

MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9
Growing Up Is Hard to Do
EP 922
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Premise: March 28th, 2018
Outline: April 12th, 2018

GROWING UP IS HARD TO DO

Outline by Ed Valentine

Logline: *When the Cutie Mark Crusaders are magically transformed into grown-up ponies, they travel on their own to a County Fair where they discover that growing up the right way means gaining experience and wisdom that simply can't be rushed.*

TEASER**SC. 1 – EXT. TRAIN STATION – DAY**

It's a beautiful morning! As everypony's bustling about to start to the day, a very excited SCOOTALOO, APPLE BLOOM, and SWEETIE BELLE arrive at the Ponyville train station. Apple Bloom holds a flyer about a county fair just outside of Dodge City. The Cutie Mark Crusaders are planning to go and spend the day there, taking in all the fun: there'll be animal shows, carnival rides, and all types of food on a stick (something Scootaloo is most excited about).

But just as the train arrives and they're about to board, APPLEJACK spots them and asks where they think they're going – and when they explain their plans, AJ tells them they're too young to go on a train on their own. Apple Bloom insists that they're plenty old enough, to which AJ responds that when *she* was just a foal, she thought she was ready to travel on her own – and it took her until she was older to realize that she really hadn't been ready. The CMCs say that they were *really* hoping to go, but AJ says she's going to be busy today and can't take them. To the Crusaders' disappointment, they realize they'll have to stay in Ponyville and miss the fair.

SC. 2 – INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER – SAME

To help themselves feel better about missing the fair, the CMCs are about to buy all sorts of sweets from MRS. CAKE, when PINKIE PIE and RARITY pop in. Rarity tells them they just can't eat whatever they want and Pinkie points out that as good as all that stuff tastes, eating it all at once will definitely mess with their dental hygiene. Scootaloo says they're plenty old enough to decide what they want to eat and when, but Rarity tells them they'll understand when they're older to be careful with their teeth. “But we're still hungry!” says Scootaloo. Mrs. Cake offers them a savoy asparagus pie.

SC. 3 – EXT. PATH NEAR THE FOREST – SAME

On the way to their clubhouse, the CMCs find FLUTTERSHY trying to tame a basilisk, and they offer to help - but Fluttershy warns them that a basilisk needs an older, more experienced trainer. When the CMCs once again protest that they're more capable than everypony thinks, Fluttershy cautions them that it took her years to figure out how to deal with this particular type of beast. (As if to prove her point, the basilisk spits sizzling venom and almost hits the CMCs. “Now, Basil, we talked about this: No spitting!” says Fluttershy.)

SC. 4 – INT. TWILIGHT’S CASTLE – SAME

Frustrated, the CMCs ask if maybe TWILIGHT could take them to the fair—even though they could totally go on their own. Unfortunately, Twilight has an important task to do for Celestia and just then RAINBOW DASH zooms in through the window with a package. Turns out Celestia sent a mysterious magical artifact to Twilight for safe keeping. No pony knows what it does, and until Starswirl can check it out, it’s best left with Twilight and her friends. Eager for something to do, the CMCs offer to help test it, but Twilight warns them that it could be dangerous so it’s best left to the grownups.

Twilight and Dash leave to find a secure location within the Castle. Left alone and super annoyed, Sweetie Belle says she’s tired of everypony telling them that they’re not old enough to do stuff, and wishes that the three of them were all grown-up. Her hoof happens to be on the artifact at the moment she makes the wish, and POOF! The artifact glows – and all three CMCs are suddenly transformed into older versions of themselves! Shocked, Sweetie Belle says “Um, I think we maybe just figured out what this thing does.”

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 5 – INT. CASTLE – DAY**

Resume on the CMCs magically older—they can’t believe their luck! Apple Bloom thinks they better tell Twilight what happened right away, but Scootaloo has a better idea. After all, they got their wish, shouldn’t they make the most of it? The others agree, and hurry out before Dash and Twilight come back and see them.

SC. 6 – MONTAGE - PONYVILLE VARIOUS LOCATIONS – SAME

In a MONTAGE, the CMCs SING A SONG: “BIGGER IS BETTER” about how awesome it is to be older, and try all the things they couldn’t do when they were little – (including dancing on a giant floor piano, in homage to the movie “*Big*”).

SC. 7 – EXT. CAROUSEL BOUTIQUE – SAME

The delighted CMCs walk past the Carousel Boutique where a pony mistakes Sweetie Belle for Rarity. When another one mistakes Apple Bloom for Applejack, the foals pretend that they are indeed their older sisters. But when Scootaloo sees the REAL Rarity and Applejack approaching, they realize they’d better skedaddle before they get discovered and busted.

Behind the Boutique, Sweetie Belle says that was too close for comfort. They'd better get out of Ponyville so they can keep the fun of being grownups going. Apple Bloom has an idea: now that they're grownups, why don't they go on their own to the Fair in Dodge City like they wanted to in the first place? CUT TO:

SC. 8 – INT. TRAIN – SAME

Quick beat on the train, where the CMCs do whatever they want “Because we're grownups!” They run around wildly, sit wherever they want, stick their heads out window... The CONDUCTOR thinks they're crazy.

SC. 9 – EXT. DODGE CITY FAIR – SAME

In Dodge City, the CMCs enjoy the fair as the older ponies they now appear to be: Sweetie Belle's magic is strong enough to swing the hammer at a “test of strength” booth, Apple Bloom is now tall enough to go on any of the rides, and Scootaloo is buying up all the food on a stick she wants without anyone telling her she can't eat it. “Being a grownup... is... AMAZING!” she says with her mouth full.

SC. 10 – EXT. ANIMAL TENT – SAME

The happy and supposedly adult CMCs wander through the animal showcase tent as at a 4-H fair, looking at all the animals about to be judged for blue ribbons: prize pigs, different varieties of chickens, lambs with rainbow-colored wool. The last spot in the tent is claimed by folksy old UNCLE CRITTER (think Andy Griffith) who drops two foals off at the fair: they're his nephew SPUR, and Spur's best friend BISCUIT. Spur has brought his exotic pet to show off in hopes of winning a prize: the animal is an adorable, furry little critter the foal has named “Blooferpoofer” (or “BLOOFY” for short).

The CMCs overhear as Uncle Critter wishes the foals good luck, saying he hopes the creature will win a blue ribbon – but reminds Spur not to let Bloofy out of its cage. It's never been away from the farm and they just don't know how it will react.

But as soon as Uncle Critter leaves for home, shy little Spur and brash, confident Biscuit get into a disagreement. Despite Uncle Critter's warning, Biscuit says Spur shouldn't just *show* Bloofy, but should also compete in the animal training competition that has a big prize. Spur says that would be crazy: he's not supposed to take it out of the cage, and anyway all Bloofy does is sleep like a lump. What kind of tricks could it possibly do?

The CMCs huddle and decide that this is obviously a friendship problem, AND it's the perfect opportunity to prove that they don't just look like their sisters, they can act like them too. Since they are much older and much wiser ponies now, they're 100% qualified to solve friendship problems! With that they enthusiastically resolve to butt in and solve this disagreement.

ACT TWO

SC. 11 – EXT. ANIMAL TENT – SAME

Together, the CMCs take charge and break into Spur and Biscuit's conversation: clearly, this is an issue of a lack of confidence on Spur's part! They tell him he can do anything he sets his mind to. (Biscuit: "See? Toldja!") But Spur isn't convinced: he's not sure Bloofy is even trainable. He found the baby critter in the woods and has raised it since then. Moreover, his uncle, a grown up, just told him not to take Bloofy out of its cage. The CMCs persuade Spur and Biscuit to take their advice: after all, they're also grownups, aren't they? But *cool* grownups, who aren't always telling young'uns what to do. And anyway, what harm could it do? Spur is persuaded.

SC. 12 – EXT. BEHIND THE ANIMAL TENT – SAME

In an empty pen tent behind the Animal Tent, the CMCs try to boost Spur's self-assurance. They start with a long list (of course!) of confidence-building exercises as Biscuit urges them on. But when Spur finally puts Bloofy on a leash and tries to get him to follow him around the pen, the sleepy little critter just sits there like a cute, furry little lump. Biscuit, enthusiastic, calls out advice from the sidelines.

SC. 13 – EXT. BEHIND THE ANIMAL TENT – SAME

After a few hours in the hot sun of the CMCs and Biscuit trying to motivate him, Spur gets exasperated. He tells Biscuit that *he* never wanted to try to train Bloofy – SHE wanted this, and if she wants to compete so badly in the training event, she should take over. She says "Maybe I will." "Fine!" "FINE!" Spur trots off sadly.

The CMCs are flummoxed, but have to keep up appearances since they are supposedly grown-up ponies. They decide that maybe if Biscuit shows she can train the critter, it will be the example that Spur needs to see to build up his confidence. Biscuit is all too eager to jump in: turns out she really did want to take over all along – and surprisingly, by bribing Bloofy with Scootaloo's snacks-on-a-stick, she actually *does* get the critter to trot around after her on the leash and do some basic tricks!

SC. 14 – EXT. SHOW ARENA – SAME

Not too much later, with the proud CMCs looking on, Biscuit leads the critter into the small judging arena and starts to show it off, strutting their stuff "Westminster Dog Show"-style. It's going great! The CMCs hoof-bump: they've done it! Being a grown-up is easy...

...but when another contestant's pet goat bleats at Bloofy, the animal, sparked by aggression, turns fiery red – and then undergoes a magical metamorphosis: it grows to an enormous size and sprouts wings, claws, and fangs! The CMCs look on in horror.

ACT THREE

SC. 15 – EXT. SHOW ARENA – SAME

Cute little Bloofy is now fierce and menacing – and with the audience in the arena too shocked to move, Biscuit cowers in the show ring, terrified! She calls for help, and when Sweetie Belle says some grownups should jump in and help Biscuit, Apple Bloom realizes that they're the grownups! It's up to them! So the CMCs jump into the arena to try to lure Bloofy away from Biscuit using Scootaloo's snacks-on-a-stick... but that only causes the transformed Bloofy to chase after Scootaloo.

SC. 16 – EXT. DODGE CITY FAIR – SAME

As Scootaloo flees the arena on her (now ill-fitting) scooter, the monster follows! Now it's loose in the fair, breathing magical fire and wreaking havoc, *Godzilla*-style.

SC. 17 – EXT. DODGE CITY TRAIN STATION – SAME

At the train station on the edge of the fair, The Mane Six step off the train and arrive in town. They've been looking for the CMCs all day and haven't been able to find them anywhere. Applejack pulls out Apple Bloom's flyer and has a feeling the foals ran off to the Dodge City Fair. "But how are we gonna find them?" Dash asks – just as a bunch of panicked ponies gallop past, followed by the fleeing Scootaloo... followed by the rampaging Bloofy. Pinkie: "Either that grown pony riding Scootaloo's scooter is a relative, or we just found them."

Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom rush up to the Mane 6, happy to see them and begging for their help – but the older ponies are confused by their grown-up guise. "Who are you, again?" In a flurry, the foals confess what they've done: they were magically transformed into grownups, and were really, really having fun being grownups, and they tried to solve a problem like grownups... but it turns out that being grownups is much, much harder than they ever would have thought!

Twilight says they'll talk about this later, but first they'd better save the town. Luckily, Fluttershy sees the Bloofy, recognizes the species, and knows just what to do: she says that this kind of rare animal typically makes a tight bond with whoever nurtures it at a very young age, and that pony, and that pony alone, can get the critter to calm down and return to its normal resting state. Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom know they have to get Spur back. Biscuit rushes up and says she may just know where to find her best buddy.

SC. 18 – EXT. DODGE CITY MAIN ROAD – SAME

Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Biscuit gallop off at high speed to catch up with Spur, who they find loping home sadly, unaware of the mayhem at the fair. Out of breath, they ask Spur to come back – Bloofy needs him! But Spur is hurt: "Now you want me to help? I didn't seem to matter at all before." Biscuit apologizes to Spur for taking over, and they

quickly explain why they need him. Alarmed, Spur takes off toward town with Biscuit right behind. Apple Bloom turns to Sweetie Belle, guess they've taught him confidence after all!

SC. 19 – EXT. DODGE CITY COUNTY FAIR – SAME

The transformed Bloofy is closing in on Scootaloo while the Mane 6 try to head the monster off... but Spur arrives just in time! Seeing his owner, Bloofy grows calm and placid, returning to his ordinary, cuddly state just as Fluttershy promised.

SC. 20 – EXT. DODGE CITY COUNTY FAIR – SAME

A little later, Spur has Bloofy safely back in the cage – and surprisingly, the critter even won the “Most Exotic Animal” blue ribbon! As the townsponies clean up from the mayhem in the background, the Mane 6 confront the CMCs and ask if they have anything to say for themselves. The CMCs reprise their SONG (or not), now singing about how it's not all that great to be grownups, and “Bigger Isn't Always Better.”

Led by Twilight, the Mane 6 remind the foals that they don't have to rush growing up – they're good at plenty of things right now - like helping ponies discover their purpose! - and that in time they'll get better at lots of other things, too. Some things just take wisdom and time to learn.

The CMCs totally get it. They've had enough of being grownups for the time being – so they ask to be transformed back to their regular selves. Twilight BAMFS off and returns with the magical artifact. The CMCs touch it and return to normal. Spur and Biscuit are really surprised to see the CMCs as they really are: “Wait, you mean you're not really grownups? You were foals just like us all along?” The CMCs sheepishly admit it, and ask if they can come back sometime and just be friends. Spur and Biscuit agree, on one condition: that the CMCs won't give them any advice. At all. Ever again. Relieved and happy, the CMCs agree and we...

FADE OUT

END