. Finishing touch.

168 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Now if you'll excuse me, I'm off to win the Appleoosa Rodeo Hay Bale Monster Stack!

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

169 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Y'all comin' or what?

170 BRAEBURN
I was plannin' to keep 'em here so I could watch 'em better.

171 APPLEJACK
Aw, it's all right, they can wander around some. With Trouble Shoes locked up how much trouble could they get into?

As Applejack exits, the CMCs exchange looks.

SC 18. INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - A LITTLE LATER

Sheriff Silverstar snores, hooves up on his desk. The only jail cell contains Trouble Shoes, who stands on his cot to get a look through his barred window.

172 TROUBLE SHOES
Well at least I get me a view of one small corner of the rodeo--

RRRRRIP! His weight tears through the bed and he comes CRASHING to the floor, waking the Sheriff.

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

174 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Aw, come on now, Trouble Shoes, I'm runnin' out of mattresses!

Sheriff opens the cell with a key and drags in a new mattress while Trouble Shoes gets back to his feet.

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.

175 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR (CONT'D)
Any more, now, and yer gonna be sleepin' on the floor.

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.

176 APPLE BLOOM
Come on, Sheriff, you're about to miss the Hay Bale Monster Stack!

177 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
(glancing at the clock)
Jiminy! That startin' already? All these tore up mattresses got my mind scrambled!

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

178 APPLE BLOOM
Let's go, Trouble Shoes, this here's a jailbreak!

Trouble Shoes just sits there.

179 TROUBLE SHOES
Ain't no need. Can hear the rodeo just fine from this vantage. And I can't cause no trouble from here.

The new mattress rips and he drops on his rump to the floor.

180 SCOOTALOO
But we've got a plan to help you live your dream!

181 TROUBLE SHOES
Listen, y'all, I'm a known criminal. How you proposin' on gettin' me into a rodeo?

182 SWEETIE BELLE
With this. Made it myself out of Braeburn's drapes.

She holds up a rodeo clown outfit.

183 TROUBLE SHOES
That there's a rodeo clown getup.

184 CRUSADERS
Exactly.

A beat. A distant CHEER from the rodeo. Trouble Shoes rises and tries to see out the window, but with the busted bed it's tough. We can see the longing in his eyes.

185 TROUBLE SHOES
I ain't much for lookin' like a fool, but I sure would like to see that rodeo...

The CMCs smile.

SC 19. 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.

186 CRUSADERS
Go Applejack! / Woohoo! / You can do it!

Trouble Shoes walks up in an over-the-top ridiculous RODEO CLOWN OUTFIT plus HEAVY MAKE UP.

187 TROUBLE SHOES
Well? How do I look?

188 SCOOTALOO
(off the costume)
Braeburn doesn't have very good taste in drapes, does he?

But Trouble Shoes sees Applejack stacking hay bales and the fire comes back into his eyes.

189 TROUBLE SHOES
Come on, now, stack them bales!

The CMCs share a glance -- their plan is working.

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

190 APPLE BLOOM
Okay now Trouble Shoes, git. You're on.

Apple Bloom gestures to the RODEO CLOWNS, racing out in front of the cheering crowd.

191 TROUBLE SHOES
Say what? I may be dressed like one, but I ain't no rodeo clown. With my bad luck I'd prob'ly bring the whole thing down.

ANGLE on the impressive acrobatics of the rodeo clowns.

192 APPLE BLOOM
You got your Cutie Mark all wrong, Trouble Shoes. You were born to entertain!

He looks at the rodeo clowns and the cheering crowd. He wants to go out, but is unsure.

193 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
You got a gift for makin' folks laugh, don't you?

194 TROUBLE SHOES
But my Cutie Mark's an upside down horseshoe. And that means bad luck!

ANGLE ON Trouble Shoes' upside-down-horseshoe Cutie Mark.

195 SWEETIE BELLE
That all depends how you look at it.

196 SCOOTALOO
Seems right-side-up to me.

ANGLE BACK ON SCOOTALOO -- looking at Trouble Shoes's flank with her head turned upside-down.

197 APPLE BLOOM
You always wanted to be a part of the rodeo, right? Well now's your chance.

Trouble Shoes studies the rodeo clowns. His eyes narrow with determination.

SC 20. INT. APPLELOOSA RODEO GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER

Trouble Shoes gallops out into the stadium to join the other clowns. They're in the middle of a juggling act. He hesitates, with a glance back at the CMCs.

198 APPLE BLOOM
(waving him on)
Go on...

Trouble Shoes rushes to find something to juggle. He TRIPS and balls go rolling every which way.

The crowd laughs.

Trouble Shoes seems frustrated, but presses on.

Meanwhile, Applejack sidles over to the CMCs with her TROPHY.

199 APPLEJACK
(proudly)
There y'all are. How 'bout your big sis, huh?

But they are focused intently on the rodeo clowns.

200 APPLE BLOOM
(distracted)
Yeah, way to go.

By now the rodeo clowns have switched to doing backflips.

201 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 cockroach.

The crowd laughs out loud.

By now the rodeo clowns are making acrobatic pyramids and jumping through hoops. Trouble Shoes is back on his hooves, eyeing the other clowns. His confidence, what little there was of it, is shaken.

202 TROUBLE SHOES
Just leave me be, Cutie Mark, just leave me be.

Lowering his head, Trouble Shoes goes running at the hoop, which is clearly too small for him to pass through...the clown holding it REGISTERS TERROR and flees.

The crowd begins LAUGHING UPROARIOUSLY at the sight of this huge horse chasing a smaller horse who flees him. Trouble Shoes still holds out hope he can jump through the tiny hoop.

203 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
I aim to clear that hoop--

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!

ON THE CMCs -- all laughing. Even Applejack can't take her eyes off the act.

204 APPLEJACK
That's the best rodeo clown I ever seen!

The CMCs exchange looks: "We were right."

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...

205 TOWNSPONIES
(gasp)
Trouble Shoes!

ANGLE BACK ON the stunned CMCs.

206 APPLEJACK
What the hay??

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

207 TOWNSPONY #1
Escaped from jail!

208 TOWNSPONY #2
Ruinin' another rodeo!

209 TOWNSPONY #3
Let's get him!

The Crusaders race into the scene and put themselves between the angry mob and the wanted criminal.

210 APPLE BLOOM
Wait, y'all! He ain't what you think he is!

The crowd stops its advance, confused.

211 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Stand aside, youngins. This one's goin' back to jail.

212 APPLE BLOOM
But he never wanted to ruin any rodeos! Those were just bad accidents. He just misread his Cutie Mark is all!

213 APPLEJACK
Apple Bloom, what're you talkin' about?

214 APPLE BLOOM
Trouble Shoes has a gift for making' ponies laugh. He's maybe the best rodeo clown I ever seen.

215 TOWNSPONY #1
That's true, he is awful funny.

216 APPLE BLOOM
He thought his Cutie Mark was tellin' him to keep away from rodeos, but deep inside he knew that's where he was meant to be. He just didn't know how to do it.

The crowd murmurs, considering what she's saying.

217 TROUBLE SHOES
What she says is true. This here, entertainin' y'all with my klutzin', that's what I'm s'posed to be doin'. I know it now. I didn't mean no harm, honest, I just ain't never loved nothin' like I love the rodeo. So I kept on sneakin' back and makin' a big ol' mess a' things.

He glance at the CMCs with a smile.

218 TROUBLE SHOES (CONT'D)
Turns out I was just lookin' at my Cutie Mark all wrong.

As the disarmed crowd warms to Trouble Shoes, Sheriff Silverstar steps forward.

219 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
That may be so, Trouble Shoes, but you still gotta face charges for the problems you caused.

220 TROUBLE SHOES
If I done wrong, I'll see to it that I take my medicine and square my accounts.

221 SHERIFF SILVERSTAR
Truth be told, we could understand all the trouble with the rodeos. But why'd ya have to run off with these here littluns last night?

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

222 APPLE BLOOM
Uh... yeah, about that...

SC 21. EXT. APPLOOSA RODEO GROUNDS - LATER

The grounds are now virtually deserted except for Applejack sitting comfortably watching the CMCs cleaning up all the destruction Trouble Shoes caused during his act.

223 APPLE BLOOM
You really want us to clean up all this mess Trouble Shoes made?

224 APPLEJACK
Maybe it'll teach you not to go wanderin' off after I say not to.

225 APPLE BLOOM
Ain't it bad enough that you get to go back to Ponyville with a shiny trophy and all we're bringin' back is these same old blank flanks?

226 APPLEJACK
Y'all helped Trouble Shoes realize what his Cutie Mark really means. Ain't that a nice feeling you can take back with ya?

A warm moment.

227 SWEETIE BELLE
I guess we did make things a little better.

228 SCOOTALOO
Does feel kinda nice.

229 APPLE BLOOM
So we can stop now?

They look at Applejack hopefully.

230 APPLEJACK
Nnnope.

FADE OUT.

END. **