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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

Going to Seed
Ep 910

Teleplay Second Draft

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EST. SWEET APPLE ACRES - MORNING**

A rooster <CROWS> as the sun breaks over the roof of the barn. It's another beautiful day on the farm.

SC. 2 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - SAME

A harried APPLEJACK looks to BIG MAC, APPLE BLOOM, and GRANNY SMITH, all sitting around the breakfast table looking stressed.

1 APPLEJACK
I know we've had this day marked on
the calendar for quite a while. But
it's finally here.

QUICK PANS as they all respond.

2 BIG MAC
Eeyup!

3 APPLE BLOOM
Sure is!

4 GRANNY SMITH
Eh?

CLOSE on Applejack as she turns to a MAP of the farm hung up on the wall. Every tree's been circled in RED.

5 APPLEJACK
The Confluence. A harvest a hundred
moons in the making, when every
apple comes ripe at the same time.
(re: map)
Big Mac's lost a lotta sleep
mapping out this schedule for us
and all it'll take now is a few
days of hard work. Who's with me?

Applejack turns back to see Granny's gone and Big Mac is
asleep, <SNORING> into his bowl of oats.

6 APPLE BLOOM
I am!

7 APPLEJACK
Where'd Granny go?

Granny pops her head back into the kitchen.

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8 GRANNY SMITH
Keep yer britches on! We've got
this Confluence under control. I
got us some help!

9 APPLEJACK *
That's great! We could use some *
more muscle. Who'd you get? *
Braeburn? Honeycrisp? *

10 GRANNY SMITH *
Nah, them Appleloosan Apples got *
their own Confluence to deal with. *

11 APPLEJACK *
Okay then, uh... Bulk Biceps? *

12 GRANNY SMITH *
Even better! *

Granny *steps aside* to REVEAL GOLDIE DELICIOUS, a WRIGGLING *
carpet bag on her back. *

13 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Howdy, y'all!!

Big Mac STARTS awake, flipping his plate up onto his head. *
BACK ON Goldie, who now has a cat sitting on her head. *

14 GOLDIE DELICIOUS (CONT'D)
Now *that's* how you wake a pony up!

Apple Bloom's eyes light up. *

15 APPLE BLOOM *
Goldie Delicious! *

Goldie *now has two cats on her back/head.* *

16 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Granny told me y'all could use a
helping hoof with this here
Confluence so I came a runnin'! *

She puts her bag down and cats spring out like snakes from a *
peanut brittle can, dispersing to every corner of the room. *

17 APPLEJACK *
(hiding disappointment) *
Well, with a harvest this big we're *
grateful for all the help we can *
get. *(sotto)* I guess. *

18 BIG MAC
Eeyup!

19 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
It's too bad y'all ain't ever
caught the Great Seedling. He'd a
granted you a perpetual harvest,
Confluence or no.

*

Applejack and Big Mac both start chuckling.

20 APPLEJACK
The Great Seedling? Well, now, I
haven't thought about that old
mare's tale for years.

*

Goldie Delicious stares at the two of them.

21 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
The Great Seedling ain't no mare's
tale.

*

(to a rapt Apple Bloom)
He's a magical Earth spirit, all
the colors of the harvest, that
travels from farm to farm, daring
ponies to catch him. And those that
have the ingenuity are rewarded
with crops that are always in
bloom! (back to AJ) And he's as
real as you and me.

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22 GRANNY SMITH
As I recall, Apple Bloom used to
love settin' traps for the Great
Seedling when she was a foal.

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*

23 BIG MCINTOSH
(with a sweet laugh)
Eeyup!

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*
*

24 APPLEJACK
Well, I'm pretty sure she's
outgrown the whole thing by now.
Right Apple Bloom?

*
*
*
*

WHIP PAN to find Apple Bloom digging through a chest. She's
pulled out goggles, rope, a net, and a big sack.

*
*

25 APPLE BLOOM
Or maybe I'm big enough now to
finally catch him! Who's with me??

*
*

OFF Applejack's surprised face and Goldie and Granny's
smiles...

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 3 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - RESUMING**

Apple Bloom looks around excitedly at her family.

26 APPLEJACK
(surprised)
Apple Bloom, you haven't hunted for
the Great Seedling since you were
little. Why would you wanna start
again now?

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27 APPLE BLOOM
The Confluence is so big, he's
bound to show up. And if we catch
him, he'll make all the apples ripe
all the time! Right, Goldie?

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*

She looks to Goldie, who nods.

28 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
That's right, young filly!

29 APPLE BLOOM
(to Applejack)
Just imagine! Sweet Apple Acres
would be the busiest orchard in
Equestria! Now if you'll excuse me,
I've got work to do!

*
*

She trots out the front door, bubbling with excitement.

30 APPLEJACK
(calls after her, smiling)
Don't forget we have actual work to
do too!

*

They all look after as Apple Bloom rushes off into orchard.

31 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Nothing like a little filly
enjoying the harvest.

32 APPLEJACK
I don't mind Apple Bloom havin'
fun, but there's honest to goodness
work to do that doesn't have a
thing to do with an old legend.

*
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*

33 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
(mischievous)
And who says it's just a legend? *

34 APPLEJACK
All right, Goldie. You've had your
fun, but the Great Seedling is just
a story. *

35 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Alls I know is, that story started
somewhere, and I've seen enough
magical hokey pokey in my time to
know anything's possible. *

36 APPLEJACK
Fine. But when all of Apple Bloom's
traps turn up empty, I hope she
isn't too disappointed to work. *

37 GRANNY SMITH
(cutting her off)
Oh, quit yer worrywartin'. Apple
Bloom can hunt for the Seedling all
she wants. If you're so concerned
about work, why don't you and your
brother get to buckin' your own
selves?! *

Granny gestures to Big Mac, who's starting to nod off again.
Applejack nudges him and heads for the door. *

38 APPLEJACK
C'mon, sleepyhead. Granny's right.
Let's get to work.

39 BIG MAC
(yawning)
Eeyuuuuu--up.

As the two of them exit... *

TIME CUT TO: *

SC. 4 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - LATER *

Applejack and Big Mac stand amidst several trees, baskets at
the ready. Big Mac gives a tree a tremendous buck and a pile
of apples fall, completely covering his baskets. He raises
his eyebrows at AJ who accepts the challenge. *

In a pivoting bucking maneuver, she manages to buck three
trees without her back legs ever touching the ground. *

She looks at her collection of baskets and smiles back at her brother who's looking off screen. She follows his gaze and frowns. *

40 APPLEJACK *

As much as I appreciate her volunteering, I'm not sure how much help Goldie's gonna be... *

WHIP PAN to Goldie and Granny stand on either side of the same tree, each bucking the trunk one leg at a time -- Goldie practically moving in slow motion. *

41 GRANNY SMITH *

...And Auntie Applesauce didn't even notice her teeth had fallen out again!

They share a <LAUGH>. Goldie slaps her knee, then gives another slow motion buck. A single apple falls. PAN UP to REVEAL it was knocked out of the tree by Goldie's cats. *

42 GOLDIE DELICIOUS *

Now that reminds me of the time Dottie -- that's my cheetah -- found out where I keep the catnip...

WHIP back on AJ and Big Mac. *

43 APPLEJACK *

I love hearin' her and Granny spinning yarns, but it looks like the harvestin's up to us. *

44 BIG MAC *

Eeyup.

TIGHT ON Applejack as she pushes her baskets to the wagon. *

45 APPLEJACK *

And as much as I'd rather Apple Bloom were helping, I guess there's no harm in her hunting the Great Seedling for a day. As long as her traps don't get in our way, right? *

Big Mac doesn't answer. Applejack turns to see he's fallen asleep against a tree. *

46 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Big Mac!

47 BIG MAC
(STARTS awake)
Wha--!! (MUMBLES)

Big Mac stumbles back a few steps. There's a loud <TWANG>, and he's suddenly JERKED INTO THE AIR by a rope snare that was camouflaged by leaves and branches. He sways back and forth, dangling by his back legs, looking around to try to figure out what happened.

Apple Bloom jumps out from behind a tree, excited.

48 APPLE BLOOM
Gotcha!! (seeing it's Big Mac)
Awww. You ain't the Great Seedling!

49 BIG MAC
Nope.

OFF Applejack, shaking her head...

SC. 5 - EST. SWEET APPLE ACRES - NEXT MORNING

*

The same rooster <CROWS> again as the sun crests the horizon.

50 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Let's go, everypony!

SC. 6 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - SAME

*

Applejack looks to the MAP of the orchard as she herds Granny and Goldie toward the door. Just a few sections of the farm have been CROSSED OFF.

51 APPLEJACK
We fell behind a bit yesterday, so
we need everypony at their best.

Goldie points over Applejack's shoulder.

52 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
If that's your brother's best we
might be done for.

Applejack turns to see Big Mac, eyes bloodshot and dragging his hooves.

53 APPLEJACK
Up late again, huh?

*

54 BIG MAC
Eeyup.

*

Apple Bloom races down the stairs, full of energy.

55 APPLE BLOOM
I couldn't sleep either! I was too
excited. I can't wait to see if I
caught the Great Seedling!!

She zips past Granny and Goldie, hurdles the clump of cats in the doorway, and disappears outside. Applejack turns to Goldie. *

56 APPLEJACK
I hope you're ready to cheer Apple
Bloom up when her traps come up
empty, because it looks like we'll
definitely need her help today. *

57 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Don't count your apple blossoms
before they bloom. What if the
Great Seedling's stuck in one of
them there traps? *

Applejack rolls her eyes, but Apple Bloom suddenly zips back into the house, even more excited than when she left.

58 APPLE BLOOM
Everypony, come quick! You gotta
see!!

Apple Bloom pushes Granny and Goldie through the cats and out the door. Off Applejack and Big Mac sharing an intrigued look and following... *

SC. 7 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - CONTINUOUS *

Applejack and Big Mac catch up to Granny, Goldie and Apple Bloom, who stand across the barnyard at the edge of the orchard.

59 APPLEJACK
What in blazes is all the
excitement about??

60 APPLE BLOOM
Look!!

Apple Bloom points to the ground, where lines of different-colored apples swirl and cross each other in an intricate crop circle-type pattern. Apple Bloom turns to Goldie.

61 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
The Great Seedling did this, didn't he?!

62 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Well, braid my tail! These sure look like Great Seedling tracks to me!

Apple Bloom prances around in excitement.

63 APPLE BLOOM
I knew it! He was here! The Great Seedling was here! Isn't that amazing, Applejack?!

64 APPLEJACK
Yeah, amazing...

OFF Applejack's dumbfounded look...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 8 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - RESUMING

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CLOSE ON the swirling pattern of apples on the ground.

65 APPLE BLOOM (O.S.)
Isn't it beautiful?

GO WIDE to REVEAL Apple Bloom following one path of apples to where it meets another, twirling when she reaches the junction and then prancing back over to the group, excited.

66 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
I just can't believe the Great Seedling was really here!

*

67 APPLEJACK
Neither can I.

68 APPLE BLOOM
(to Goldie)
What do you think this means?

69 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
(mischievous)
Looks to me like a challenge. The Seedling wants you to know he was here and is daring you to catch him!

70 APPLE BLOOM
(excited)
You think I still have a chance?

71 GRANNY SMITH
Of course you do! You're an Apple,
ain't ya?!

72 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Why, if you set enough traps,
you're bound to catch him!

Goldie winks at Apple Bloom, who vibrates with excitement.

73 APPLE BLOOM
You're right! And that's just what
I'm gonna do! Look out, Great
Seedling, here I come!

As Apple Bloom races toward the barn, Applejack turns to the others.

74 APPLEJACK
Goldie Delicious, now why would you
go and do a thing like that?

75 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
A thing like what?

76 APPLEJACK
You know what I mean. We got enough
work to do without you distracting
Apple Bloom by making some apple
tracks and pretending the Great
Seedling did it.

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77 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
I did no such thing!

78 GRANNY SMITH
(to Applejack)
What in tarnation would make you
say a thing like that?

Points to Goldie.

79 APPLEJACK
Well, somepony did it and she sure
seems to be enjoying this quite a
lot.

*

80 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
I'm enjoying it because Apple Bloom's enjoying it! Didn't you see how excited she was?

81 APPLEJACK
(unconvinced)
Uh-huh. (to Granny and Big Mac) And I suppose you two didn't do it either?

*
*
*
*
*

82 BIG MAC
Nope.

83 GRANNY SMITH
A 'course not. (sarcastic) But I suppose it coulda been Goldie's cats. Why doncha ask them?

*
*
*

She points to Goldie's cats, who bat apples on the ground playfully. AJ frowns.

*

84 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Have you considered that maybe it was the Great Seedling after all?

85 APPLEJACK
Very funny.

With that, AJ heads off after Apple Bloom. Granny turns to Goldie.

86 GRANNY SMITH
I swear, sometimes I think she's part mule.

OFF Goldie's smile and Big Mac <CHUCKLING>...

SC. 9 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARN - MOMENTS LATER

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Applejack enters the barn and looks around for Apple Bloom, but doesn't see her anywhere.

87 APPLEJACK
(confused)
Apple Bloom?

Apple Bloom's head pop up behind a bale of hay.

88 APPLE BLOOM
Do you know where there's more rope?
(MORE)

APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)

I've got a lot of traps to make if
I'm gonna catch the Great Seedling!

89 APPLEJACK

That's what I wanted to talk about.
I know you're excited, but we sure
could use your help today. Are you
sure you wanna spend time trying to
catch something that...

*
*
*

(gently)

...might not even be real?

*

90 APPLE BLOOM

What? But the Great Seedling is
real -- you saw the tracks! You
think those appeared all by
themselves?

91 APPLEJACK

I don't know who made the tracks,
but I don't think it was the Great
Seedling.

*

92 APPLE BLOOM

Why not?

93 APPLEJACK

Because the Great Seedling is just
something to make the harvest fun
for youngin's, and you're old
enough now to know that helping
with the harvest is fun all by
itself.

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94 APPLE BLOOM

But catching the Great Seedling is
helping! He can make the trees
blossom all the time!

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*

Applejack sees the look of excitement on her sister's face
and gives in.

*
*

95 APPLEJACK

Alright. How about this? If you
help me with the harvest today,
I'll help you set traps for the
Great Seedling tonight. Deal?

*

96 APPLE BLOOM

You will? For real?!

(off AJ's nod)

WOO-HOOOO! Yes, it's a deal!

OFF the sisters, smiling as they bump hooves...

SC. 10 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - DAY

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PAN ACROSS a row of treetops until we hear a <WHAM> and one tree SHAKES violently, dropping all of its apples. DROP DOWN as they fall, filling Applejack's basket.

In the BG, Big Mac carries baskets to the wagon, while Granny and Goldie take turns bucking the same tree again.

*

*

A few of AJ's apples fall over the side of her basket and clump together. She looks to Apple Bloom and points at them.

97 APPLEJACK
Kinda looks like those Seedling
"tracks," huh?

98 APPLE BLOOM
(rolls her eyes)
Sure, if there were hundreds of
apples in a bunch of different
lines.

99 APPLEJACK
Well, if enough apples fell, or got
knocked down -- by the wind, maybe,
or animals --

100 APPLE BLOOM
And then the animals sorted them
all by color, I s'pose??

101 APPLEJACK
I'm just saying there's a lot of
possible explanations.

102 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
And one of them is the Great
Seedling!

103 APPLEJACK
And the rest of them ain't.

104 GRANNY SMITH
That's not what you thought when
you was a foal.

Apple Bloom looks from Applejack to Granny Smith.

105 APPLE BLOOM
What does that mean?

106 GRANNY SMITH
Why, yer sister was plum loco about
catching the Great Seedling when
she was yer age, same as you are
now. Worse, even.

Applejack BLUSHES. Enjoying this, Goldie goads Granny on.

107 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Is that so?? Do tell, Granny.

108 GRANNY SMITH
(to Apple Bloom)
Musta been the last time the
Confluence happened. I was s'posed
to keep an eye on your sister, but
she was slipperier than an apple
seed...

Everything GOES WAVY and we...

SC. 11 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

CLOSE ON YOUNG APPLEJACK, excitement lighting up her face as
she races **into** a row of trees. WIDEN OUT to find YOUNGER
GRANNY SMITH **calling after** her, trying to keep up.

109 YOUNGER GRANNY SMITH
Applejack! Get your flank back
here. **You're** s'posed to be sorting
in the barn!

110 YOUNG APPLEJACK
(calling back)
Sorry Granny, I gotta check my
traps or the Great Seedling might
get away!

Young AJ **gallops off alone, then** pulls up **and looks** around,
confused.

111 YOUNG APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Now, where'd I put **that trap**?

**Young AJ steps forward and stops, then cautiously backs up --
and instantly falls into a pit covered with leaves.**

Moments later, Younger Granny comes trotting into frame.

112 YOUNGER GRANNY SMITH
(muttering to herself)
Now where'd that youngin' get to?

As Younger **Granny** trots **past**, everything GOES WAVY and we... *

SC. 12 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - RESUMING *

Granny finishes her story as Goldie and Apple Bloom smile at a chagrined Applejack. *

113 GRANNY SMITH
She spent the better half of the
day stuck in that trap. *

114 APPLEJACK
And missed out on helping with the
harvest because I was chasing
something for little foals. I felt
guilty everypony else had to work
harder because of me, so I decide
right then and there it was time to
grow up. *

115 GRANNY SMITH
(waves dismissively)
Aw, we finished the harvest just
fine, but we laughed about that
story for years. *

116 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
<CHUCKLES> **I'm** still laughing! *

Apple Bloom turns to her sister, **understanding**. *

117 APPLE BLOOM
I'm sorry that happened Applejack,
but it won't if you and me set
traps together like you promised.
Plus we'll get 'em done twice as
fast and won't miss out on any of
the harvest! *

Off AJ's widening smile as she has to admit Apple Bloom's
right... *

SC. 13 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - VARIOUS - MONTAGE *

In a series of shots we watch as the sisters prepare to capture the Great Seedling:

- APPLEJACK - ties off a rope that disappears into the trees,
then shows Apple Bloom how to check the tension.

- APPLE BLOOM - works on her own version, but as she tests the tension, the trap is sprung, causing a BRANCH to fly toward Apple Bloom, who ducks just in time, then looks up at Applejack sheepishly. *

- APPLEJACK - places the last leafy branch over a pit. As she and Apple Bloom watch, a small woodland creature races away from something across the leaves. Goldie's cats ENTER FRAME, chasing after the creature, and they PLOP unceremoniously into the pit. The girls rush over and stare into the pit, trying not to laugh. *

- APPLE BLOOM - carefully sets a rope snare down, then jumps behind a tree, joining Applejack. As the two girls peer out, Goldie Delicious walks through frame and over the rope without incident.

CLOSE on the girls as they exchange confused looks. A WOOOSH from off-screen draws their attention back and we REVEAL -- Big Mac, hanging upside down from the rope, glaring at them. *

As the two sisters roll on the ground LAUGHING we...

END MONTAGE

SC. 14 - EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT *

Applejack and Apple Bloom make their way to the house, still laughing.

118 APPLE BLOOM
It sure was fun setting up all those traps together.

119 APPLEJACK
I forgot what a good time it could be. (kidding) If any two ponies can catch the Great Seedling it's us. *

120 APPLE BLOOM
I can't wait to check in the morning. *

AJ turns to her sister. *

121 APPLEJACK
Now, there's still plenty of harvesting to do, so promise me you'll help, even if all our traps are empty. *

122 APPLE BLOOM

I promise-- so long as you're ready
for the bountiful harvest **The Great**
Seedling's gonna give us when **one**
of our traps nabs him!

*
*
*

123 APPLEJACK

Deal.

OFF AJ, tousling her sister's mane as they head inside, HOLD
ON the farmhouse as NIGHT RAPIDLY TURNS TO DAY...

SC. 15 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARM - NEXT MORNING

*

The rooster <CROWS> again, but this time Applejack and Apple
Bloom are already rushing outside, Apple Bloom excitedly
leading the way back to the orchard.

124 APPLE BLOOM

Come on, Applejack! If we hurry we
can check every trap and still stay
on schedule.

Applejack has **Big Mac's** MAP of the orchard and starts to
unroll it to check their progress.

*

125 APPLEJACK

(impressed)

Now that's what I like to hea--

(sees something)

Whoa!!

The two of them stop short at the edge of the orchard again,
looking awestruck. REVERSE to show that yesterday's "Seedling
tracks" have multiplied exponentially -- intricate colored
patterns of apples up and down as many rows as we can show.

126 APPLE BLOOM

I don't believe it!

Apple Bloom races off as Granny, Goldie and Big Mac approach,
all looking equally stunned at the tracks.

*

127 GOLDIE DELICIOUS

This must've taken all night!

128 BIG MAC

Eeyup!

AJ just stares, speechless, as Apple Bloom returns.

*

129 APPLE BLOOM

Nothin'!

130 APPLEJACK
(not following)
Huh?

131 APPLE BLOOM
I checked all the traps near the
tracks. Every one was sprung, but
they're all empty!

132 APPLEJACK
(thinking to herself)
Every trap sprung. No way critters
did this. Or the wind.
(revelation dawning)
I can't believe I'm saying this,
but... maybe the Great Seedling
really **was here!**

*
*

OFF the whole family turning to look at AJ in shock...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 16 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - RESUMING

*

**As the family stares at Applejack, Goldie steps forward with
a smile.**

*
*

133 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
So, you're finally ready to admit
the Great Seedling might be real?

*
*
*

Sill stunned, Applejack points to the Seedling tracks that
crisscross the orchard.

*

134 APPLEJACK
I can't think of anything else that
coulda laid out these tracks and
sprung all our traps.

*

135 APPLE BLOOM
I told ya! And if he left this many
tracks behind, he's practically
beggin' us to catch him.

Granny looks around, overwhelmed.

*

136 GRANNY SMITH
I ain't never seen anything like
this before.

*
*
*

137 APPLEJACK

(manic)

Well, tell us what you have seen,
Goldie you too. We need to know it
all if we're really gonna catch
him!

*

*

138 GRANNY SMITH

If you wanna hear about the Great
Seedling, Goldie and I can talk
about him all day while we work!

*

*

*

139 APPLEJACK

Work?? Apple Boom and I don't have
time to work today -- We've gotta
set up traps in every row!! Even
the carrots, just to be sure!

*

Everypony pulls up short at this. Even Apple Bloom is
surprised.

140 APPLE BLOOM

Yesterday you said the Great
Seedling was just something to make
the harvest fun for youngin's.

*

*

*

141 APPLEJACK

(with growing excitement)

That was before I thought we could
actually catch him.

(off Apple Blooms's
uncertain look)

Besides...

*

*

*

*

*

*

Applejack rushes over to where she left the MAP, scoops it
up, then drops it open in front of a YAWNING Big Mac. Several
more sections of the farm are crossed off, but there are
several more to go.

*

142 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

...Big Mac, can make time in the
schedule for us to set traps,
right?

*

*

143 BIG MAC

Uh... Eeyup?

144 APPLEJACK

Great. Get to it. Apple Bloom and I
are gonna go catch us the Great
Seedling!

OFF the other's looks of shock as she and Apple Bloom rush
off...

SC. 17 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - DAY

*

Apple Bloom follows Applejack out from one of the rows where Big Mac stands with his map. Granny and Goldie buck an appleless tree in the BG.

*

*

145 APPLEJACK
All right! Just one more hill of trap settin' to go.

The two of them stop short as they walk up to Big Mac, who looks down at the map, confused.

146 APPLE BLOOM
What's wrong, Big Mac?

*

Applejack looks over his shoulder.

147 APPLEJACK
Is this right?

148 BIG MAC
Eeyup.

AJ takes the map and looks at a section that hasn't been crossed off. She looks up to the corresponding trees to see they're totally bare.

149 APPLEJACK
But that doesn't make any sense.
How can all these trees be bare if we haven't bucked 'em yet?

*

Goldie and Granny amble up.

150 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Seems like more work of the Great Seedling to me.

151 APPLE BLOOM
How'd ya mean?

152 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
The closer you get to catchin' the critter, the more mischievous he gets.

153 APPLEJACK
You're sayin' the Great Seedling is taking our apples?

154 GRANNY SMITH
Sounds to me like he's trying to throw you off the scent!

155 APPLE BLOOM
Well, it ain't gonna work!

As Big Mac walks up and down the rows comparing the map to the trees, AJ turns to Goldie.

156 APPLEJACK
Have you ever heard of anypony actually catching him?

157 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
There are stories, but it's hard to say for sure. He's quite the trickster. Guess that's why the reward is so great if you can trap him.

*
*

158 APPLEJACK
Well, his tricks have given me an idea!

*
*

(off AB's look)
Setting traps is one thing, but I reckon if we keep watch over the trees that haven't been bucked, the Seedling won't know what hit him.

159 APPLE BLOOM
That's a great idea! (to the others) What do you say? Anypony else wanna stay up with us?

Granny and Goldie shake their heads.

160 GRANNY SMITH
An old pony like me needs her beauty rest, but you young 'uns have a good time.

161 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
My kitties can't sleep unless they're curled up on my haunches, but I can't wait to see the Great Seedling with my own eyes, once you catch him!

*
*

They look over to Big Mac to find him passed out under a tree, snoring, the map laying over his head. Applejack turns to her sister.

162 APPLEJACK
Guess it's just you and me!

OFF Applejack and Apple Bloom sharing an excited smile...

SC. 18 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - EVENING

*

PAN ACROSS the barnyard -- every inch covered in trip wires, pits, snares and traps of all sorts -- to FIND Applejack and Apple Bloom peeking over top of one of the sheds, their faces covered in camo paint.

163 APPLE BLOOM

Too bad nopony else wanted to come out. But I'm glad we're doing this together.

She hunkers down into her sleeping bag and peers around as Applejack nods.

164 APPLEJACK

I'm glad too. It's been too long since I was on a real Seedling hunt.

165 APPLE BLOOM

<YAWNS> When was the first time you tried to catch the Great Seedling?

166 APPLEJACK

(thinks)

Shucks, I couldn't've been much more than a foal. I remember our parents tuckin' Big Mac and me in and telling us all about the Great Seedling. And I got so excited I could barely sleep, so I--

167 APPLE BLOOM

<SNORING SOFTLY>

Applejack turns to see that the excitement of the day caught up with Apple Bloom. She pulls the sleeping bag up and tucks her little sister in.

168 APPLEJACK

Don't worry, **sugar cube**, I won't let him get away.

*

*

OFF Applejack, scanning the perimeter intently...

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 19 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - NIGHT

*

The moon is higher and it shines down on both Apple sisters fast asleep in their sleeping bags. That is, until a <THWIP> from below causes Applejack to JERK AWAKE.

169 APPLEJACK
Whazzat?!

She looks around and realizes where she is, then ducks down and scours the ground as she SHAKES Apple Bloom awake.

170 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Apple Bloom! Wake up!

171 APPLE BLOOM
(normal voice)
Huh? What's going on?

Applejack covers her sister's mouth.

172 APPLEJACK
(whispering)
Shh!! A trap went off!

*

Apple Bloom's eyes go wide. Applejack takes her hoof away.

173 APPLE BLOOM
(nervous)
What do we do?

174 APPLEJACK
(also nervous)
We go check it!

*

Off Apple Bloom's nervous face as AJ climbs down slowly...

SC. 20 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - MOMENTS LATER

*

Applejack and Apple Bloom creep through the trees, trying to look in every direction at once.

175 APPLE BLOOM
(whispering)
See anything?

176 APPLEJACK
(softly)
Uh-uh.

A LOUD <WHACK> sounds from ahead, and they see a STRANGE SHADOW CROSS a few rows up. Apple Bloom starts to SCREAM, but AJ covers her mouth.

*

*

177 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Don't scare him off. We gotta get him into one of the traps.
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

You go that way and I'll get him
from this side.

178 APPLE BLOOM

(panicked whisper)

I'm not going anywhere by myself!

Applejack sees how scared her sister is just as there's
another <WHACK> right behind them. They turn, startled.

179 APPLEJACK

He must'a circled around!

180 APPLE BLOOM

THE GREAT SEEDLING'S HUNTING US!

With that, Apple Bloom bolts. Applejack runs after her.

181 APPLEJACK

Apple Bloom! Wait!

Apple Bloom rushes through the rows, narrowly avoiding one of
her own covered pits. Unfortunately, she side-steps right
onto a SNARE and gets hoisted into the air.

As she bobs up and down there's another <WHACK> as a huge
shadow passes by in the next row.

182 APPLE BLOOM

APPLEJACK!!!

Applejack suddenly bursts through the trees and manages to
get Apple Bloom down as the shadow behind the rows moves
closer -- rustling the leaves.

183 APPLEJACK

Come on!

The two of them take off through the row, tripping and
stumbling their way until they are finally free of the tress,
falling in the dirt of the barnyard.

Apple Bloom looks back in horror at the still rustling trees.

184 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

LOOK!

Applejack turns back as a SHADOW steps out of the rustling
trees and into the moonlight, REVEALING... it's Big Mac!

185 BIG MAC

<SNORING>

Sleepwalking, their brother drags ropes and nets from several
sprung traps behind him. *

186 APPLEJACK/APPLE BLOOM
Big Mac?!

The girls stare, confused, as the still sleeping Big Mac
walks up to a tree and bucks it-- apples falling down into
the over-flowing baskets strapped to his sides. *

As he continues by, the apples drop behind him, leaving a
trail in his wake. The girls stare down at the trail and
realize this is where the "Seedling Tracks" came from. *

187 APPLEJACK
He's been sleep harvesting this
whole time.

188 APPLE BLOOM
BIG MAC IS THE GREAT SEEDLING?!

Big Mac STARTS AWAKE at this, confused beyond belief to find
himself outside with a net on his head.

189 BIG MAC
Wha-- Ahhh!!

He STUMBLES several steps as he tries to shake off the net,
but springs yet another trap, this one a branch that SWINGS
OUT and PINS him to the trunk of a tree, knocking apples
everywhere. The girls rush up.

190 APPLEJACK
(trying not to laugh)
You okay, Big Mac?

191 BIG MAC
(not happy)
Nope.

OFF Applejack and Apple Bloom, losing their composure and
LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY...

MATCHCUT TO:

SC. 21 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - PORCH - NEXT *

Granny and Goldie sit in rockers, also LAUGHING as Apple
Bloom, Applejack, and the now-able-to-laugh Big Mac finish
relating the story to them. Granny SLAPS her knee as Goldie's
cats nervously navigate the fast-moving rockers. *

192 GRANNY SMITH
I'll say one thing. Harvesting in
your sleep is about the Applest
thing a pony could do!

193 APPLEJACK
And thanks to all of Big Mac's late
night work, we brought in the whole
harvest with time to spare!

*
*
*
*

194 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
No wonder you were so tired all the
time!

195 BIG MAC
Eeyup!

196 APPLE BLOOM
I'm glad we solved the mystery, but
I'm a little disappointed too. I
really wanted to catch the Great
Seedling before I get too old to
try.

*
*
*
*

Applejack smiles at her sister.

197 APPLEJACK
Well, Apple Bloom, if I've learned
anything its that you're never too
old to be a filly. The harvest
isn't going anywhere, and there'll
always be work to do, but the time
you spend having fun together, why,
that never gets old!

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Everypony smiles as Goldie stands and starts off, her cats
climbing up her and jostling for position on her back.

*
*

198 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Well, looks like you don't need me
anymore. Time to get home before
Dottie gets in the catnip again.

*

AJ puts Goldie's carpet bag on her back and the cats leap in.
The others follow as they head down the steps.

*
*

199 APPLEJACK
We're real glad you came, Goldie.

200 APPLE BLOOM
Sure are! Come back next year!

Goldie looks at the barnyard, back to normal except for...

201 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Looks like you forgot to clean up
the carrots.

202 APPLEJACK
(confused)
Big Mac wasn't harvesting the
carrots. Just the apples.

The others look over quizzically. Sure enough, there's a sprung trap (an empty net) at the end of the row of carrots, and several carrots have been uprooted and laid out in an intricate "Seedling Track" design.

Applejack and Apple Bloom look at Big Mac, who shrugs, then look at each other, beaming with excitement.

203 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
You know what this means??

204 APPLE BLOOM
Time for another hunt!!

*

205 APPLEJACK
Look out Great Seedling. Here we
come!

*

*

GO WIDE as Applejack and Apple Bloom race off to the carrots, excited. As the rest of the Apple Family look on we...

FADE OUT

END