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MY LITTLE PONY 6

"Where the Apple Lies "

Episode 623

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TEASER

SC. 1 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - DAY

CLOSE ON the crown of an apple tree. A <SOFT THUMP> shakes the branches and three or four apples fall. TRACK WITH THEM as they land in a bushel basket at the base of the tree. PAN TO APPLE BLOOM standing next to the trunk, and APPLEJACK next to her.

1 APPLEJACK
Your apple-buckin' skills keep
improving, Apple Bloom. Just
remember to flick your hooves on
the follow-through.

Applejack rears up and BUCKS the tree with both back legs, and her basket is filled with apples.

2 APPLE BLOOM
(dejected)
I still have so much to learn.

Applejack puts Apple Bloom's basket on her back and noses her own onto her back, as they start down the row.

3 APPLEJACK
I felt the same way when I was your
age. But heck, even Granny Smith
had a lot to learn once.

They reach the cider press and AJ unloads their baskets.

4 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
(conspiratorially)
Hey, whaddaya say to a quick glass
of cider?

5 APPLE BLOOM
Sure!

6 APPLEJACK
If you know how to work the press,
I'll run the belt.

Apple Bloom casts a quick glance at the cider press. It looks pretty complex.

7 APPLE BLOOM
Are you kidding! Of course I know
how!

AJ shrugs and hops onto the treadmill. As she starts running, Apple Bloom darts around, trying to look like she knows what she's doing.

8 APPLEJACK
Well, go on, toss the apples down
the chute!

9 APPLE BLOOM
Right! The chute!

Apple Bloom runs over and dumps a bushel of apples into the intake chute, then looks around expectantly.

10 APPLEJACK
Ya gotta open the spigot. Are you
sure you know what you're doing?

11 APPLE BLOOM
(defensive)
I said I do!

Apple Bloom runs over and opens the tap on the spigot, but is met with a <GRINDING NOISE> instead of fresh apple cider.

12 APPLEJACK
Didn't you clear the screen first?!

13 APPLE BLOOM
The what?

The <GRINDING> increases in volume. AJ goes to jump off the treadmill, but it's too late - the millstone WOBBLES and mashed apple parts spray up in the air, landing on AJ and AB. AJ lands under the spigot, then looks up at Apple Bloom.

14 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(sheepish)
Oh, that screen.

OFF Applejack's grimace as the spigot SHOOTS cider on her...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 2- EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - RESUMING

AJ flicks the last bit of apple off as she and AB walk.

15 APPLEJACK
If you don't know how to do
something, Apple Bloom, you don't
have to lie about it.

16 APPLE BLOOM
Aw, come on, Applejack, it was just
a tiny fib.

17 APPLEJACK
Little white lies have a way of
getting bigger real quick.

They approach...

SC. 3 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARN - CONTINUOUS

...where GRANNY SMITH stands out front directing BIG MCINTOSH
as he stacks bales of hay.

18 APPLEJACK
Trust me, I know.

19 APPLE BLOOM
You? What could you possibly know
about lying? You've always been
honest as the day is long.

20 GRANNY SMITH
<GUFFAW> You think Applejack was
always honest? Fiddlesticks! Heck,
she lied so much when she was a
filly the whole family ended up in
the hospital.

21 APPLE BLOOM
Are you serious?!

22 BIG MCINTOSH
Eeyup.

23 APPLEJACK
(embarrassed)
Aw, c'mon now, there's no need to
dig up that old chestnut.

24 APPLE BLOOM
Oh, no! No way are you gonna bring
that up and not tell me all about
it!

Applejack looks down into Apple Bloom's excited face, then
nods to Granny Smith.

25 APPLEJACK
(resigned)
Go ahead and tell her. Maybe it'll
do her some good.

Apple Bloom turns her attention to Granny.

26 GRANNY SMITH
Well, when Applejack and Big Mac
were just a wee bit older than you
are now, they just couldn't wait to
run the farm...

As Granny narrates, everything GOES WAVY and we...

FLASHBACK TO:

SC. 4 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - FLASHBACK

The same tableau, but now a younger Applejack (sans hat) and Big McIntosh stand with a (marginally younger) Granny Smith and Apple Bloom is not in the picture.

27 APPLEJACK
I'm just sayin', Big Mac may have
the muscle, but I have a lot of
good ideas on how to run Sweet
Apple Acres.

28 BIG MCINTOSH
Hey, that's not fair! I'm always
telling you my ideas on how to
change things around here! Why,
just this morning, I was saying--

29 GRANNY SMITH
Quit yer yammerin', you two. Ain't
neither of you ready to start
running things anytime soon. Now, I
need you to go into town - the
apple blight has been awful and if
we don't get more spray, cider
season'll be shorter than a dwarf
crab-apple tree.

OFF Big Mac and AJ exchanging grumpy looks...

SC. 5 - EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY

Big Mac talks his sister's ear off as they walk through town.

30 BIG MCINTOSH
See, you think you're ready to run
the farm, but you didn't even know
to check on spray for the blight.

31 APPLEJACK
(annoyed)
You didn't know either! I swear,
the way you run your mouth!

Before Big Mac can respond, a voice calls out:

32 FILTHY RICH (O.S.)
Hey, Applejack!

Applejack and Big Mac turn to see a young FILTHY RICH
trotting toward them, with his future wife, SPOILED RICH (now
SPOILED MILK) trailing behind him, looking annoyed.

33 APPLEJACK
Hey there, Filthy Rich!

34 FILTHY RICH
Just Rich, please. And I'd like you
to meet my fiancée, Spoiled Milk.
(turns to Spoiled Milk)
Honey, this is Applejack and Big
McIntosh, the two hardest-working
ponies at Sweet Apple Acres.

35 SPOILED MILK
You work on a farm? How... quaint.

36 FILTHY RICH
Now, dear, be nice. Sweet Apple
Acres makes Zap Apple Jam - it's
one of dad's best-sellers.

37 SPOILED MILK
You mean one of your best-sellers.
(to AJ and Big Mac)
Filthy Rich is running the Rich
family business now.

38 FILTHY RICH
(reddening)
Don't mind Spoiled Milk. She's just
proud of me.
(aside to Applejack)
Though sometimes I think she just
wants to change her last name.
(winks, aloud)
BUT, she brings up a good point.

39 APPLEJACK
How do ya mean?

40 FILTHY RICH
Well, I know cider season's around
the corner - why don't you let me
sell it for you? No more lines and
crowds out at the orchard, but all
of the profit. Well, most of the
profit. Whaddaya say?

Big Mac replies as Applejack mulls it over.

41 BIG MCINTOSH
I don't think Granny would like
that. We always sell the cider out
at the farm. It's a tradition.

42 FILTHY RICH
(focused on AJ)
Let's start a new tradition! It's
just the sort of thing to show
Granny that you two are ready to
run things, right?

Applejack sees Rich and Big Mac looking at her expectantly
and makes a decision.

43 APPLEJACK
Of course she does! Heck, we're on
important business right now,
'cause Granny trusts us so much!

Big Mac starts to correct her, but AJ STOMPS on his hoof.

44 BIG MCINTOSH
YEOW!!

45 APPLEJACK
Oh, sorry. My hoof must've slipped.
(to Rich)
I tell you what -- let's do a test
run. We'll give you three barrels
of cider early, and if it sells
well in your store, we'll give you
the rest. Deal?

She holds out her hoof, but Big Mac steps in again.

46 BIG MCINTOSH
But Applejack, you can't--

AJ waggles her hoof menacingly at him and gives Big Mac a "shut up" glare. He frowns, but says no more. Rich sticks his hoof out, but stops short, thinking.

47 FILTHY RICH
You sure you don't have to check
with Granny to make this deal?

Applejack takes a moment, then decides:

48 APPLEJACK
Absolutely. Granny was just saying
how ready we are to start running
things.

Applejack gives her tell-tale "lying eyes," and she and Rich shake hooves. Big Mac starts to open his mouth again, but this time is cut off by Spoiled Milk.

49 SPOILED MILK
Can we go now? I'm late for my
hooficure.

OFF AJ, smiling, as Rich and Spoiled Milk trot off...

SC. 6 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - LATER

Applejack enters through the arch, with Big Mac behind her, laden with spray canisters.

50 BIG MCINTOSH
Granny just told us we weren't
ready to run things yet! Why would
you lie like that?

51 APPLEJACK
You don't have to tell me what
Granny said. I was there.

52 BIG MCINTOSH
Well, I gotta say somethin'! It's
bad enough Granny's on us for not
being responsible enough, now you
gotta get us in trouble with Filthy
Rich, too?!

Applejack scowls at him as they enter into...

SC. 7 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARN - LATER

53 APPLEJACK
Will you snap yer trap already? You
just keep yappin' and gettin'
yourself worked up over nothing!

AJ begins unloading the canisters off Big Mac's back.

54 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Filthy Rich's plan makes good
sense. Granny'll see it that way
too, and that'll prove to her that
we're ready to start running Sweet
Apple Acres! You'll see!

55 GRANNY SMITH (O.S.)
See what?

They turn, startled to see Granny approaching from the other
end of the barn.

56 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
(re: their looks)
What's all the hubbub?

57 APPLEJACK
(recovering)
Hey Granny! We just ran into Filthy
Rich in town, and we all came up
with a great new opportunity for
Sweet Apple Acres.

58 GRANNY SMITH
Oh yeah? And what does this "new
opportunity" mean for us?

59 APPLEJACK
Well, all we have to do is give a
few barrels of cider to Rich before
the season starts.

60 GRANNY SMITH
Oh, is that all?

AJ smirks at Big Mac, feeling confident, until:

61 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
Absolutely not!

OFF Applejack, swapping her smile for Big Mac's frown, and
vice versa...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**SC. 8 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARN - RESUMING**

Applejack looks aghast as Granny explains.

62 GRANNY SMITH
Sorry, but Sweet Apple Acres ain't
gonna give out any cider before
cider season starts.

63 APPLEJACK
But why not?! Rich is running the
family store now. It'd be just like
when you gave Zap Apple Jam to his
grandpappy to sell.

64 GRANNY SMITH
The Rich family has been good to
us. But Stinkin' Rich made that
same request a long time ago, and
I'll tell you the same thing I told
him - when it comes to cider, it's
always been first come, first
served, and it always will.

65 BIG MCINTOSH
(to Applejack)
See? I told you not to--

66 APPLEJACK
(cuts him off, to Granny)
I get what you're saying, Granny,
but couldn't you make an exception
just this once? I sorta promised.

67 GRANNY SMITH
Cider-makin' is iffy business, you
know that. If the apples aren't
picked at just the right time,
it'll be too tart or too sweet. And
we're probably not gonna have a lot
this year anyway, what with all the
blight. If we give a few barrels to
Filthy Rich, that means somepony
else'll miss out. Sorry, Applejack,
but you'll have to un-promise.

OFF Applejack, crestfallen...

SC. 9 - EXT. PONYVILLE - THE NEXT DAY

Applejack and Big Mac head toward Filthy Rich's store as they discuss how to break the bad news to Rich.

68 APPLEJACK
I gave Filthy Rich my word. I can't
just break it.

69 BIG MCINTOSH
But your word was a lie - you gotta
break it!

70 APPLEJACK
(glum)
I'm gonna look like a darned fool!

71 BIG MCINTOSH
You sure are. Maybe if you'd have
listened to me you wouldn't!

Applejack takes a breath, steels herself, and steps into...

SC. 10 - INT. RICH'S BARNYARD BARGAINS - CONTINUOUS

...where Filthy Rich looks over from talking to a customer,
and his face splits into a smile.

72 FILTHY RICH
Well, if it isn't my new business
partners!

73 BIG MCINTOSH
(sotto)
It isn't.

Applejack elbows Big Mac as Rich trots over.

74 FILTHY RICH
Don't tell me you brought the cider
already.

75 BIG MCINTOSH
Oh, we sure won't tell you that.

76 APPLEJACK
(elbows him again)
What he means is, uh... See...

77 FILTHY RICH
 (not really listening)
Well, I'll be ready when the cider
is. Look what I did last night
after we made our deal.

He directs them to a corner of the store cordoned off by
black curtains.

78 FILTHY RICH (CONT'D)
Tada!

He pulls a cord and the curtains part to reveal three empty
barrel stands with a stand-up picture of a delicious glass of
cider next to them. Applejack is stunned.

79 FILTHY RICH (CONT'D)
 (misreading her look)
I'll keep it covered until the
cider's actually here. Don't want
to whip everypony into a frenzy.

He smiles at AJ, who grimaces back.

80 APPLEJACK
Um, about the cider, Rich... I
don't think we can get you any.

81 FILTHY RICH
 (upset)
What do you mean? We had a deal.

82 APPLEJACK
Well, I know, but...

83 FILTHY RICH
 (gesturing to the display)
I did all this based on your word,
Applejack.

Applejack looks to Big Mac, who tries to help.

84 BIG MCINTOSH
When it comes to cider, it's always
been first come, first served--

85 APPLEJACK
 (cutting him off)
What he means is, cider-making is
iffy business. It's been a tough
harvest this year, what with all
the blight. And you have to pick
the apples at just the right time
or--

86 FILTHY RICH
So, there's no cider this year?

87 APPLEJACK
Now, I didn't say that. I'm just
trying to explain--

88 FILTHY RICH
Sounds like you're trying to make
excuses. Look, whenever granddad
dealt with Granny Smith, she kept
her word. If you can't do that, I'm
not sure I should be dealing with
Sweet Apple Acres at all.

A beat as AJ and Big Mac absorb the import of this statement.

89 BIG MCINTOSH
The thing is, we're not actually
running--

90 APPLEJACK
(struck by inspiration)
--things the way we normally would.
You see, Granny Smith's been sick.

She does her "lying eyes" thing.

91 FILTHY RICH
(shocked)
She has?! I had no idea!

92 BIG MCINTOSH
(glaring at AJ)
Yeah, nobody knew till just now.

93 APPLEJACK
What Big Mac means is, we've been
trying to keep it quiet. We don't
want people to make rash decisions
about doing business with Sweet
Apple Acres just because we're a
little short-handed at the moment.

94 FILTHY RICH
Of course, of course. I'm sorry.
(escorts them to the door)
Please let me know if there's
anything I can do.

95 APPLEJACK
(sheepish)
Much appreciated.
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

But right now, we only ask for your understanding during this difficult time.

Filthy Rich nods. OFF Big Mac, giving Applejack a look...

CUT TO:

SC. 11 - INT. FARMHOUSE, FRONT ROOM - LATER

...where they sit at the dinner table, Applejack withering under Big Mac's stare.

96 APPLEJACK

Don't give me that look!

97 BIG MCINTOSH

You're lucky I'm looking at you at all! You were supposed to tell Filthy Rich the truth and instead you lied to him again!!

Before AJ can respond, Granny enters the room with a pot of food, and they both straighten up and put on smiles.

98 APPLEJACK

Hey Granny, need any help?

99 GRANNY SMITH

No, no, I'm fine. Just gotta check on dessert.

Granny sets the pot down on the table and heads back into the kitchen. As soon as the door swings shut behind her, Big Mac and AJ lean in and scowl at each other again.

100 APPLEJACK

You heard what Rich said - if I told him the truth, he'd have stopped doing business with us altogether.

101 BIG MCINTOSH

Yeah, but that's only because--

Granny comes back again, and Applejack STOMPS on Big Mac's hoof under the table to shut him up.

102 BIG MCINTOSH (CONT'D)

Aiyi-

(covering, to Granny)
(MORE)

BIG MCINTOSH (CONT'D)
I forgot to ask if we had any oat
crumbles for this delicious-looking
salad, Granny!

Granny stops in the middle of sitting down.

103 GRANNY SMITH
(huffy)
Let me take a look.

She pops back into the kitchen, whereupon Big Mac turns back
to Applejack as he massages his hurt hoof.

104 BIG MCINTOSH
I get your point about losing
Rich's business, but do you really
think telling him Granny's sick was
the best plan?

105 APPLEJACK
(shrugs)
It worked, didn't it?

Just then, there's a KNOCK at the door. Big Mac walks over
and opens it to find Filthy Rich holding a bouquet of
flowers, while Spoiled Milk stands behind him looking like
she'd rather be anywhere else.

106 FILTHY RICH
Sorry to drop by unannounced. We
just wanted to come by to wish
Granny a speedy recovery.

107 BIG MCINTOSH
(to Applejack)
Look, sis, it's our good friend Mr.
Rich and his fiancée. Here. At our
house.

108 SPOILED MILK
(looking around)
This is a house?

109 FILTHY RICH
(ignoring her)
These are for Granny.

Rich holds out the flowers. Big Mac turns his back to them
and gives Applejack a death stare they can't see.

110 BIG MCINTOSH
They brought Granny flowers. Ain't
that sweet?

Applejack is about to respond when she sees the door to the kitchen start to swing open.

111 APPLEJACK
Uh, excuse me one second!

She ZIPS over and pushes the door, forcing Granny back to...

SC. 12 - INT. FARMHOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

112 GRANNY SMITH
(catching her balance)
What in tarnation?!

113 APPLEJACK
Oh, I'm sorry, Granny. I, uh,
didn't see you there.
(lying eyes)

114 GRANNY SMITH
Well, of course not! You came
blasting in so fast, t'weren't
possible to see nothin'!

Granny starts back into the front room, but AJ grabs her.

115 APPLEJACK
I think we might have left a blight
spray canister in the orchard.
(lying eyes)
Can you go count the ones in the
barn for me?

116 GRANNY SMITH
(indignant)
Are you outta your apple-pickin'
mind? It's supertime!

117 APPLEJACK
I know, but if we forgot a sprayer,
I'd wanna get it before dark.
(pushing her out the back)
You go start counting and I'll tell
Big Mac we'll be right back, okay?

She slams the door on Granny, then ZIPS back into...

SC. 13 - INT. FARMHOUSE, FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...where Big Mac rambles on to Filthy Rich and Spoiled Milk.

118 BIG MCINTOSH
-- you never know when you'll need
it!

(sees AJ, relieved)
Oh, hey sis, I was just explaining
why I always wear my yoke.

119 SPOILED MILK
(confused, annoyed)
Even though Rich asked him how your
grandmare is doing.

Big Mac gives Applejack a nervous grin and "help me" eyes. AJ
steps forward, leading Filthy back toward the front door.

120 APPLEJACK
You know Big Mac; you can never get
him to keep quiet, especially when
he's upset. And right now, he's
just so worried about Granny Smith.

She leads them out to...

SC. 14 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - CONTINUOUS

...where she escorts them to the fence.

121 FILTHY RICH
Is she doing that bad?

122 APPLEJACK
Well, she can't be seeing you guys
right now, that's for sure.

AJ sees Granny exiting the barn behind them and panics.

123 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
In fact, I'm getting upset thinking
about it myself. Excuse me!

Applejack DASHES past them and pulls Granny back into...

SC. 15 - INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

...where Granny has to compose herself again.

124 GRANNY SMITH
Leapin' lemmings, what's gotten
into you?!

125 APPLEJACK
Sorry, Granny! I just decided if I
helped you, it would go faster.

126 GRANNY SMITH
Well, you're too late. All the
sprayers are here.

127 APPLEJACK
Oh good.
 (trying to hold her back)
Say, Granny, when did you first
fight the apple blight again?

128 GRANNY SMITH
 (remembering)
Well, it was my second year here in
Ponyville...

Everything starts to GO WAVY again as Granny starts her
story, but Applejack jumps out the door, narrowly avoiding
getting caught in the flashback, instead finding herself...

SC. 16 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - CONTINUOUS

...where Big Mac is once again talking non-stop.

129 BIG MCINTOSH
-- and that's how I got my cutie
mark.

130 SPOILED MILK
 (what the hell?)
But we asked when we could come
back to see Granny!

131 APPLEJACK
Big Mac didn't want to be rude, but
you shouldn't come back.

132 FILTHY RICH
What? Why not?!

133 APPLEJACK
Well, because Granny's...

She looks around, spotting a sprayer beside the barn.

134 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
...got apple blight!
 (lying eyes)

135 FILTHY RICH
(surprised)
I thought only trees got blight.

136 APPLEJACK
Yeah, that's usually the case.
(thinking, then)
The doctors think it's from working
in the orchard for so many years.

137 FILTHY RICH/BIG MCINTOSH
Doctors?

138 APPLEJACK
You see... We had to take Granny to
Ponyville General.
(lying eyes)
We just got back right before you
showed up.
(lying eyes again)

139 FILTHY RICH
Oh no, that's terrible.

140 SPOILED MILK
(cringing from them)
It's not contagious, is it?

141 APPLEJACK
I'm sure you'll be fine, but you
should leave, just in case.

She starts escorting them to the road; they go willingly.

142 FILTHY RICH
You're right. We're gonna have to
hurry if we want to get there
before visiting hours are over.

143 APPLEJACK
That's right.
(then, realizing)
Wait. Get where?

144 FILTHY RICH
Why, the hospital, of course.

145 APPLEJACK
You should probably skip it - I'm
sure Granny'll have a clean bill of
health by morning.

146 FILTHY RICH
Nonsense. What pony wouldn't want
to see a friendly face when they're
not feeling well?
 (guiding Spoiled Milk off)
I'm sure we'll see you at Ponyville
General!

OFF Applejack, dumbfounded, as Big Mac shakes his head...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 17 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - RESUMING

Big Mac unleashes on Applejack:

147 BIG MCINTOSH
You just made everything a hundred
times worse by not coming clean
again! What are we supposed to do
now?

Applejack isn't listening - her wheels are spinning, until...

148 APPLEJACK
I got it!

And she runs past Big Mac to...

SC. 18 - INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

AJ rushes in (followed closely by Big Mac) to find Granny finishing her story. Big Mac stares at the wavy borders of the screen, interested and confused, until they dissipate.

149 GRANNY SMITH
-- and that was the worst case of
apple blight I've ever seen!

150 APPLEJACK
I'd love to hear more, but we gotta
get to the hospital right away!

151 GRANNY SMITH
The hospital? Why, who's sick?

152 BIG MCINTOSH
You are.

153 APPLEJACK
 (shoots him a look)
What he means is, you're *needed* at
the hospital.

154 GRANNY SMITH
Whatever for?

Applejack sees the other sprayers and decides to double down.

155 APPLEJACK
It's the apple blight! It's uh...
starting to infect ponies now!
 (lying eyes)
The doctors need an expert opinion,
and nopony knows more about
fighting blight than Granny Smith!

156 GRANNY SMITH
Well, what in tarnation are we
waiting for? Let's go!

OFF Big Mac, rolling his eyes...

SC. 19 - EXT. PONYVILLE GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

AJ, Big Mac and Granny approach Ponyville General.

157 BIG MCINTOSH
Well, here we are. What now?

AJ spots Filthy Rich and Spoiled Milk approaching from the
other direction.

158 APPLEJACK
You know, we're supposed to go in
the back. Uh, to avoid any ponies
in the waiting room with the
blight.
 (lying eyes)

AJ hustles Granny around the back to...

SC. 20 - INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

...where she spots Rich again coming from the other
direction. She hustles Granny into a room.

159 APPLEJACK
Oops, I almost forgot!

Big Mac stands in the hall a beat, until Applejack YANKS him inside the room. OFF this...

TIMECUT TO:

SC. 21 - INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack leads Granny from the room, the latter dressed in scrubs and a surgical mask. Big Mac follows.

160 APPLEJACK
This is perfect. Now you don't have
to worry about catching the blight.

161 GRANNY SMITH
 (muffled through mask)
If you say so, dearie.

162 APPLEJACK
 (scanning for Filthy Rich)
Now you wait right here while I...
check on your presentation.
 (lying eyes)

OFF Granny, MUMBLING through her mask as AJ runs off...

SC. 22 - INT. HOSPITAL, LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack catches up to Filthy Rich and Spoiled Milk.

163 APPLEJACK
Fancy meeting you two here!

164 SPOILED MILK
We told you we were coming.

165 FILTHY RICH
I'm glad you showed up. I can't
seem to find Granny's room, or any
nurses who've heard about a pony
with apple blight.

166 APPLEJACK
Granny's room. Sure. Just go down
here, take a left, then a right, go
down some stairs, up a bunch more
stairs, through the cafeteria, left
three more times and you're there.
Easy as Granny's apple pie!
 (lying eyes)

She starts off in the other direction.

167 FILTHY RICH
Aren't you coming with us?

168 APPLEJACK
I gotta find Big Mac. We'll catch
up!

She ZIPS away. OFF the two of them, looking confused...

SC. 23 - INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack returns to Granny and Big Mac.

169 APPLEJACK
Okay, Granny, just wait here one
second and we can go.

Applejack grabs Big Mac, but Granny stops her.

170 GRANNY SMITH
Where are you two going?

171 APPLEJACK
Big Mac has to stay here. He, um...
(grasping)
...might be contagious.
(lying eyes)

172 GRANNY SMITH/BIG MCINTOSH
Contagious?

173 APPLEJACK
Yep! The blight affects stallions
more than mares.

Granny mulls this over as AJ pulls Big Mac into...

SC. 24 - INT. HOSPITAL, ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...where she leads him to a gurney and pulls back the sheet.

174 APPLEJACK
All right. Climb up here and I'll
cover you up. Then I'll bring
Filthy in, tell him you're Granny,
but you're not allowed to take the
sheet off. You moan a few times, he
leaves, and this is all over.

175 BIG MCINTOSH
I'm not doing anything of the sort.
This has gone way too far.

176 APPLEJACK
Fine. And when Filthy Rich cuts all
ties with Sweet Apple Acres and the
farm goes under, I'll be sure to
tell Granny that it was all your
fault.

Big Mac thinks, then...

177 BIG MCINTOSH
Why can't you be Granny! You're her
size, and this is all your fault in
the first place!

178 APPLEJACK
I would, but you'd blab the whole
thing to Rich if I wasn't around to
stop you.

Big Mac's face says AJ has a point.

179 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
So just lay down, keep still and
promise me you *won't say anything*
for once in your fool life.

OFF Big Mac, reluctantly crawling onto the gurney as
Applejack RUNS out the door to...

SC. 25 - INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Applejack spots Granny up the hall a bit, looking around.

180 APPLEJACK
 (yelling)
Granny!

Just then, Filthy Rich and Spoiled Milk turn the corner at
the end of the hall, looking more confused than ever.

181 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
Granny!

Granny turns toward Applejack, her back toward Rich. AJ trots
toward her, but Rich spots her and heads their way.

182 GRANNY SMITH
It's about time. What's going on
around here?

183 APPLEJACK
Granny, they need you to wait here.
I'll come get you.

She shoves Granny unceremoniously through the nearest door,
then turns around to come face to face with Rich.

184 FILTHY RICH
There you are! We've been going in
circles looking for Granny's room!

185 APPLEJACK
Well, you're in luck, 'cause it's
right over here and this time I'll
make sure you don't get lost.

She leads the two of them back to...

SC. 26 - INT. HOSPITAL, ROOM/HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

...only to find that "Granny" (aka Big Mac) is not there.

186 APPLEJACK
What the dadgum--

187 SPOILED MILK
What now?!

188 APPLEJACK
He-- I mean, "she" was right here!

AJ double-checks the door number, then looks down the hall.
An orderly wheels a gurney with one of Big Mac's unmistakable
red legs poking out from beneath the sheet.

189 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Oh no! We gotta go!

Applejack double-times Rich and Spoiled Milk after the
gurney.

190 SPOILED MILK
Is that Granny Smith?

191 FILTHY RICH
Where are they taking her?

AJ sees the real Granny exit the room she put her in.

192 APPLEJACK
You two, don't lose that gurney!
(runs up to Granny, sotto)
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Granny, what're you doin'? You were supposed to stay there.

193 GRANNY SMITH

It was a supply closet!

194 APPLEJACK

Oh! Ah...

(thinking fast)

Well, okay, come with me, but be quiet. You know, save your voice for the big presentation.

Applejack turns back and scans the hall, but there's no sign of Filthy Rich or Big Mac. She pokes her head in door after door, until she reaches double doors that lead to...

SC. 27 - INT. HOSPITAL, OPERATING THEATER - CONTINUOUS

AJ and Granny find themselves in an old-fashioned operating theater in the round. Masked and gowned ponies stand around an operating table. Scanning the seats above, AJ sees Rich and Spoiled Milk in the gallery. A MASKED NURSE approaches.

195 MASKED NURSE

Oh good, you're here. We can begin.

The nurse leads Granny forward. Applejack looks down and realizes that the patient on the table is Big Mac!

196 APPLEJACK

(rushing forward)

Uh, I think there's been a mistake!

Another MASKED PONY steps in front of Applejack.

197 MASKED PONY

I'm sorry, but you can't go out there without a gown and mask.

198 APPLEJACK

But-- but--

(pointing to table)

That's my brother on there!

199 MASKED PONY

(re: Granny)

Don't worry. This is our best doctor. She'll have your brother back on his hooves in no time.

Applejack facehoofs herself. Meanwhile, Granny looks up at the gallery and starts to give her presentation.

200 GRANNY SMITH
(muffled)
Apple blight is a serious disease,
especially once it takes hold--

201 MASKED PONY
Did she say "apple blight?"

202 MASKED NURSE
I think she said "gaskin mites."

203 MASKED PONY
Ooh, that doesn't sound good.

204 GRANNY SMITH
(muffled)
--it starts in the leaves and turns
the branches red as it works its
way toward the trunk.

Granny pulls one of Big Mac's legs out from under the sheet
to show the pale hoof and red foreleg.

205 GRANNY SMITH (CONT'D)
(muffled)
Once it's this far along, the only
thing to do is prune the branches.

ANGLE ON Filthy Rich and Spoiled Milk in the gallery,
convinced they're about to watch Granny undergo surgery.

206 FILTHY RICH
Oh no! Granny!

207 MASKED NURSE
(to Granny)
Did you say "prune the branches?"

208 GRANNY SMITH
(muffled)
Well, sure. What else can you do
once the blight gets this bad?

Applejack's POV: PAN from Granny getting quizzical looks from
the doctors to Rich, fretting in the balcony, to Big Mac,
shaking with fear on the table. This has gone on too long. AJ
dashes out and slides into the center of the room.

209 APPLEJACK
Everypony just hold on a second!
This is all a big misunderstanding.
(then, coming clean)
Actually, it's a big lie!

She pulls the sheet off Big Mac and he sheepishly raises his head. Granny sees this and pulls her mask off.

210 GRANNY SMITH
Big Mac?!

Filthy Rich sees this and stands up in the gallery.

211 FILTHY RICH
Granny Smith?! What's going on
here, Applejack?!

212 GRANNY SMITH
That's a darn good question.

Granny (and everypony else) looks to Applejack and Big Mac. Big Mac gets off the gurney and starts to speak, but Applejack steps in front of him.

213 APPLEJACK
This is all my fault. I wanted to
impress Filthy Rich, and show you I
could run Sweet Apple Acres. Big
Mac tried to rein me in, but I got
too big for my britches, and tried
to fix a little white lie with a
whole bunch of whoppers.

She looks up to Filthy Rich in the audience.

214 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
I'm real sorry, Rich. I don't
expect ya to forgive me, but please
don't punish Granny and Sweet Apple
Acres for my foolish pride.

215 FILTHY RICH
So Granny was never sick?

216 BIG MCINTOSH
Nnope!

217 FILTHY RICH
This was all because you couldn't
give me the cider?

218 BIG MCINTOSH
Eeyup!

219 GRANNY SMITH
And nopony has apple blight?

220 BIG MCINTOSH
Nnope!

221 FILTHY RICH
(a beat, to Applejack)
You're gonna have to earn my trust
back, Applejack.

222 APPLEJACK
I will!
(to the room)
I promise everypony here, from now
on I'll be the most honest pony in
town. Heck, in all of Equestria!

OFF Rich, who can't help but smile at this, and AJ, smiling
back sheepishly, everything GOES WAVY and we...

FLASHFORWARD TO:

SC. 28 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - PRESENT

...where grown Applejack has a similar sheepish grin on her
face as Apple Bloom stares up at her, slack-jawed.

223 APPLE BLOOM
I can't believe you told all those
lies!

224 APPLEJACK
(nods glumly)
It's not a story I'm proud of, but
it taught me a lifelong lesson
about being honest.
(gives AB a serious look)
I hope you learned something too.

225 APPLE BLOOM
(thinking, then)
I can see now how a small lie can
lead to big problems.
(to Big Mac)
Also, I reckon liars use lots of
words, but honest ponies barely
have to talk at all.

226 BIG MCINTOSH
(big grin)
Eeyup!

OFF this smiling Apple Family tableau...

END