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MY LITTLE PONY

Season 9

I Want to Believe

EP 910

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Premise: November 17th, 2017

I WANT TO BELIEVE

Premise by Dave Rapp

***Logline:** When mysterious crop circles start appearing at Sweet Apple Acres, Applejack believes it's the work of apple orchard spirits, the Greenies. But when Applejack's obsession with the spirits start to affect the harvest, Rarity steps in to help.*

It's early morning at Sweet Apple Acres, and Applejack rousts Apple Bloom and a groggy Big Mac out of bed – it's harvest time, and they've gotta bust their haunches to buck enough trees to have the first shipment of Zap Apples ready for jamming by the time Granny gets back from the apple trade fair. But before Big Mac can even get his yoke on, an astonished Apple Bloom drags her big sister over to her bedroom window. Looking down behind the house, Applejack sees a HUGE, INTRICATE DESIGN (think: crop circles) on the ground, cut out of the grass and trees.

No pony knows what the formation is, what (or who) made it, and, most importantly, what it means. When Rarity stops by to check on her order of Zap Apple Jam, she is more than willing to help solve the mystery—as Shadow Spade! But AJ quickly shuts her down. This isn't one of Rarity's made up, convoluted mystery stories, this is a real farm issue. Concerned the circles may be a sign of some sort of harmful magic, Applejack brings in Twilight Sparkle to check. Twilight shows up with a stack of magic reference books, but can't find anything that matches the design. She casts a few spells in an effort to determine what it might be, but without success. Still concerned, Applejack brings in Zecora to see if there is some sort of Earth or plant magic at work, but Zecora is stumped as well. Apple Bloom reminds Applejack that Granny will be home soon and the Zap Apples won't be ripe for long. They really need to hurry up with the harvest, but Applejack can't let it go – something is going on here and she's worried about what it might be. Again, Rarity offers to have Shadow Spade look into it, but when AJ spots a critter sniffing around the edge of the design, she thinks maybe the forest animals are to blame and decides to consult Fluttershy. Unfortunately, Fluttershy quickly learns that her animal friends were all asleep, and were just as surprised as Applejack to wake up to the pattern in the field. Stymied, Applejack concedes that they may have to start the harvest without knowing what's going on. Rarity pleads with AJ to let her investigate and just as AJ is about to relent, Granny returns home and reveals they won't be needing Shadow Spade's services. There's no mystery, the strange crop circles have a very simple explanation. They are the work of Greenies!

Granny Smith explains that Greenies are sprites that live in apple orchards. They can get really attached to a grove of trees, and when they do, they mark them with designs like these. If any pony picks an apple from a tree that's been marked, the Greenies get angry and curse the tree, which will never bear fruit again. But legend has it if you can catch a Greenie, it'll give you the power to make the trees bloom eternally in exchange for letting it go. Apple Bloom admits the idea seems a little far-fetched, and Rarity agrees, but Applejack remembers Granny telling her this story when she was a foal and becomes obsessed by the idea. She also reckons that Sweet Apple Acres could be the busiest orchard in Equestria if the trees were always in bloom. Rarity points out that the Greenie

legend seems way more convoluted and made up than any mystery Shadow Spade ever solved, but AJ isn't hearing it. "That's totally different." In an effort to prove it, AJ convinces Rarity to help her set up Greenie traps around the orchard. Rarity is happy to humor her friend and lend a hoof, even if she thinks the legend is a bit silly. Of course their traps turn up empty and when more designs show up the next day, Applejack refuses to harvest any apples, lest she anger the Greenies. Concerned AJ's obsession could ruin the Zap Apple harvest, Rarity tries to remind her friend of her responsibilities to the farm, her family, and the ponies who are expecting the jam they ordered, but Applejack is consumed with her goal of catching a Greenie and tells Rarity that if she were really a friend, she'd support Applejack and help her set more traps.

Rarity starts to worry that Applejack has gone over the edge and talks to Apple Bloom about ways they might bring her back. Apple Bloom agrees that Applejack's behavior is a problem, and she and Rarity decide to stage a Greenie Believer intervention. But when the time comes they find Applejack out in the orchard, her face painted and sporting a homemade apple headdress, performing an intricate "summoning dance" Granny Smith told her about, that must be done when the moon is at its peak. Looks like the intervention is off since AJ is too busy chanting to hear it. Finally, Granny Smith appears wondering what all the commotion is. When she sees what AJ is up to she has to laugh. She admits the Greenie legend isn't real. It's just an old mare's tale farmers use to keep foals from picking fruit before it's ripe. She doesn't know what caused the crop circles, but she knows it *weren't no Greenies!* Applejack stares at Granny aghast. Embarrassed, she can't believe she let an old legend consume her like that, she's usually so down to earth. Rarity admits that one of the things she admires most about Applejack is her level head, but she also loves her passion for the farm. It's understandable how her one blind spot would be for that. AJ admits that when it comes to the farm, she can be obsessive and impulsive. As Rarity and Applejack make amends, Apple Bloom discovers the real source of the mysterious designs – it's Big Mac! He's been plowing and grazing in his sleep. Rarity wants to wake Big Mac, but Applejack still has a little mischief left in her, and tells her to let him go – his sleep farming designs do look pretty cool after all.