

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
It's the Great Seedling, Applejack
EP 910
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Premise V2: November 27th, 2017

It's the Great Seedling, Applejack

Premise V2 by Dave Rapp

Logline: When Apple Bloom decides to stay up before the harvest to see the Great Seedling, Applejack tells her it's just an old mare's tale. But after proof of a Great Seedling visitation appears, AJ sets out to prove the legend is just a myth.

When Applejack discovers Rarity helping Apple Bloom design an outfit to welcome the "Great Seedling" to Sweet Apple acres, she berates her friend for indulging her sister's belief in an old mare's tale. Apple Bloom should be sleeping the night before the harvest starts, not getting dressed up to wait in the orchard for some made up legend to visit and bless their farm with a good crop. A good harvest comes from hard work, which you can't do without plenty of sleep. Rarity points to Big Mac sleeping in a stack of hay. It looks as though he's getting enough sleep for all of them.

Applejack asks Apple Bloom why the sudden interest in the Great Seedling, and her sister admits she didn't even know about the legend until Granny Smith told her about it. As Apple Bloom recounts Granny's tale we learn the Great Seedling is a magical plant creature that visits worthy farms and the mark she leaves behind ensures a bountiful harvest. Apple Bloom can't believe how lucky they've been all this time without officially welcoming the Great Seedling. But this season she doesn't want to take any chances and has a proper welcome planned. Worried that Apple Bloom's plans will take attention away from the harvest and concerned that Granny's been filling her sister's head with nonsense, AJ tells her that the Great Seedling isn't real. Disappointed, Apple Bloom packs up her things and calls off her plans. Rarity confronts Applejack and demands to know why she spoiled her sister's fun. Even if the Great Seedling is made up, what's so horrible about thinking it's real? AJ explains that believing in something that isn't true feels like a lie and besides, they all need to be pitching in to get ready for the harvest. She points to an exhausted Big Mac, who's clearly been trying to do all the work himself. Granny Smith declares Applejack an old fuddy-duddy. She was just trying to get Apple Bloom excited for the harvest. Granny comforts Apple Bloom explaining that she's certain the Great Seedling will appreciate her efforts, despite her older sister's interference. Apple Bloom appreciates it, but knows her sister would never lie. As disappointed as she is, she's convinced the Great Seedling isn't real. But the next morning as they are about to start the harvest, the whole family stops to gape at an intricate design laid out in apples in the orchard (think: crop circle). It's the mark of the Great Seedling!

Apple Bloom is beside herself. The Great Seedling is real after all! Hoping it's not too late to continue with the welcoming plans, she runs off to resume her preparations. Applejack, on the other hand, assumes that either Rarity or one of the other Apple's made the "apple circle." She immediately heads to Rarity's shop since intricate designs are right up her alley and she also made it pretty clear she thought Apple Bloom should go right on believing in the Great Seedling. Applejack's suspicions are further confirmed when she discovers Rarity has continued working on Apple

Bloom's Great Seedling welcoming outfit. Rarity admits that she simply couldn't let a good design go to waste, besides Apple Bloom might find another use for the clothes. But as far as the apple circle goes, Rarity was home working on the outfit all night (as Sweetie Belle can attest), so she couldn't have made the apple circle. Applejack asks Rarity if she'll help her investigate as Shadow Spade, but Rarity refuses. She doesn't know where the "apple circle" came from but she thinks it's grand and isn't about to ruin things for Apple Bloom. Undeterred, Applejack decides to run her own investigation as her own made up investigative persona "Cider Core." She interviews Granny first, but Granny explains that she's just as surprised as the rest of them. She admits she isn't inclined to help AJ disprove things, but she's too old to be traipsing around the orchard in the middle of the night dropping apples in the dirt. AJ goes on to question Big Mac, but he's in such a sleepy daze going about his chores, he can barely focus on her questions. AJ tries to enlist his help in her investigations, but in a series of comedic scenes, his exhaustion proves to be a liability. Not wanting to lend any aid to the endeavor, but unable to take any more of Cider Core's "investigation," Rarity can't help but point out several obvious lines of inquiry (everything from the wind, to animals). AJ realizes Rarity is right and as Apple Bloom sets out to camp in the orchard to welcome the Great Seedling, AJ goes about setting up preventative measures for every possible cause. Unfortunately the next morning Apple Bloom shouts and cheers. Her welcoming was a success as now the apple circles litter the entire orchard.

Now it's Applejack who is beside herself and as her friends and family continue to maintain their ignorance as to the goings on, her anxiety only grows. Before long, the entire farm is a network of trip wires and traps designed to capture who or what is pretending to be the Great Seedling. And when Rarity points out that Applejack's actions are interrupting the harvest in the same way Applejack feared Apple Bloom's belief in the Great Seedling would, a harried Applejack swears she will not stop until the mystery is solved. Seeing how unhinged her sister has become, Apple Bloom decides to give up her belief in the Great Seedling, admitting that any one of Rarity's explanations could be the cause and adding that she never really believed that a mysterious, magical plant creature visited the farm at night – but it was fun to pretend. With that, Apple Bloom puts everything away and prepares to help with the harvest in earnest. Applejack comes to her senses and, in a heart to heart with Rarity, admits she feels bad for taking the Great Seedling away from her little sister. Rarity suggests that maybe it's not so important that it be proved one way or the other and Applejack agrees. Reconciling with Apple Bloom, AJ apologizes and confesses that she doesn't know what's causing the "apple circles," but she definitely can't prove it's not the Great Seedling. The two of them bond by camping out in the orchard to wait for the magical creature, and as they fall asleep we see Big Mac, sleep harvesting in the background. As he wanders around the orchard, apples fall from his cart creating more "apple circle" designs.