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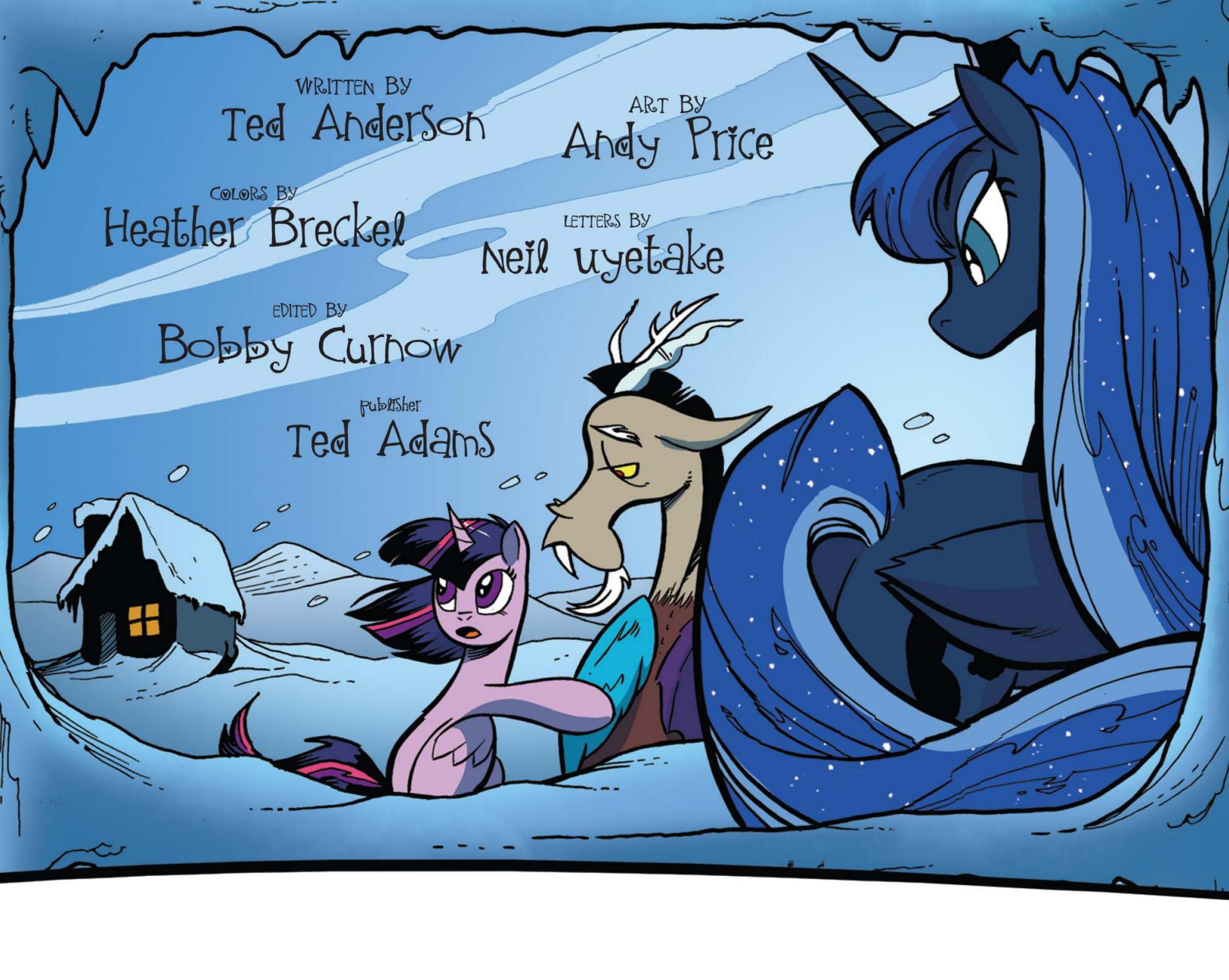
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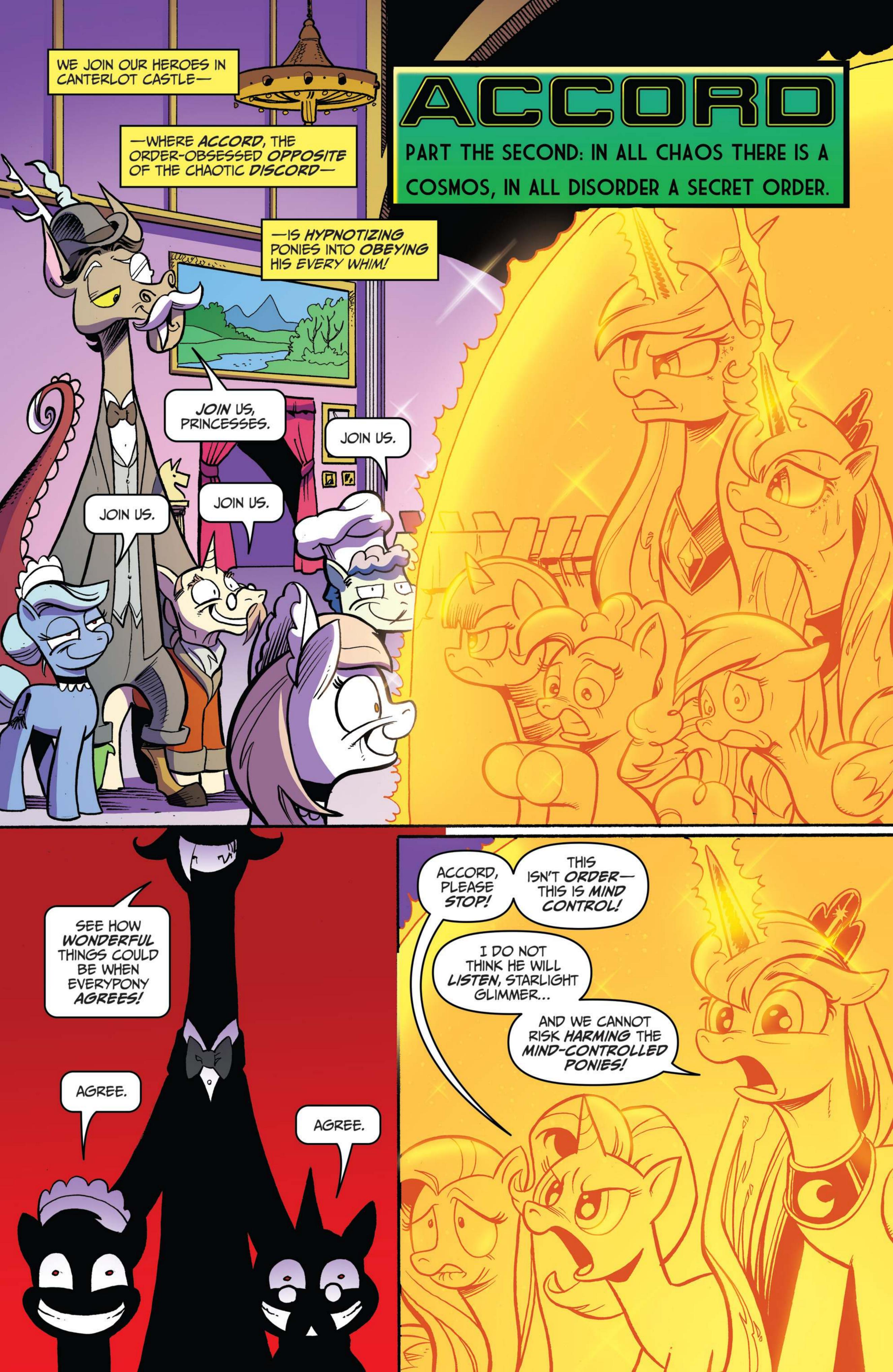


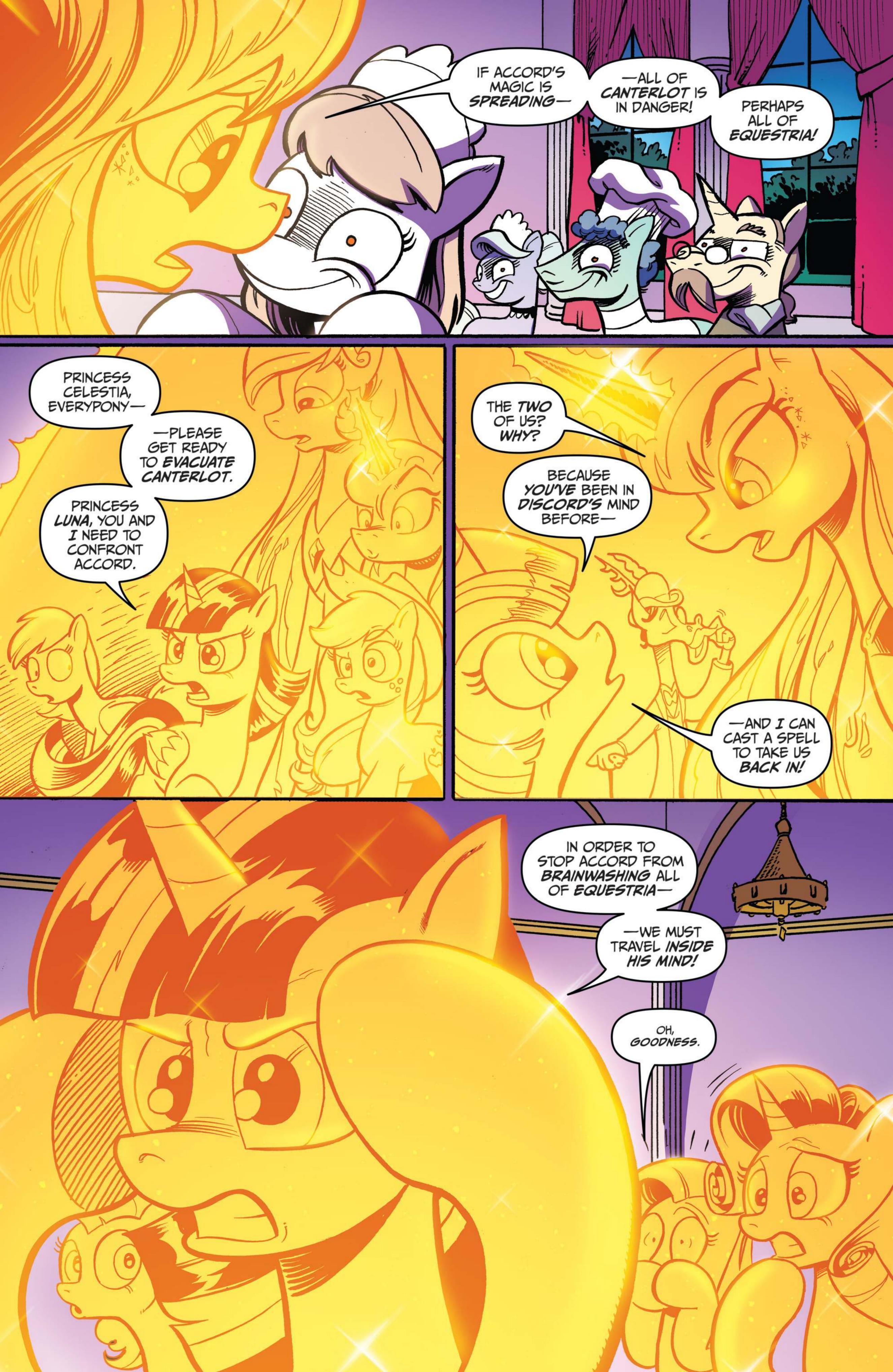




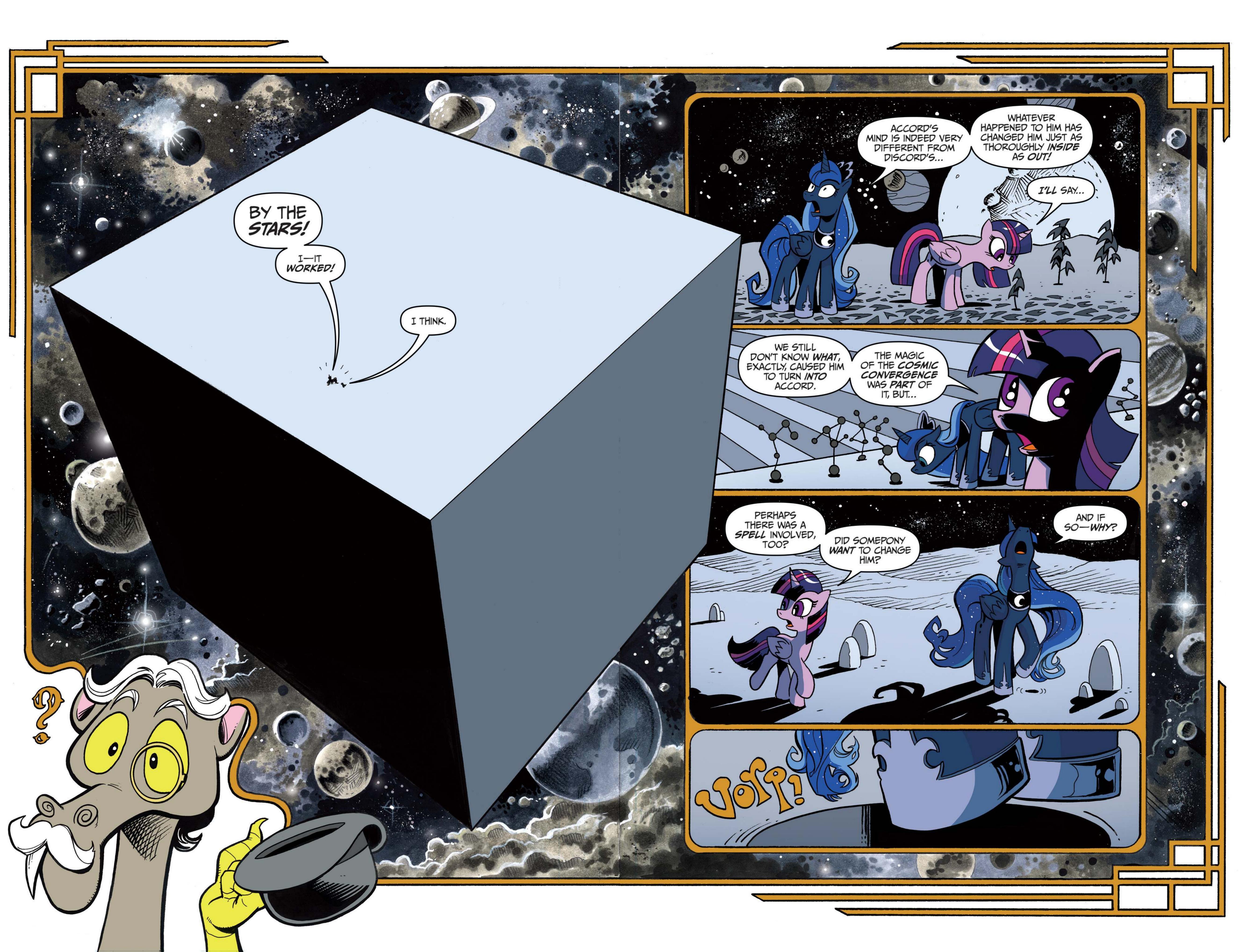


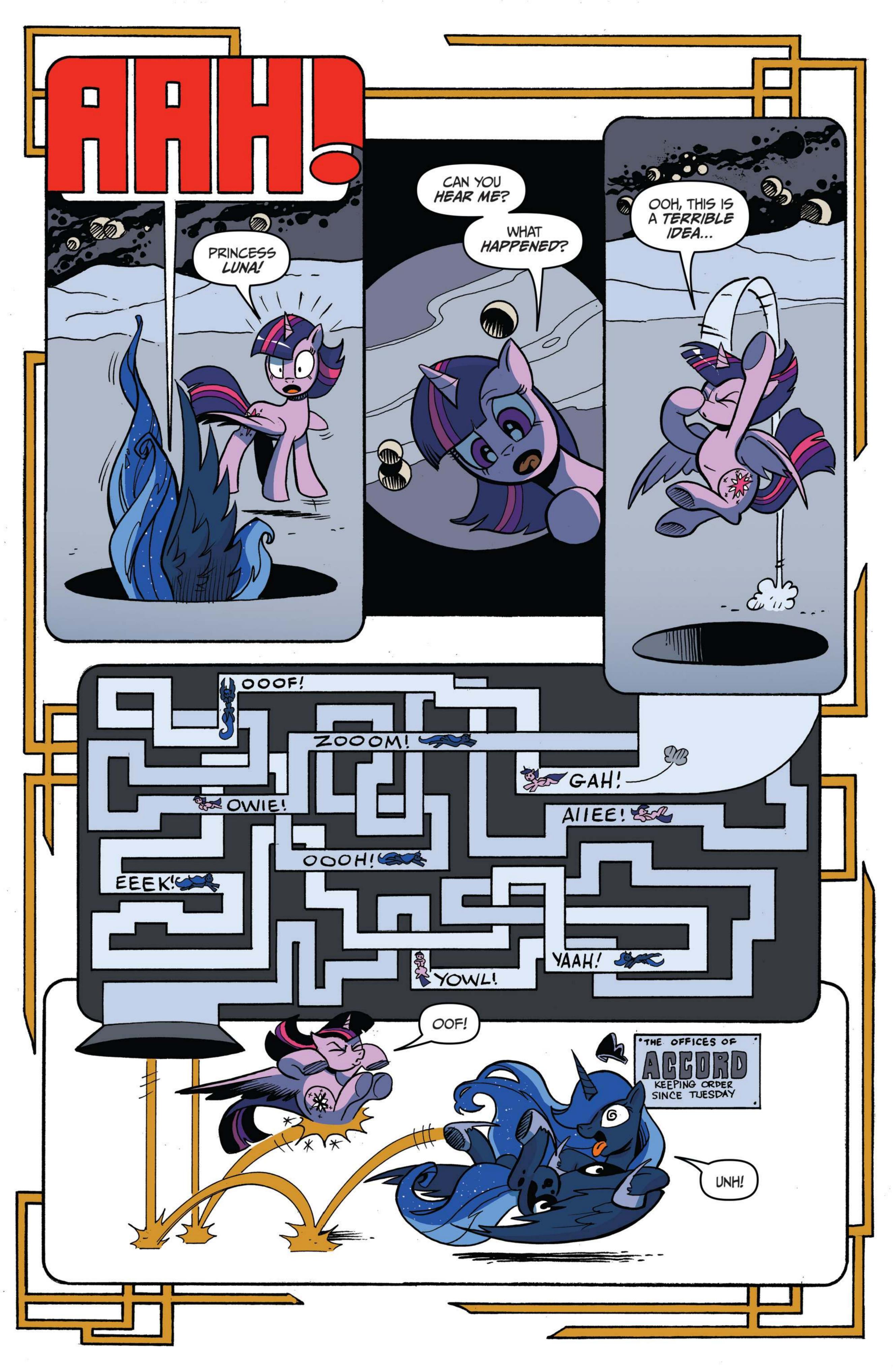
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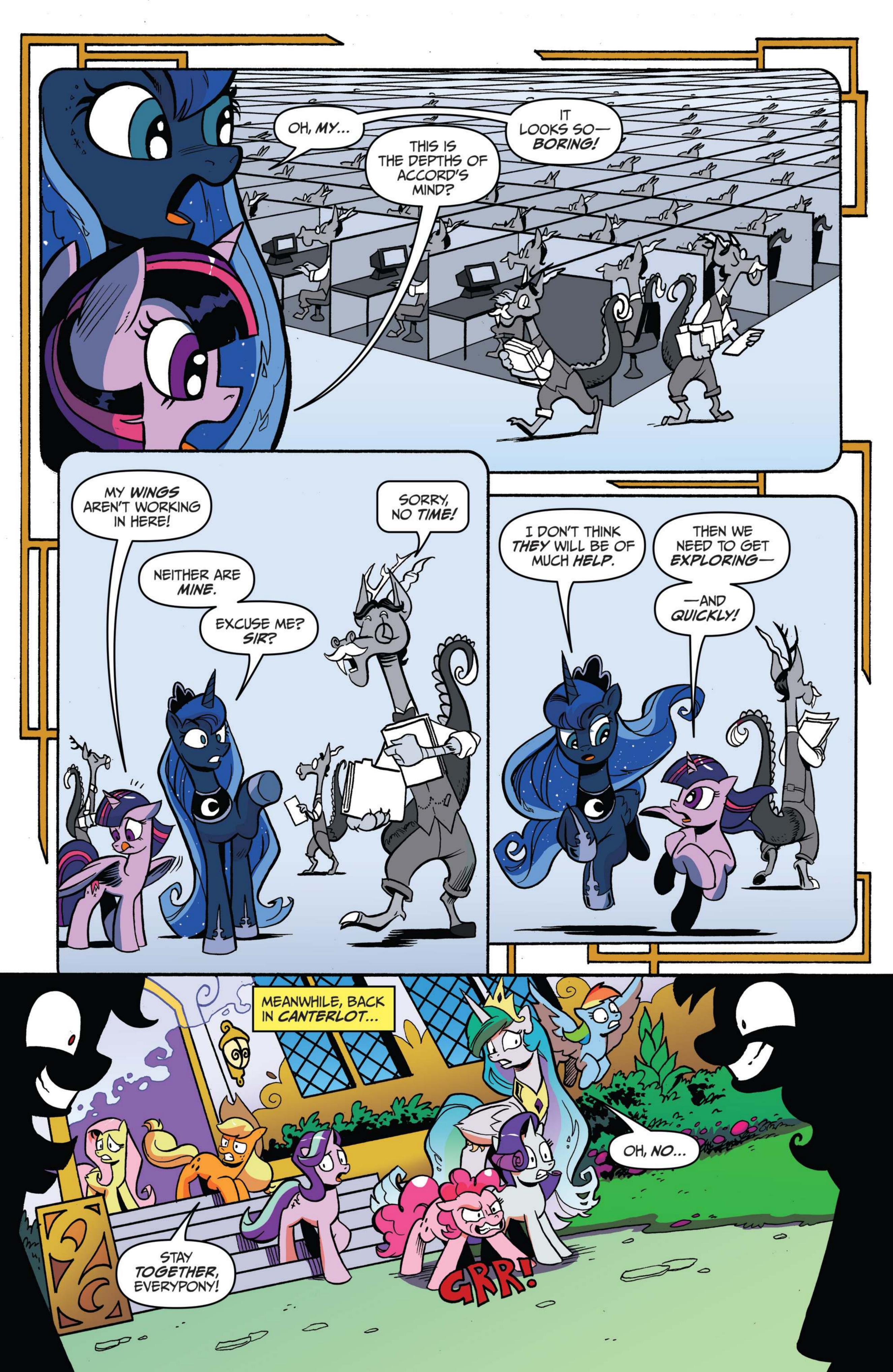


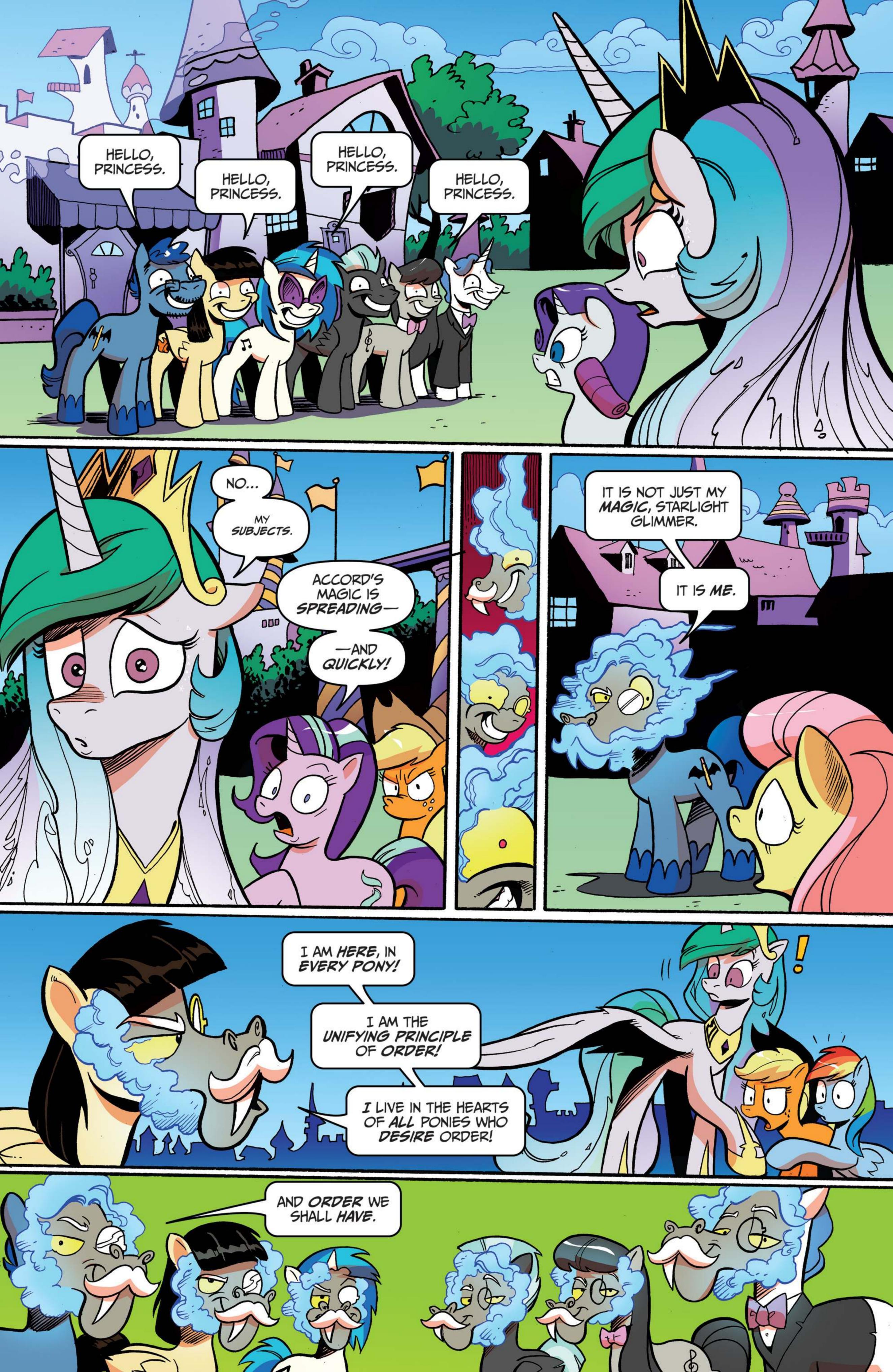








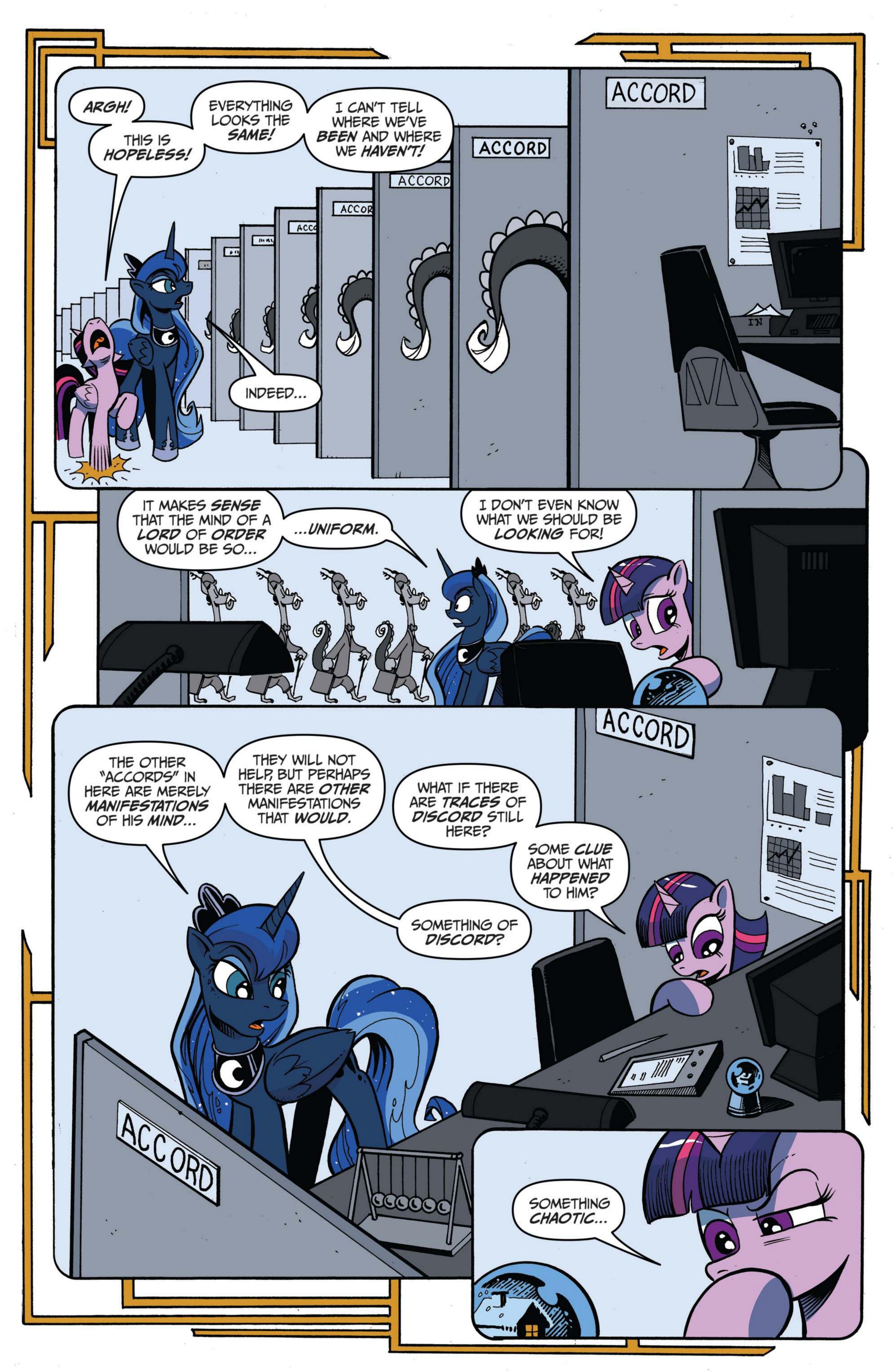








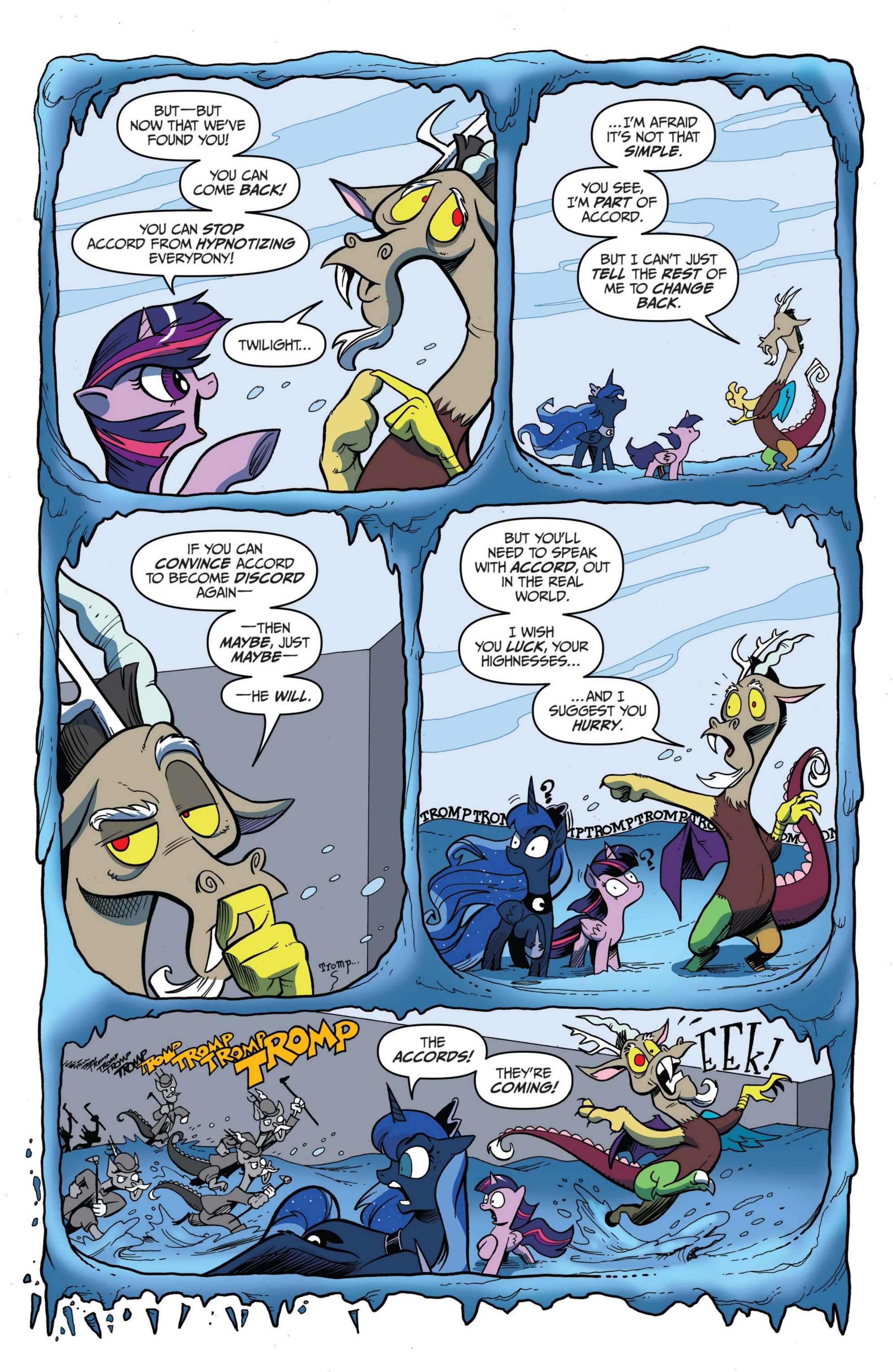


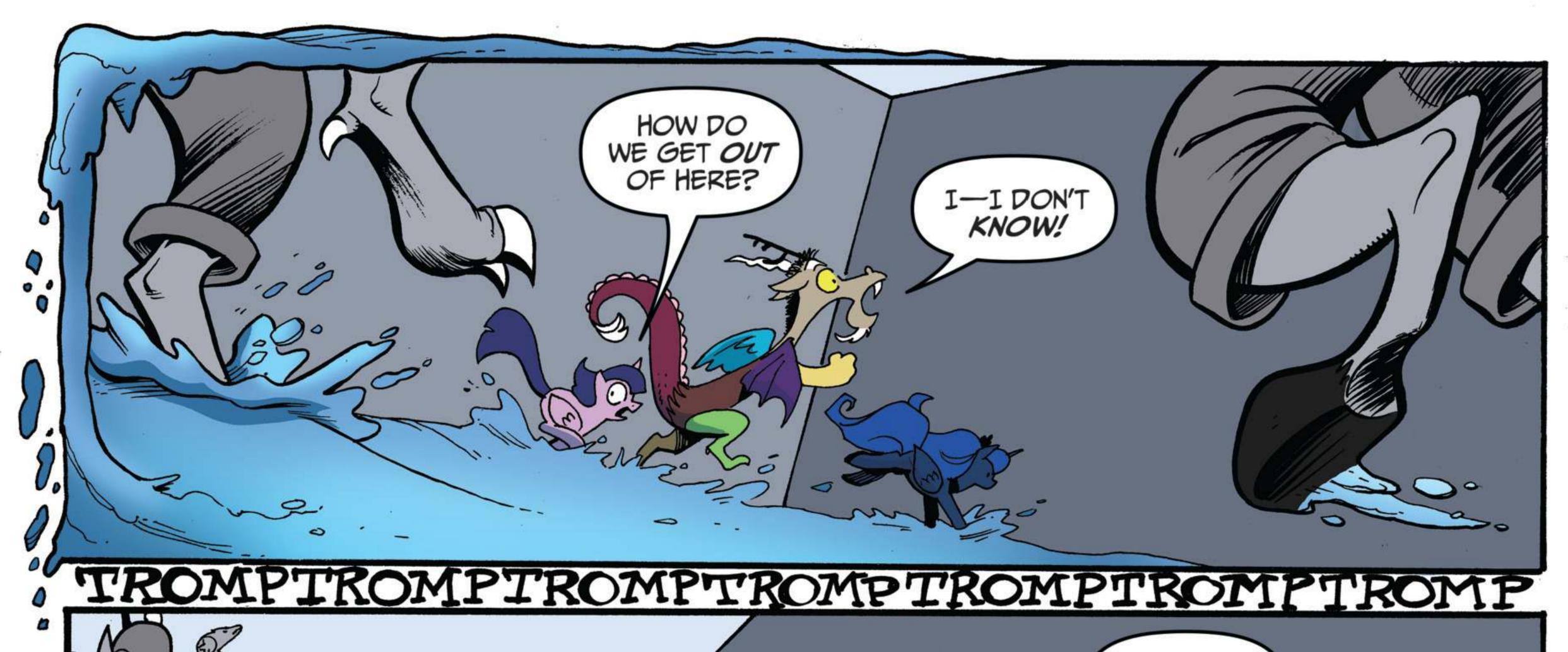












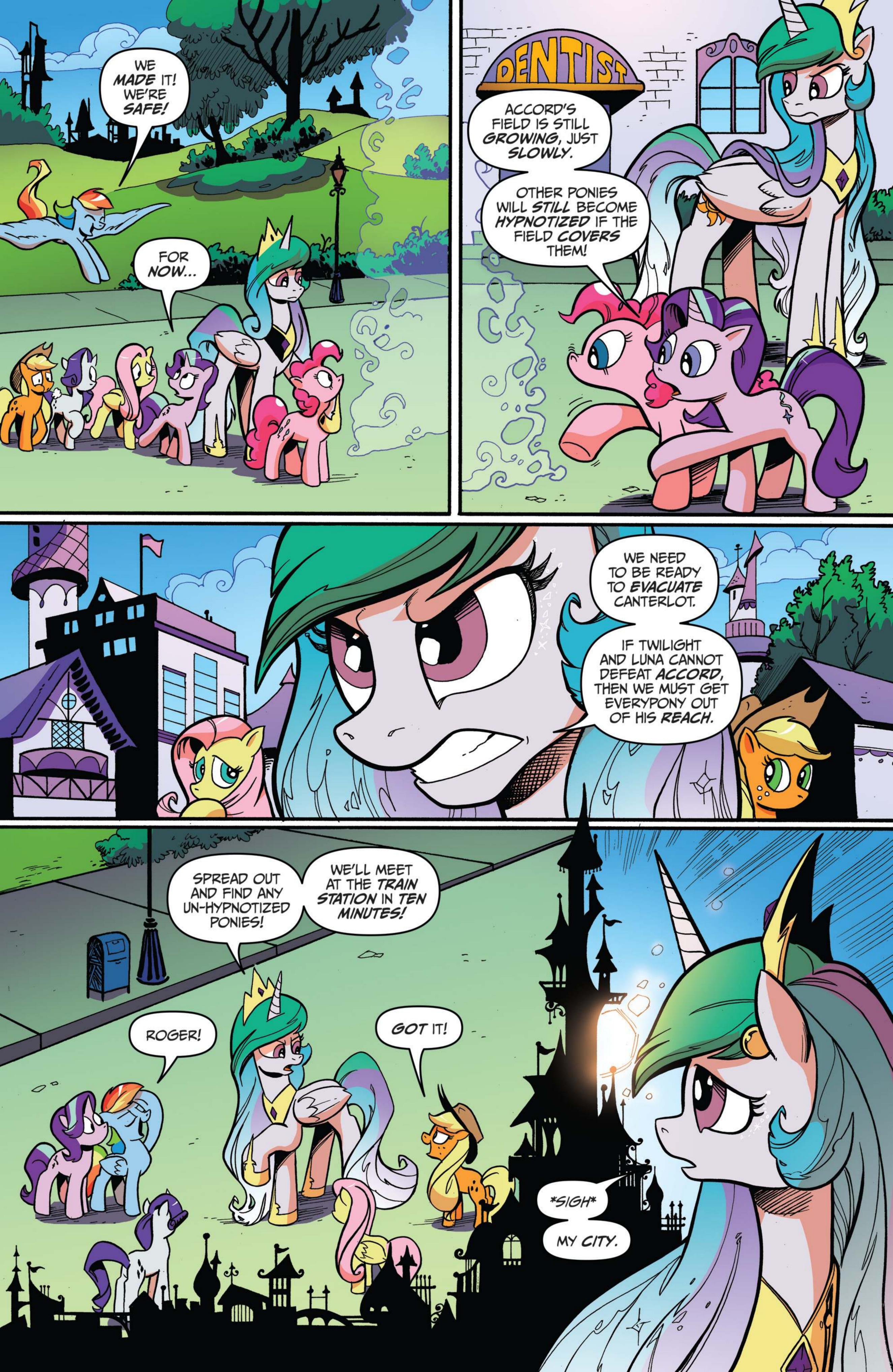


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## FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

To celebrate the return of Locke & Key with this month's "Small World," I'm devoting this month's column to a conversation with the book's creators—Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez.

TA: Joe, as the comic book adapter of Richard Matheson's The Shrinking Man, I have to ask if his novel influenced "Small World."

JH: Probably 80% of everything I've ever written has been influenced by Richard Matheson— "Locke & Key: Small World" being no exception. He is, to horror fiction, what Chuck Berry is to rock and roll. Foundational. People won't have to look hard to see the connection between The Shrinking Man and "Small World." It's in almost every panel of the last dozen pages.

TA: Gabe, we just saw each other at New York Comic Con where you told me you were very happy with the work you're doing on "Small World." You've literally never done a piece of art that I haven't loved and I'm curious about what makes this feel different for you?

GR: Ah, well, thanks for the support as I try hard, 'cause I'm sure there's still A LOT for me to learn about drawing comics yet... But yes, as we talked about in New York, I feel more in control of what I'm doing than ever before. Applying all I've learned in the projects we did after finishing Locke & Key (Onyx, Little Nemo, and Tales From The Darkside) in this new book.

I'm very proud about what we achieved in the original series with the designs, worldbuilding and storytelling, but I always felt that the drawings themselves were hit or miss from what I had in my head. I have to admit, in "Small World," I'm feeling more comfortable and inspired than ever in the process of bringing the story to flesh. Hopefully the experience is paying off after drawing comics almost nonstop for about 15 years... And beyond that, I think most of it comes from the joy that it is returning to this amazing world and lovely characters in the company of my amazing teammates: Joe, the best there is at writing comics, Jay and his magic color touch, and the great editorial team from IDW!

TA: Joe, it's no secret you're writing the pilot script for a Locke & Key TV show that will be produced by IDW Entertainment. What's it like adapting your own work from one medium to another?

**JH:** It's been so, so much fun. Some of the fun is going back home to Keyhouse and these characters that I love so much.

> Some of the fun is in recharging and refreshing the narrative. The story is often very faithful to the original material; but at key moments I've broken off in new directions; tossed out old ideas, characters, and

moments; and invented new ones. The spirit of the comic is there in every scene, but I've also made some important changes, to keep fans of the books off balance.

TA: I want a cookie jar that's modeled after Bode's open head from Locke & Key: Head Games and a Lego version of Key House. What's your dream Locke & Key merchandise?

JH: Oh, man, a Head Games cookie jar... that would be great! We gotta get Skelton Crew Studios on that.

I've been spoiled by all the great Skelton Crew merchandise for Locke & Key. I'd be ashamed to want anymore... if I could feel shame, that is! But since I can't, I'll say I'd love a working Music Box that I could activate with a music key.

And, obviously, a Lego Keyhouse is the dream.

TA: Any future plans for L&K comics?

GR: OH, YES. We've been discussing—since the original Locke & Key run—several ideas and characters we want to explore. We're already working in a set of short stories around the family of Chamberlin Locke that will complete a seventh L&K volume, but it will not stop there. We feel that Keyhouse is still asking us for more revisits, and the Locke family has grown in several branches that offer us chances for amazing stories.

And that's the **Key** point (pun!) in this situation: as long as we feel we're not 'exploiting a brand', as we think there are still worthy, fun stories to tell, we'll find a way to return to Lovecraft, Massachusetts. So we have already plotted the backbone of a new saga that hopefully will be as entertaining and meaningful for us as the previous one, so now it's just about finding the right time for all of us to do it. And hopefully it'll be sooner than later.

JH: I'll add to what Gabe said with a couple tentative thoughts. So, yeah, we've mapped out a plan for a new six book cycle, called World War Key... a whole new 37 issue epic. But it's one thing to imagine it, and plan it, and another to actually do it. Even now, I'm not sure if it'll ever happen, or if it'll remain hypothetical.

But as Gabe said, there will be another Locke & Key book... Locke & Key: The Golden Age. "Small World" is a Golden Age story. So is "Grindhouse" and "Open the Moon." And there'll be three or four more, eventually. Golden Age would be a kind of interlude, not part of Locke & Key: The Phantom Menace and not part of World War Key.

Oh did I ever mention this? The original series, that began with Welcome to Lovecraft and ended with Alpha & Omega? That series title is actually Locke & Key: The Phantom Menace. Ted, when are we going to get around to reprinting the books to reflect that?

Ted? Ted? Why are you crying, Ted?

TA: Tears of joy, Joe! Wait a minute, I didn't hear anything after "a whole new 37 issue epic". Did I miss something...?

Thanks, guys. Locke & Key: A Small World is available this December with great covers by Gabe, C.P. Wilson III, and David Petersen. See you in 2017!





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COLORS BY: Mae Hao

LETTERS BY: Christa Miesner

## People Are Like Grapes

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