

my LITTLE PONY

FRIENDS
FOREVER



AMH.16

PRICE • BRECKEL



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FOR GENERATIONS, MY FAMILY HAS BEEN THE UNSEEN SUPPORT OF PARADISE. I HAVE HAD THAT ILLUSTRIOUS DUTY FOR MANY YEARS NOW.

SALUTATIONS! MY NAME IS KIBITZ. I AM THE ROYAL SCHEDULE KEEPER AND MAJORDOMO OF CANTERLOT CASTLE. I ASSIST THE PRINCESSES THAT RULE OVER EQUESTRIA IN KEEPING THEIR ROYAL DUTIES ON SCHEDULE.

IN ALL THE YEARS I'VE BEEN IN THE SERVICE OF THE CASTLE, I HAVE BECOME FINELY ATTUNED TO THE HABITS AND RHYTHMS OF HER HIGHNESS, PRINCESS CELESTIA.

AH, CELESTIA... BRINGER OF LIGHT AND WARMTH! A LEADER AND TEACHER TO ALL, TEMPERED WITH GRACE, BEAUTY, AND KINDNESS.

AND THEN THERE'S THE OTHER RESIDENT OF THE CASTLE, PRINCESS LUNA. SHE RULES THE NIGHT, DEFENDING THE LAND FROM HEEBIE-JEEBIES, BUGABOOS, AND ALL THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT.

EVEN THOUGH LUNA HAS BEEN BACK AT THE CASTLE FOR SOME TIME NOW, MANY HAVE NOT BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE PRESENCE OF HER... UNUSUAL WAYS. ALOOF YET PROUD, HER MOODS SEEM AS FICKLE AS... WELL, THE PHASES OF THE MOON. STILL, SHE IS JUST AS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, IF NOT AS WARM AS HER SUNNY SIBLING.

STILL, TO MY CONSTANT SURPRISE, IT SEEMS THESE TWO ARE OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.

SO MANY DIFFERENCES, YET TOGETHER THEY ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF BEAUTY, COOPERATION, AND A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP GOVERNED BY LOVE AND MUTUAL RESPECT. YES, PARADISE INDEED!



...UNTIL TODAY.

BOOM





YOU RUINED EVERYTHING!

ME? YOU ARE THE RUINER!

PERHAPS, DEAR READER, YOU MIGHT BE MORE ENLIGHTENED IF I START THIS TALE A FEW DAYS AGO.

BATTLE ROYAL!



EVEN I, KEEPER OF THE SCHEDULE AND DIRECTOR OF EVENTS, MUST SAY THE SISTERS HAVE HAD A VERY BUSY WEEK.

...AND THAT WRAPS UP THE LEGAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE EXPANSION OF DODGE CITY.

WE CAN JUST FINISH UP THE SCHEDULE FOR TOMORROW BEFORE LUNA COMES ON SHIFT. THIS IS GOING TO BE A BUSY WEE—

SKREEE

THEY RESCHEDULED THE BIG EVENT!



I THOUGHT WE MISSED IT AGAIN! IT'S SO HARD TO MAKE OUR SCHEDULES WORK TOGETHER!

NOW THAT WE FINALLY FIGURED OUT THE NECESSARY MAGIC POTIONS, I SAY...

ARE WE FINALLY GOING TO COMPETE?

YES!



MADAMS...

SO EXCITED!
FINALLY! IT'S WHAT
WE'VE ALWAYS
WANTED!

AHEM,
PRINCESSES...

IT'S GOING
TO BE *GREAT!* WE
GET TO DO SO FEW
THINGS TOGETHER,
BUT *THIS IS*
GOIN—

YOUR MAJESTIES



I MUST ADVISE
AGAINST THIS
NON-ESSENTIAL
ACTIVITY. ASIDE
FROM THE NATURAL
COMPETITIVE STREAK
YOU HAVE WITH EACH
OTHER THAT SUCH
EVENTS TEND
TO SPARK...

...I *MUST* REMIND THAT
DUE TO RECENT ADVENTURES
ACROSS EQUESTRIA, YOU HAVE *BOTH*
GIVEN YOUR WORD TO CATCH UP ON
NEGLECTED DUTIES. THIS WEEK YOU HAVE
SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER *PROMISED* TO DO
THE FOLLOWING: OVERSEE THE EXPANSION OF
DODGE CITY, APPROVE THE NEXT SEASON'S
WEATHER SCHEDULE FROM CLOUDSDALE. ALSO,
YOU HAVE YOUR ANNUAL MEETING FOR RELATIONS
WITH THE HIDDEN RESIDENTS OF EVERFREE FOREST
WITH KING ASPEN, AND YOU BOTH RESCHEDULED
YOUR DENTAL CHECK-UPS FOR THIS WEEK. *ALL* OF
THIS IS ON TOP OF YOUR DAILY DUTIES OF DAY
AND NIGHT COURTS, ADDRESSING CITIZEN
REQUESTS, STAYING IN CONTACT WITH FOREIGN
DIGNITARIES, AND OF COURSE, RAISING,
SETTING, AND MAINTAINING THE SUN AND
MOON, AS WELL AS STANDING READY
FOR ANY VILLAINOUS AND/OR
MONSTER ACTIVITY.

YOU ALSO
PROMISED TO
CLEAN OUT THE
ROYAL ATTIC.



OH. WELL,
CAN'T TWILIGHT
AND HER GANG
HANDLE *SOME*
OF THAT?

NO, WE MADE
THOSE PROMISES,
SISTER. IT'S *OUR*
DUTY TO FOLLOW
THROUGH.

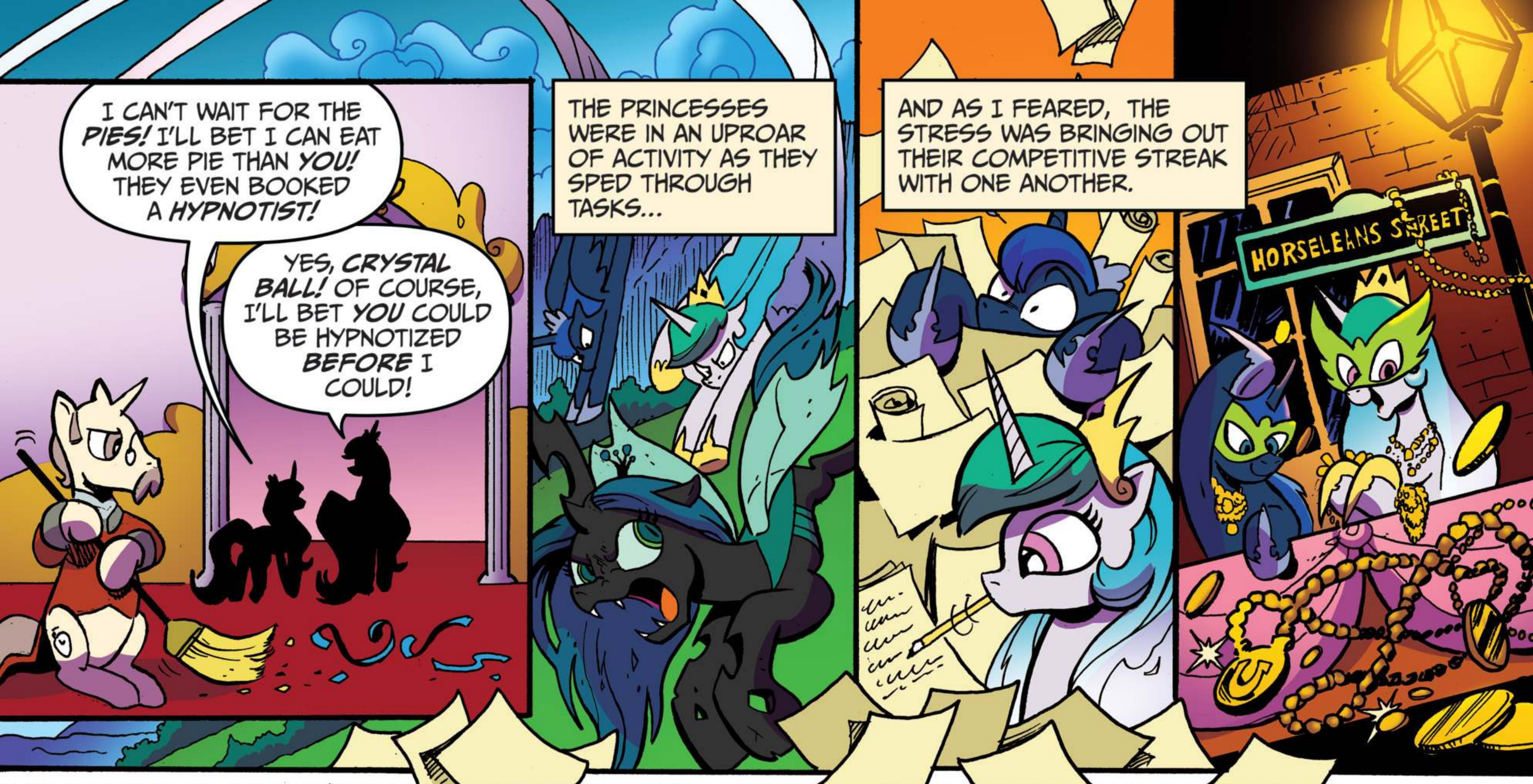
BESIDES, MS
SPARKLE AND MOST
OF HER... "GANG"
ARE ATTENDING THE
LIBRARIAN'S BAKE-OFF
AND ROPE-TRICK
CONFERENCE AT THE
BIRD SANCTUARY IN
SAN PALOMINO.

LUNA, WE'VE
WANTED THIS
TOO LONG! IF
WE BUCKLE
DOWN...

EXPAND OUR
SCHEDULES,
CUT DOWN ON
SLEEP...

...AND *WORK*
TOGETHER, WE CAN
COMPLETE THESE TASKS
AND ATTEND THE
BIG EVENT!





I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE PIES! I'LL BET I CAN EAT MORE PIE THAN YOU! THEY EVEN BOOKED A HYPNOTIST!

YES, CRYSTAL BALL! OF COURSE, I'LL BET YOU COULD BE HYPNOTIZED BEFORE I COULD!

THE PRINCESSES WERE IN AN UPROAR OF ACTIVITY AS THEY SPED THROUGH TASKS...

AND AS I FEARED, THE STRESS WAS BRINGING OUT THEIR COMPETITIVE STREAK WITH ONE ANOTHER.



LUNA ATTENDED GRAND DIPLOMATIC COTILLIONS DURING THE NOON HOUR, WHEN SHE WAS NORMALLY ASLEEP.

AND THIS IS MY LITTLE SISTER—UH, SHOWING HOW TO PROPERLY TIE A FORMAL RIBBON! YES!

HMM? OH, SORRY!



PLEASE, LUNA, DIPLOMACY IS A TIME FOR FORMALITY, SHOW SOME DECORUM.

PFFT... YOU CALL THIS DIPLOMACY? I COULD'VE HAD THIS WRAPPED UP AN HOUR AGO... WITHOUT THE TAFFETA!



CELESTIA STAYED UP LONG PAST EQUESTRIA'S BEDTIME TO ASSIST LUNA IN BATTLING THE THREATS OF BAD DREAMS, A JOB SHE HAD DONE HERSELF WHILE LUNA WAS GONE.

CELESTIA! YOU MUST BE SLEEK AND SILENT LIKE A SHADOW WHEN STALKING THE COWARDLY LOT THAT ARE NIGHTMARES!

I CAN'T STAND ALL THIS SKULKING AROUND! JUST ZAP HIM!



YOU'RE TAKING ALL THE FUN OUT OF THIS.

MY WAY WORKED FINE FOR 1000 YEARS! SLINKING AROUND IN THE SHADOWS IS CREEPY AND SILLY.

I THINK YOU MEAN DRAMATIC AND COOL.



THEIR SCHEDULES WERE SO STRETCHED, MOMENTS OF LEISURE AND SNIPPETS OF SLEEP WERE BRIEF AND RARE! EVERY LITTLE THING WAS BECOMING A CONTEST AGAINST THE OTHER.

AH, A MOMENT ALONE! SOME LIVELY JAZZ SHOULD HELP ME GET THROUGH THIS PILE OF DOCUMENTS!

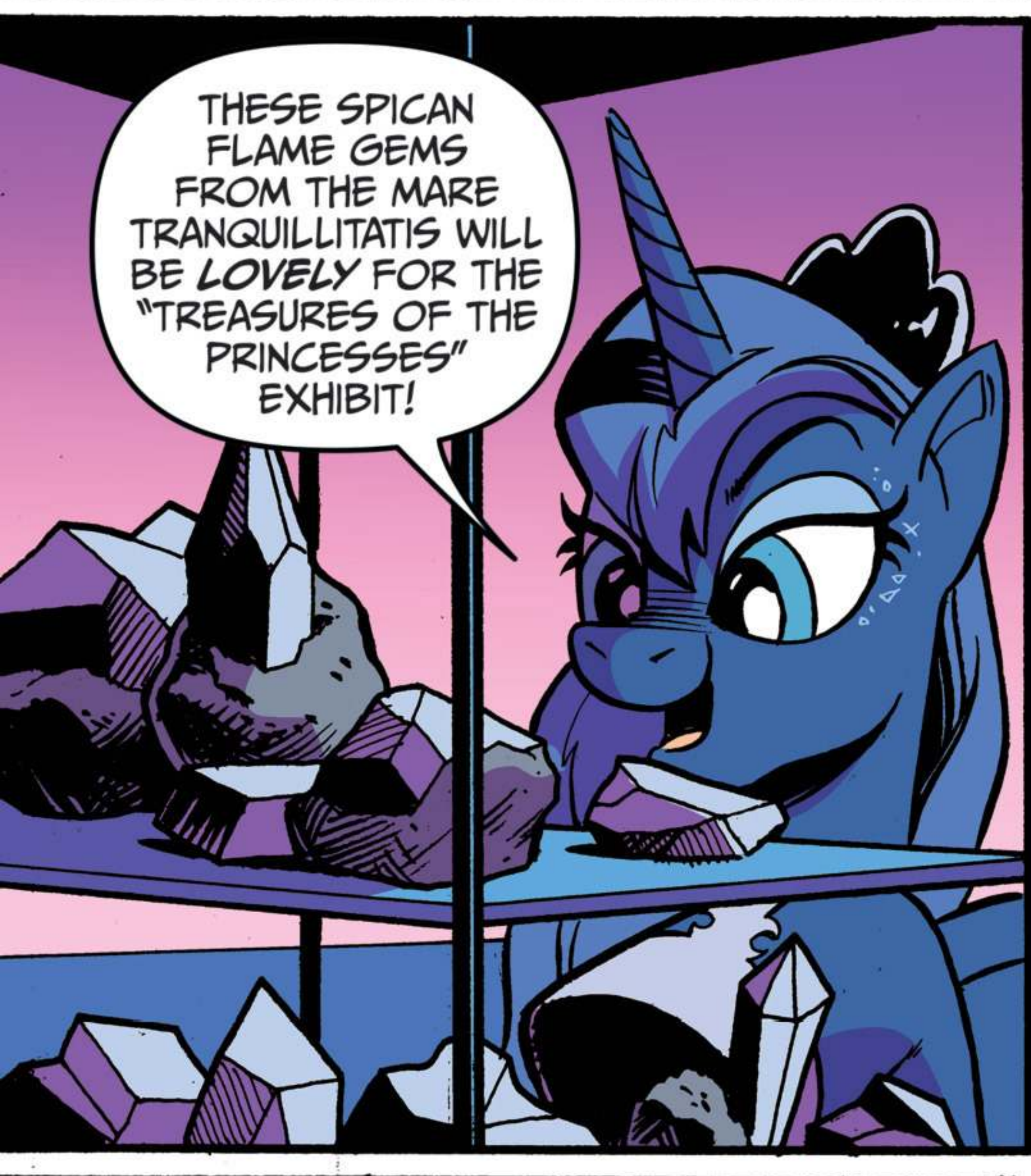
NOW WHERE DID LUNA LEAVE THE QUILLS? I CAN'T EVER FIND ANYTHING—



CELESTIA! CEASE THAT CURSED VICTROLA! I'VE GOT EXACTLY 37.9 MINUTES TO NAP TODAY! WHEN I AWAKE I SHALL PLAY MY GALLOPING STONES ALBUMS, EVERYPONY LIKES THEM BETTER THAN LIVELY JAZZ!

...AROUND HERE.

SLAM!



THESE SPICAN FLAME GEMS FROM THE MARE TRANQUILLITATIS WILL BE LOVELY FOR THE "TREASURES OF THE PRINCESSES" EXHIBIT!



THOSE DUSTY MOON ROCKS ARE KIND OF DEPRESSING, DON'T YOU THINK?

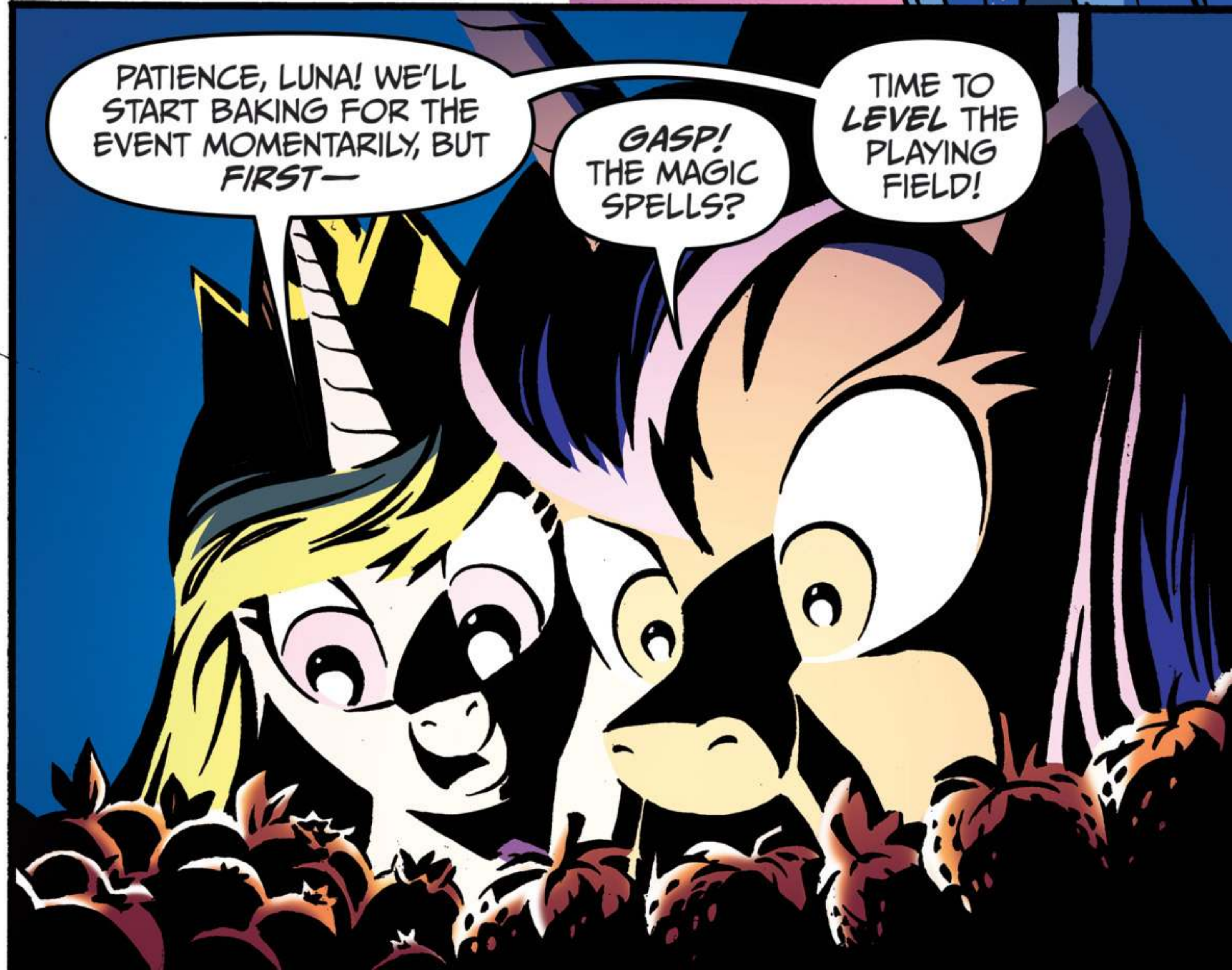
WHY NOT SOMETHING BRIGHT AND SUNNY LIKE MY EXHIBITS? EVERYPONY LOVES THEM!

BUT... OF COURSE.



FINALLY! EVERYTHING IS DONE AND—

TIME FOR COOKIES!



PATIENCE, LUNA! WE'LL START BAKING FOR THE EVENT MOMENTARILY, BUT FIRST—

GASP! THE MAGIC SPELLS?

TIME TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD!



WITH OUR BUSY SCHEDULE, I WASN'T GOING TO HAVE TIME TO CREATE THE POTIONS WE NEED.

"SO, KIBITZ DECIDED TO TAKE THE POTION RECIPES TO CRYSTAL BALL AS A SHORTCUT WHILE WE WERE DOING OUR TASKS."

MISS BALL, THESE ARE THE TWO RECIPES. ONE FOR DIMINSHING, ONE FOR EMPOWERING, TO BE MIXED WITH BERRIES. I UNDERSTAND YOU WORK WITH MAGIC POTIONS... CAN YOU DO IT?

FEH. BERRY? EEZ BORINK FLAVOR. HOW 'BOUT JABANERO?

OH, NO—SPICY FOOD MAKES THE PRINCESSES VERY TESTY.

HMM... LOT OF INGREDAMENTS... EEZ NOT CHEAP.

OH? HOW MUCH?

VELL NOW... RARE HERBS UNDT OILS... OVERTIME... EXTRA CANDLES AT NIGHT... TWO BITS.

ONLY TWO BITS?

ANYPONY VANT ZUCH BORINK FLAVOR DESERVES BREAK. EEZ NODDA PROBLEM, MUSTACHE PONY. I'LL HAF ORDER FOR PICK UP TOMORROW AT ZUNDOWN.

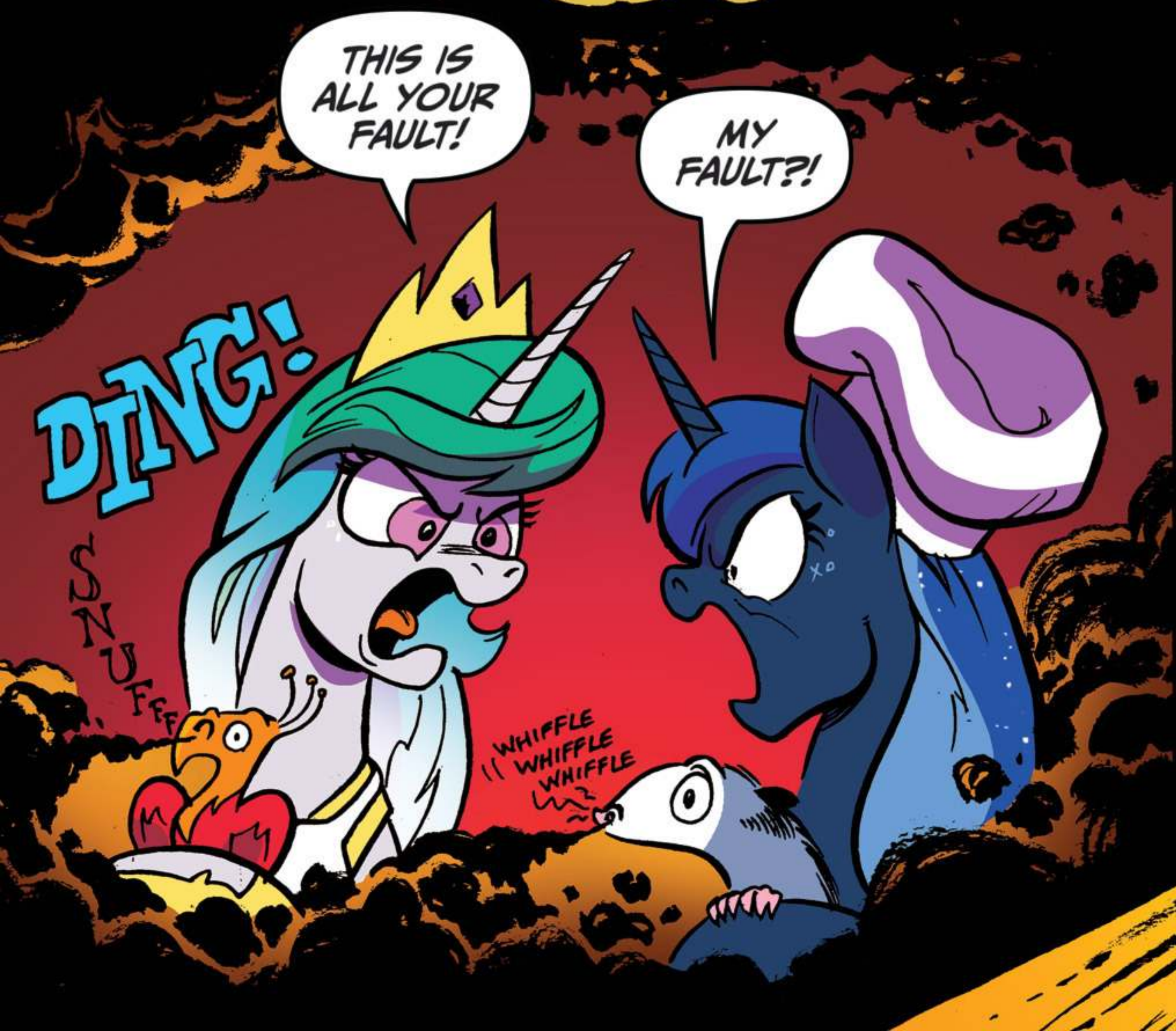
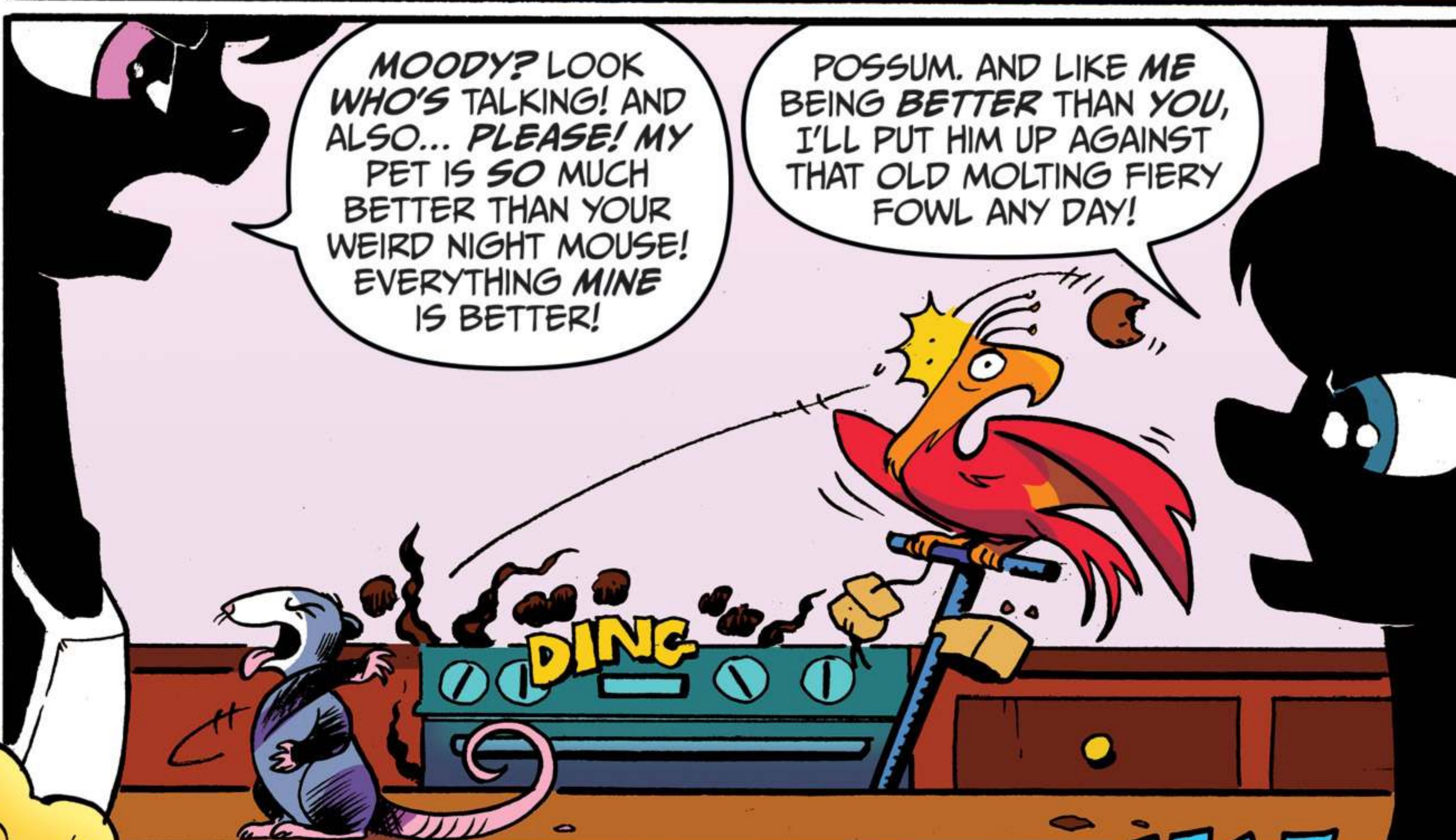
THANK YOU, KIND MADAM, PRINCESS CELESTIA WILL BE PICKING THEM UP! I MUST RUN!



FEH... EEZ BORINK RECIPE. I ADD BIT OF CHILI POWDER, ALONG WITH FROG'S BREATH... MEBEH PAPRIKA. CERTAINLY HOT ZAUCE...

ALL DOZE PONIES AT BEEG EVENT... A LEEDLE TESTY EEZ GOOD FOR COMPETITION. MAKE TALL PRINCESS PONIES WIN.







YOU RUINED EVERYTHING!

ME? YOU ARE THE RUINER!

AND NOW, DEAR READER, YOU ARE UP TO SPEED! THIS IS WHERE WE CAME IN!

BLESS MY DUST PAN! WHAT HAPPENED!? A VILLAIN? DRAGON ATTACK?



SHE BURNT MY COOKIES!

YOUR MAJESTY! YOU SHALL NOT LIGHT YOURSELF ON FIRE AGAINST YOUR OWN SISTER! I FEEL THIS IS A GIVEN...

AND ALSO THE ONLY TIME THAT SENTENCE HAS EVER BEEN UTTERED.



THE BERRIES! OUR POWERS ARE FADING!

MINE HELD OUT LONGER...

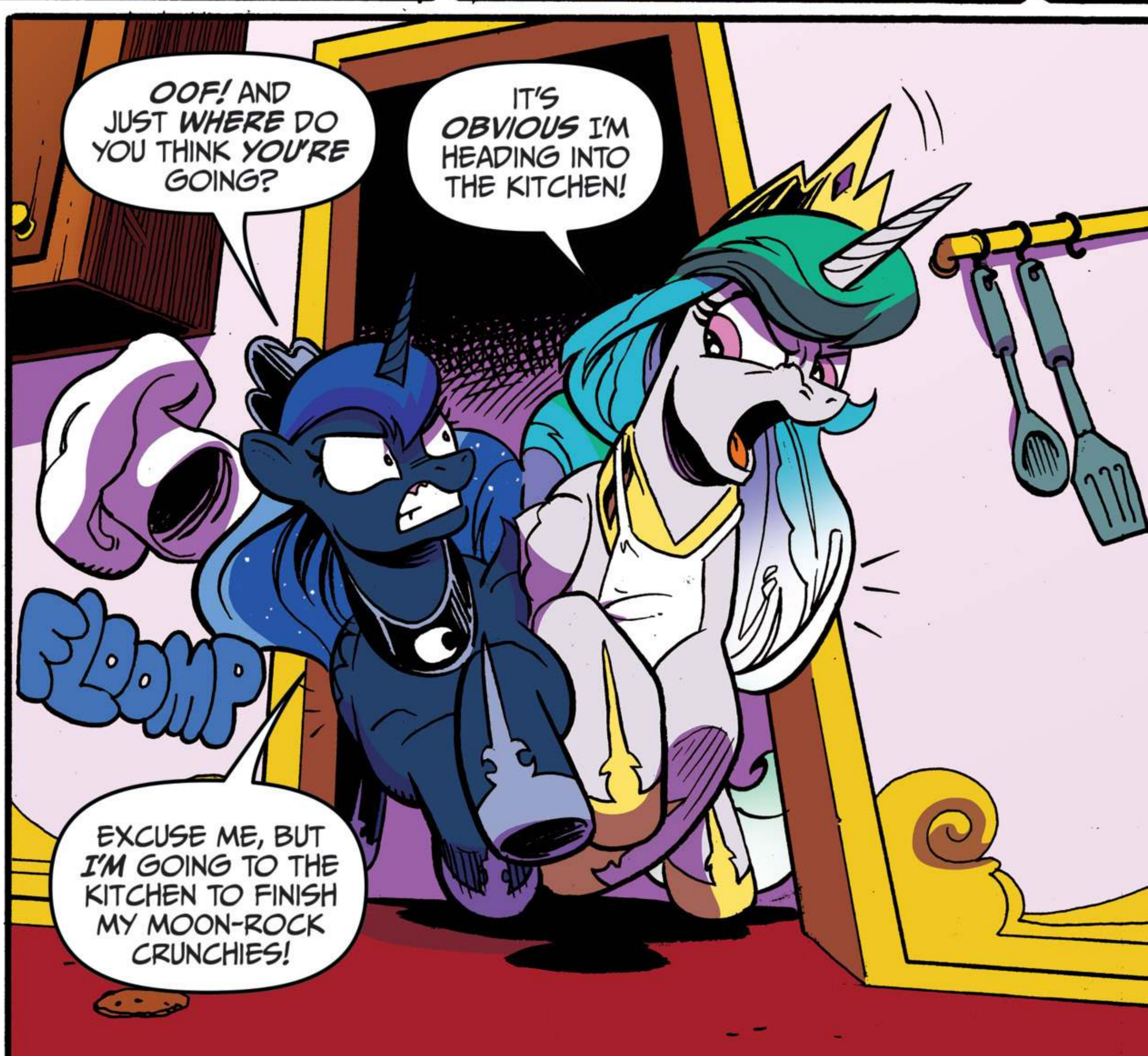
I SUGGEST YOU BOTH SPEND A LITTLE TIME APART TO CALM DOWN?

YOUR EVENT IS IN JUST A FEW SHORT HOURS!



YES, WELL. MAYBE THAT'S SOUND ADVICE. I'M FEELING A LITTLE... TESTY.

HRMPH. YES... SOME SPACE WOULD DO WONDERS.

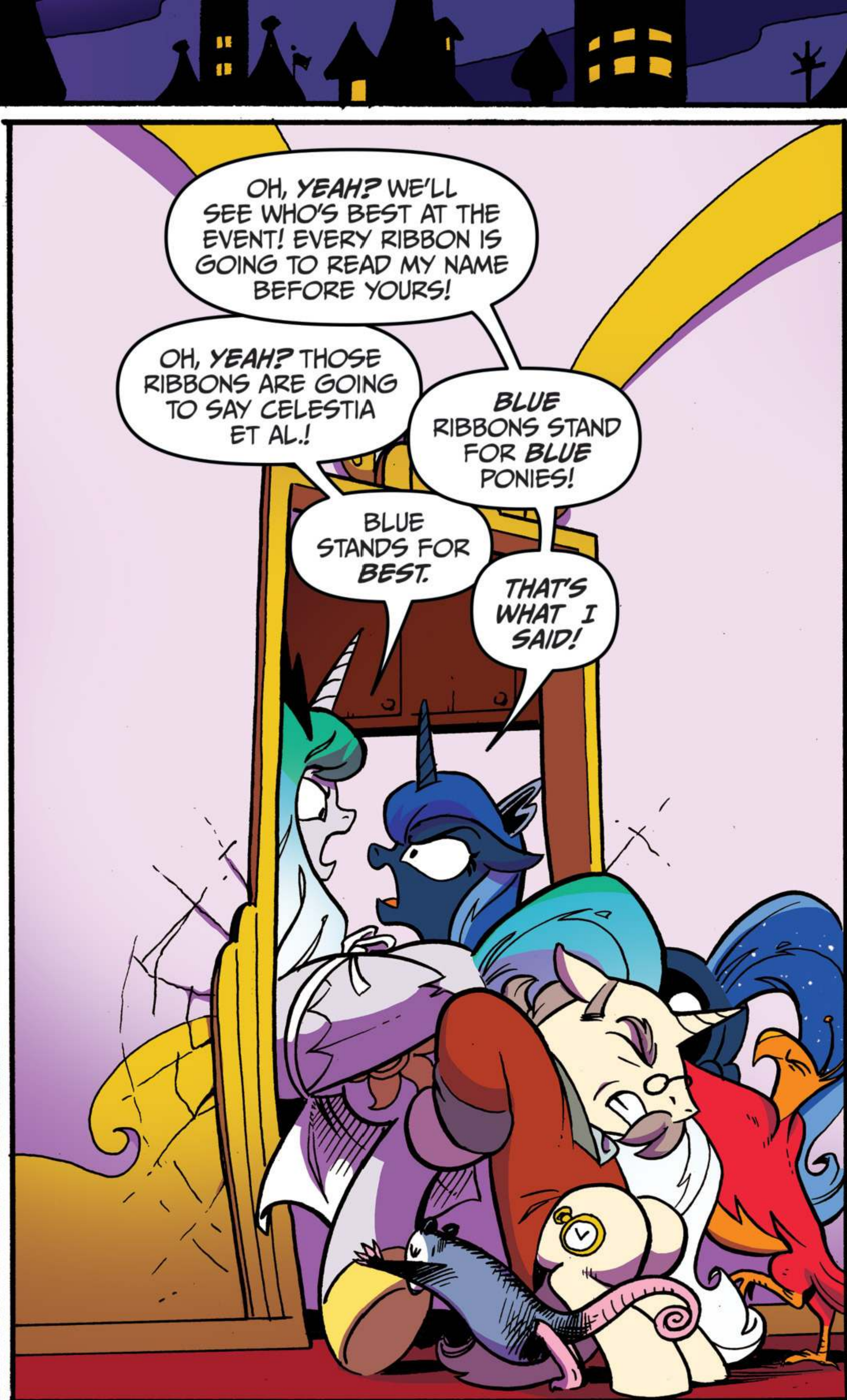


OOF! AND JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

IT'S OBVIOUS I'M HEADING INTO THE KITCHEN!

FLOOMP

EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M GOING TO THE KITCHEN TO FINISH MY MOON-ROCK CRUNCHIES!

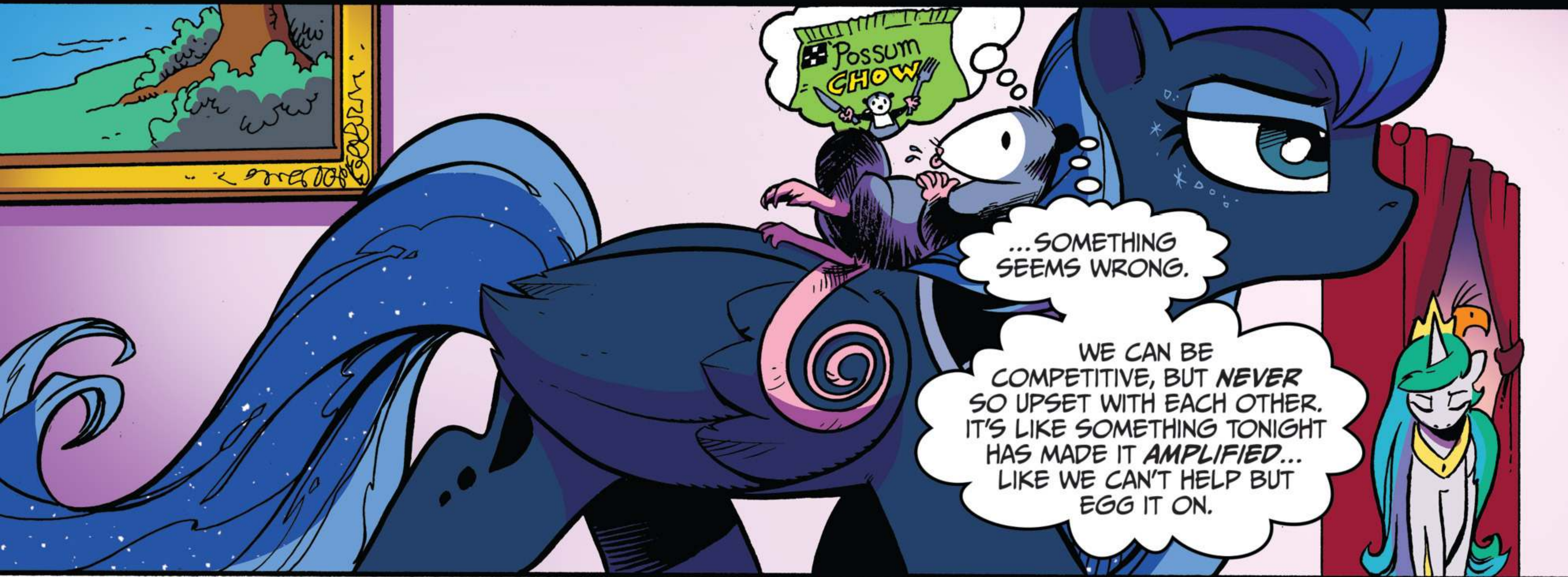




OOH, THAT LITTLE SISTER CAN GET ME SO *RILED*! I BARELY REMEMBERED TO RAISE THE SUN BEFORE MY MAGIC COMPLETELY RAN OUT!

BUT... IT'S PROBABLY JUST *STRESS*! AFTER ALL, IT'S BEEN A HECTIC WEEK WITH SO LITTLE SLEEP. WE DON'T USUALLY CHALLENGE EACH OTHER LIKE THIS...

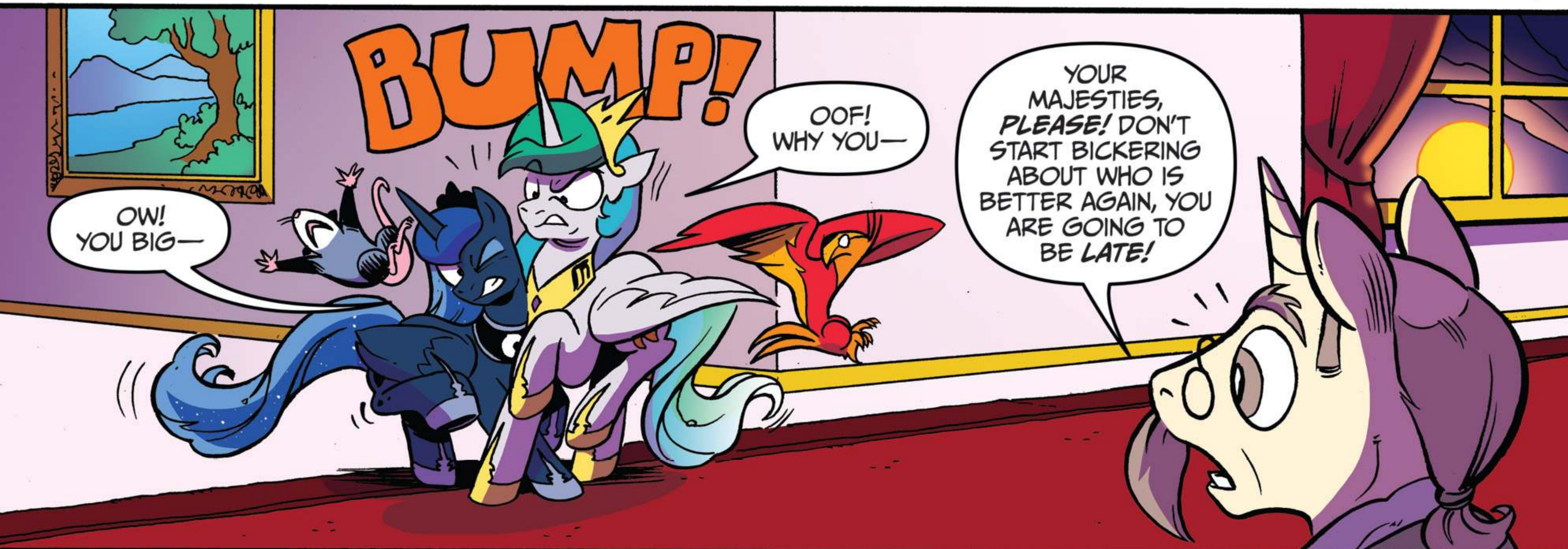
GURGLE... GROWL...



...SOMETHING SEEMS WRONG.

WE CAN BE COMPETITIVE, BUT *NEVER* SO UPSET WITH EACH OTHER. IT'S LIKE SOMETHING TONIGHT HAS MADE IT *AMPLIFIED*... LIKE WE CAN'T HELP BUT EGG IT ON.

Possum Chow

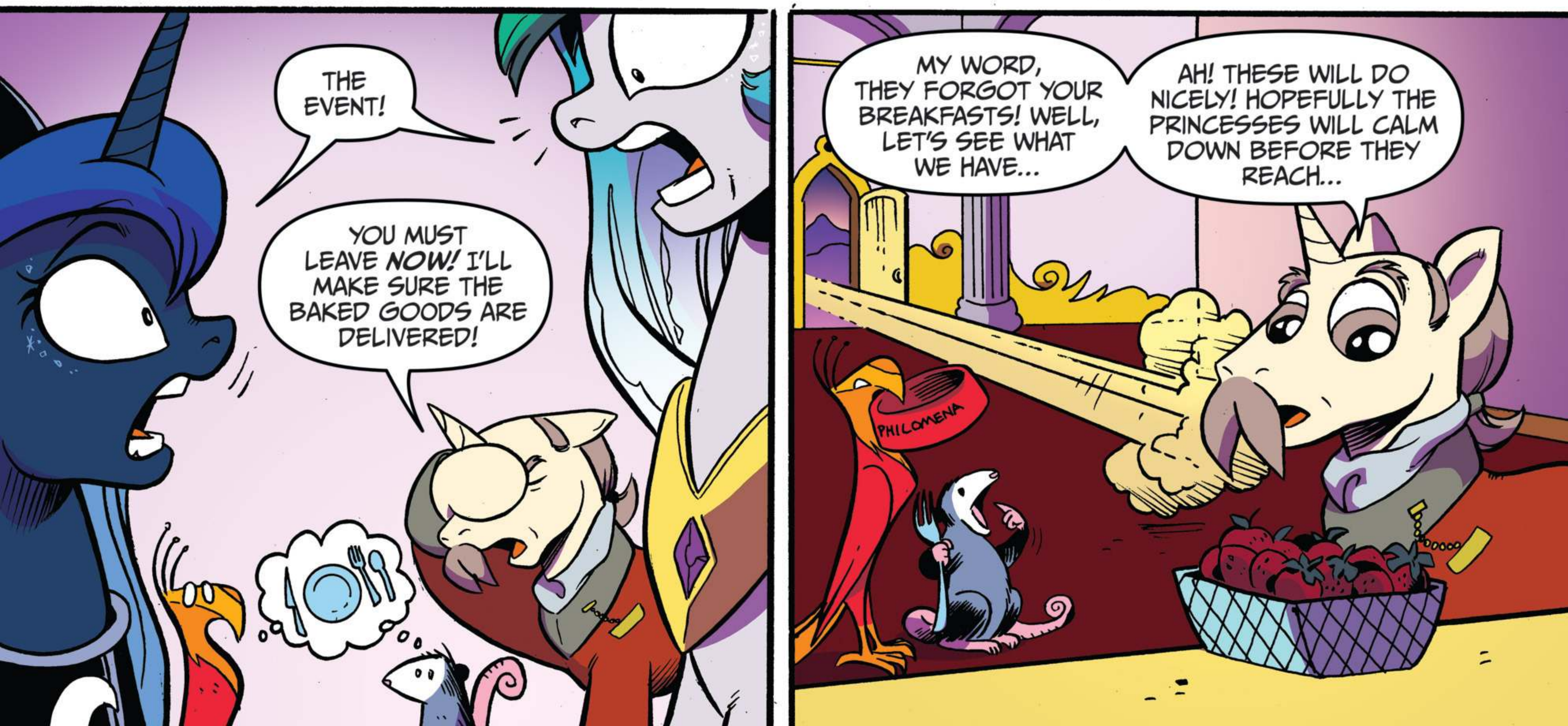


BUMP!

OW! YOU BIG—

OOF! WHY YOU—

YOUR MAJESTIES, *PLEASE!* DON'T START BICKERING ABOUT WHO IS BETTER AGAIN, YOU ARE GOING TO BE *LATE!*



THE EVENT!

YOU MUST LEAVE *NOW!* I'LL MAKE SURE THE BAKED GOODS ARE DELIVERED!

MY WORD, THEY FORGOT YOUR BREAKFASTS! WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT WE HAVE...

AH! THESE WILL DO NICELY! HOPEFULLY THE PRINCESSES WILL CALM DOWN BEFORE THEY REACH...

PHILOMENA

"...THE BIG EVENT!"

APPLE ACRES PRESENTS SISTERHOOVES SOCIAL

WOWSERS! IT'S GOING TO BE SO GREAT HAVING THE MOST FAMOUS SISTERS IN EQUESTRIA HERE!

INDEED! AND WON'T APPLEJACK AND APPLE BLOOM BE SORRY THEY WENT TO SAN PALOMINO THIS WEEKEND! THIS WILL BE *SIMPLY* DELIGHTFUL!

WELCOME PRINCESSES

LISTEN UP, LITTLE ONE—I WORKED TOO HARD THIS WEEK FOR YOU TO SPOIL THIS EVENT.

ARE YOU ALWAYS THIS ARROGANT OR DID YOU TAKE LESSONS?

I TOOK LESSONS! SO I THINK IT WISE YOU REMEMBER *YOU* ARE HERE TO HELP *ME* WIN! I'M GOING TO WIN SO HARD!

PFFT... IT WILL BE I THAT *WINS* EVERY EVENT FOR US... AND WITHOUT ACTING LIKE I'M BETTER THAN EVERYPONY!

PONYVILLE
14 MILES

THEY'S A-COMIN'!

I'M SO EXCITED I MAY EXPLODE INTO TINY L'IL PIECES!

AH, THE PRINCESSES... THE SUN, THE MOON! SUCH *GRACE* AND CIVILITY! THE *TRUE* EMBODIMENT OF SISTERLY HARMONY!

YOU FEEL I'M ACTING BETTER THAN YOU? UNTRUE... I'M NOT ACTING, JEALOUS ONE.

IF YOU RUN THIS RACE LIKE YOUR MOUTH, THEN WE'RE SURE TO WIN!





YHOO
ART GEDDING...
SLEEPEEY.

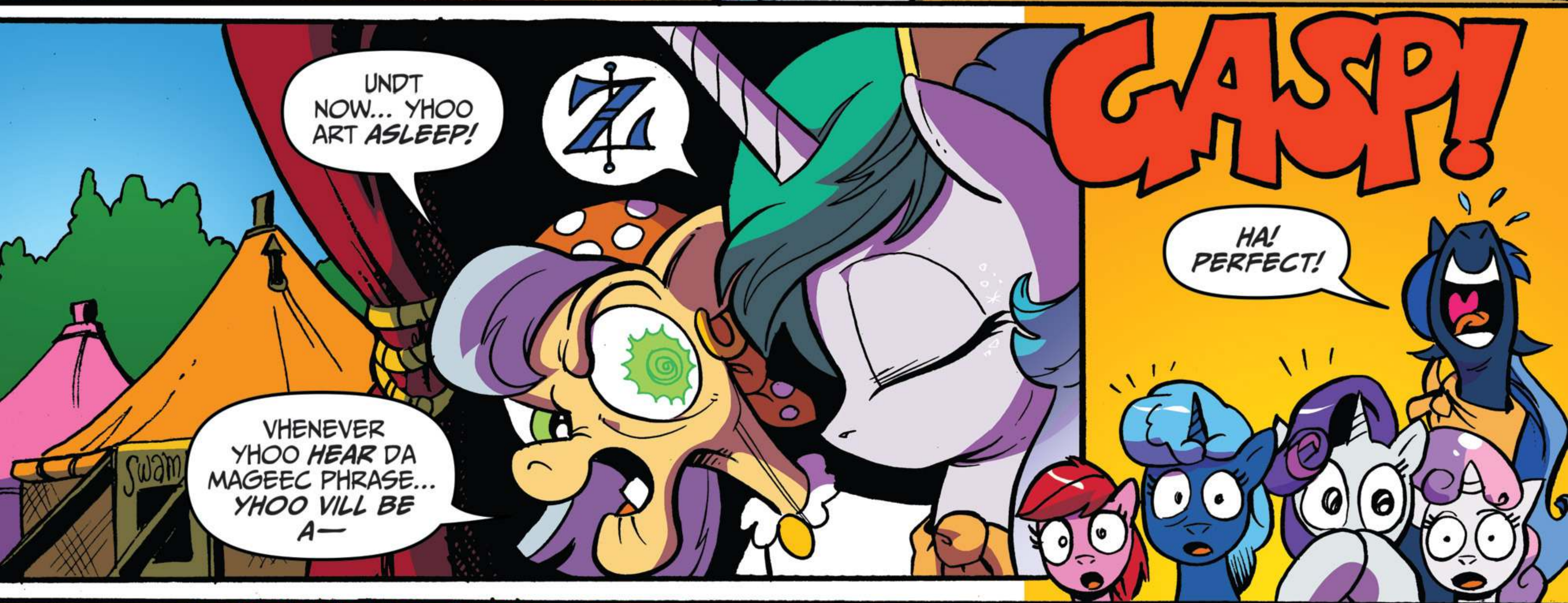
UM, I DIDN'T
SIGN UP FOR
THIS!

NOT FROM
THIS SIDE.

OH, I TOOK THE
LIBERTY, DEAR! I
KNOW HOW MUCH
YOU LOVE THE
HYPNOTISM
ROUTINE!

CRYSTAL
BALL
• HYPNOTISM
• TAROT
• 9 DIFFERENT
LOVE POTIONS
• VISIT HER
PAD DOWN ON
34TH & VINE

RANDOM
GOAT SOUNDS



UNDT
NOW... YHOO
ART ASLEEP!

GASP!

HA!
PERFECT!

VHENEVER
YHOO HEAR DA
MAGEEC PHRASE...
YHOO VILL BE
A—

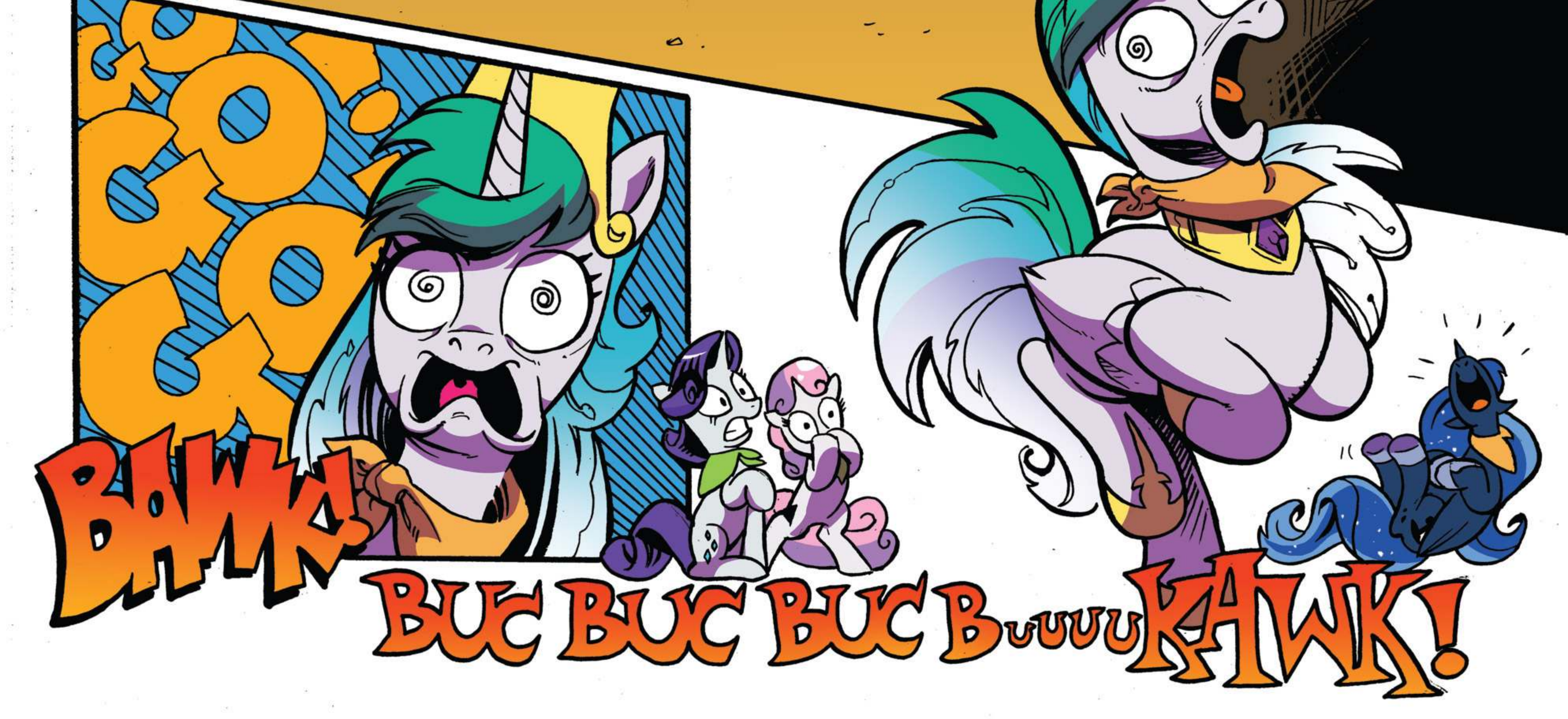


WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
ME?

ALL I'LL
SAY IS WE NEED
THE EGGS.

WHAT?!

IT'S TIME
FER THE HUNNERT
YARD DASH! YEUNS
GET'CHER MARKS!
READY...



GO GO GO!

BAWKA!

BUC BUC BUC BUUUU KAWK!



I THOUGHT I SENSED SOME TENSION.

YEAH. TENSION.



I HAVE TURNED INTO A CHICKEN SIX TIMES TODAY! WE HAVE LOST EVERY EVENT, BECAUSE OF YOU! I CAME HERE TO WIN! THAT'S WHY WE'RE TAKING NEW PARTNERS FOR THE SIX LEGGED RACE!

WELL, GET USED TO LAST PLACE! PERHAPS I'LL FILL THAT DISPLAY CASE WITH MY RIBBONS!



DON'T MIND MY SISTER—SHE MAY TALK LIKE A LOSER AND LOOK LIKE A LOSER, BUT DON'T LET THAT FOOL YOU. SHE REALLY IS A LOSER.

THAT'S IT. WATCH AS MY MOON ECLIPSES YOU, SUNSHINE!

NOW WE'LL SEE WHO'S BEST!



PRINCESSES, IT'S SIMPLY FATE THAT YOU CHOSE US AS PARTNERS! WE CAN HELP WITH YOUR ROYAL SQUABBLES!

YEAH! REMEMBER HOW WE FOUGHT BEFORE THE SOCIAL? APPLEJACK COMPARED BEING SISTERS TO AN APPLE PIE!

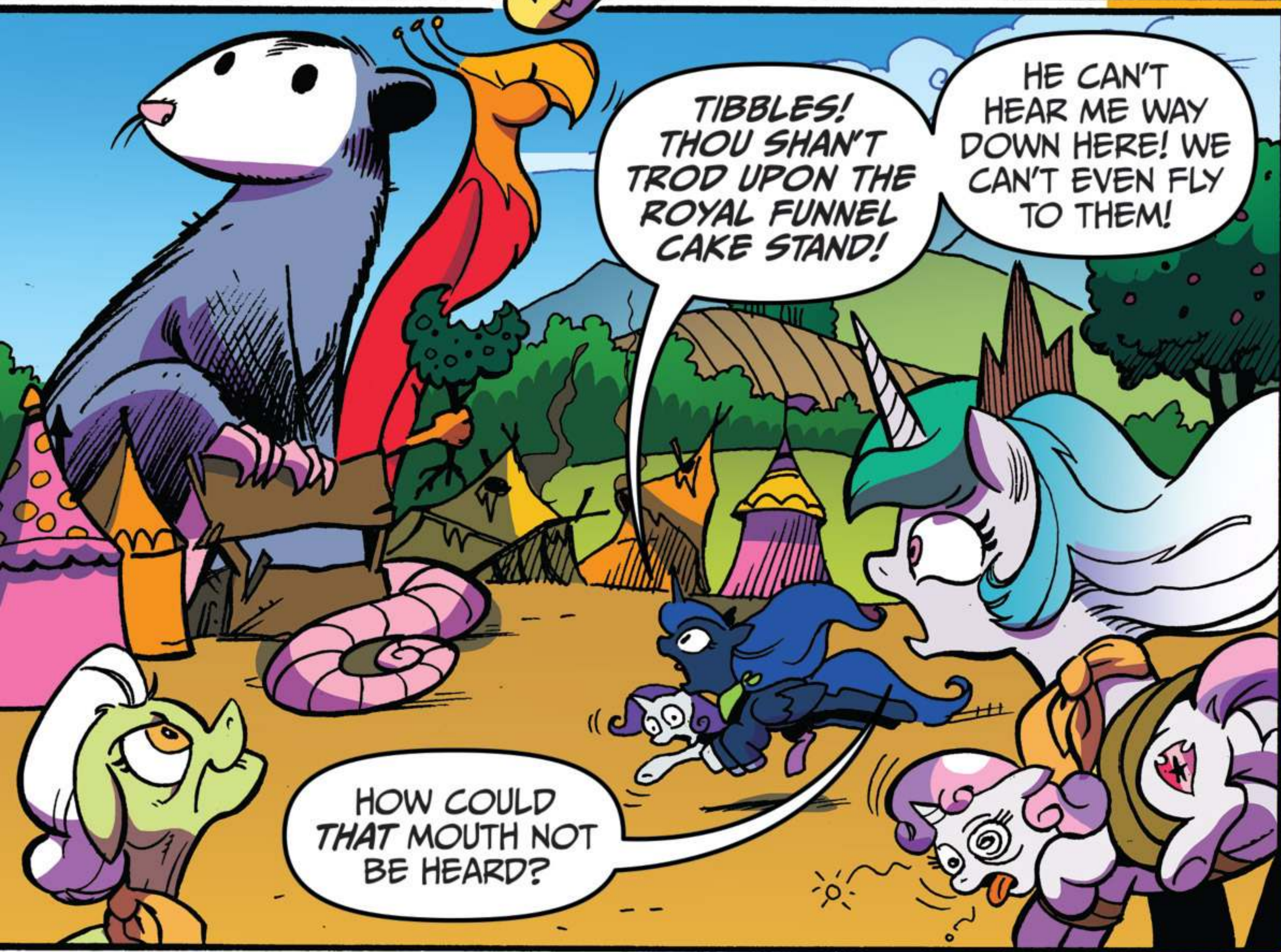
IT'S ALWAYS APPLE PIE WITH THAT ONE.

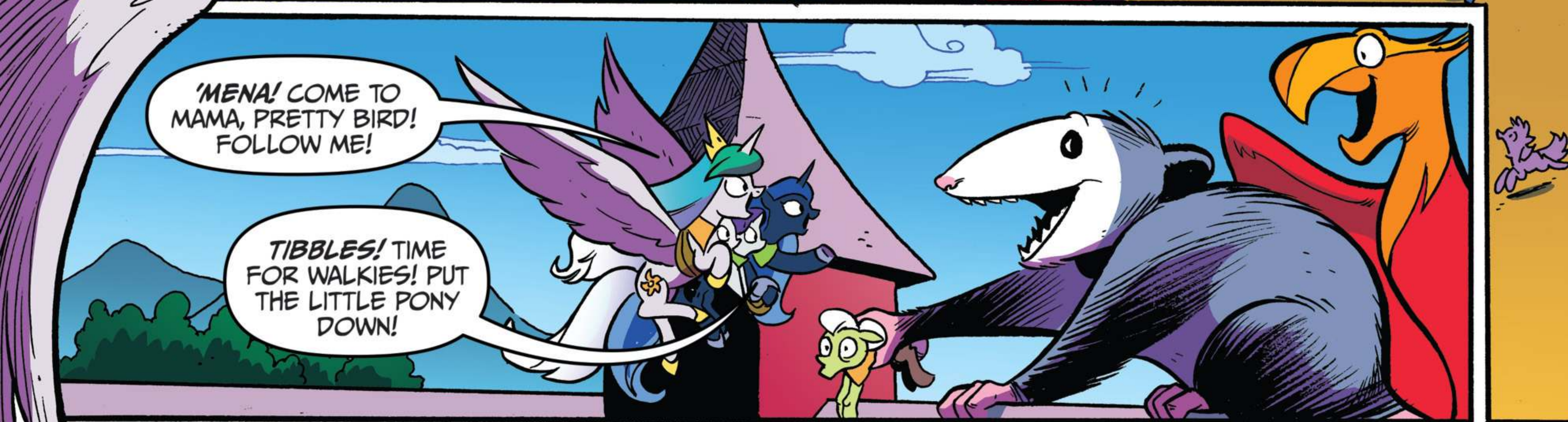
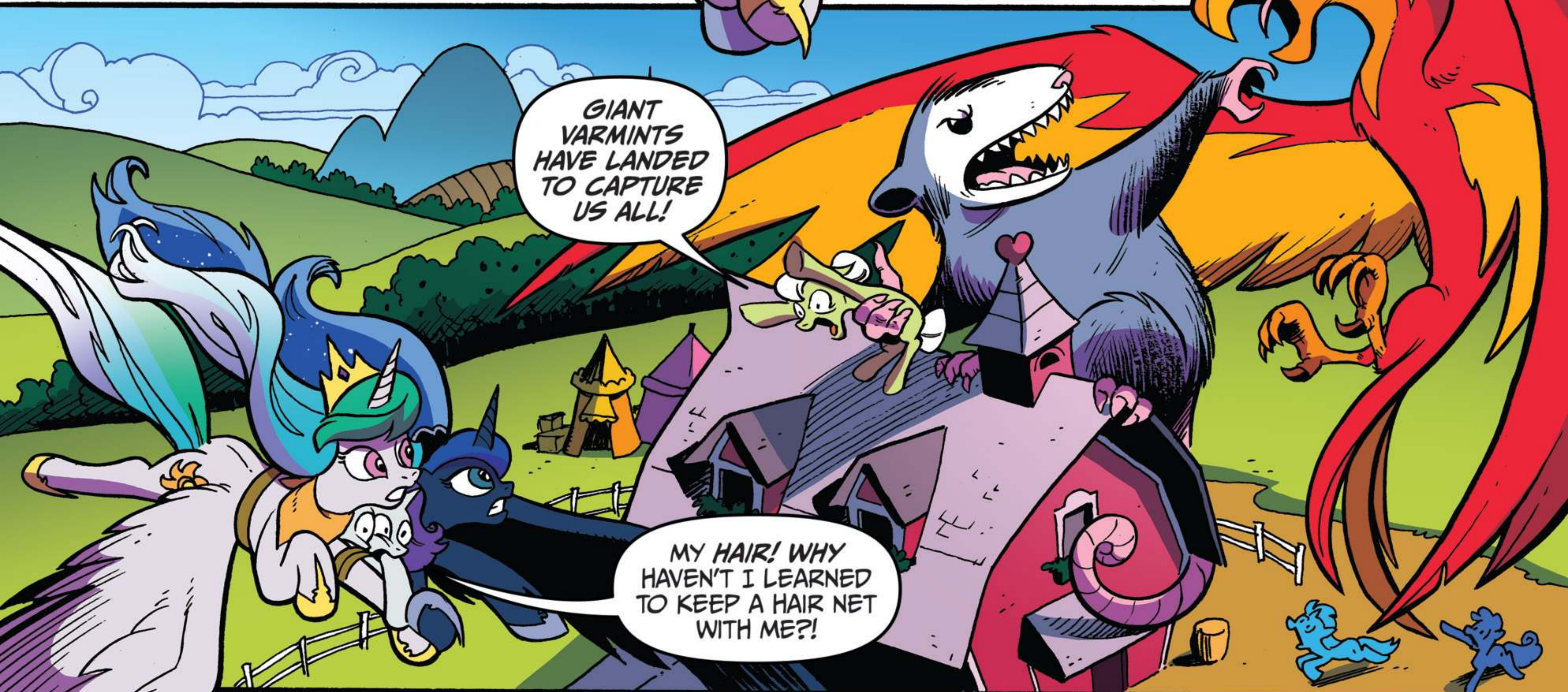
PLEASE DON'T SAY PIE!



WE WROTE THE LESSON WE LEARNED IN A LETTER, REMEMBER? "I AGREE THAT BEING SISTERS IS A WONDERFUL THING, BUT IT TAKES TEAMWORK. SOMETIMES IT'S ABOUT COMPROMISING. SOMETIMES IT'S ABOUT—"

A GIANT POSSUM!









I CAME AS QUICKLY AS I COULD! I *BEG* YOUR PARDONS, I DIDN'T KNOW *THOSE* WERE THE ENCHANTED BERRIES! I BROUGHT WHAT WAS LEFT OF THEM FOR YOU. I'M AFRAID THE CASTLE WILL NEED SOME... ER, *MINOR* REPAIRS.

HOW MINOR?

...THE ENTIRE NORTH WING. THEY'VE *NEVER* BEHAVED SO! I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO THEM!

I DO. *WE* GOT INTO THEM. THEY WERE JUST REACTING TO *OUR* COMPETITIVE BEHAVIOR.



EVERYPONY ELSE THINKS THIS WAS ALL PART OF THE *SKIT* YOU CLAIMED TO BE REHEARSING, BUT... YOU BOTH SEEMED RATHER HOT UNDER THE CROWNS.

YES! YOU TWO WERE IN RARE FORM!

THEY MEAN WHY WERE YOU COMPETING SO HARD?

I THINK CELESTIA CAN ANSWER THAT.

HUH?



SINCE YOU SHARE THE *SPECIAL* BOND OF A SIBLING, WE THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND. I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT AMPLIFIED OUR PROBLEMS, BUT I FEEL I SHOULD ALSO EXPLAIN WHAT STARTED THEM TO BEGIN WITH. KIBITZ, IT'S IMPORTANT YOU HEAR THIS TOO.

YES, PLEASE ADVANCE WITH YOUR NARRATIVE!

SHE MEANS GO AHEAD.



RARITY, YOUR LETTER WAS CORRECT: SISTERS *DO* NEED TO COMPROMISE. SOMETIMES IT'S ABOUT ACCEPTING EACH OTHER'S DIFFERENCES, NOT COMPETING OVER THEM

AND THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT WE ARE—DIFFERENT. LIGHT, DARK. SUN, MOON. PRACTICAL, DRAMATIC.

WE'VE ALWAYS USED OUR DIFFERENCES TO WORK IN *HARMONY*... BUT WITH AN OVERPACKED SCHEDULE AND VERY LITTLE SLEEP, THINGS THAT WE WOULD NORMALLY SOLVE EASILY STARTED TO ANNOY US.

SOMETIMES WE COMPETE OUT OF FUN... BUT THIS WEEK'S CONSTANT STRESS BROUGHT OUT HIDDEN INSECURITIES THAT WE WEREN'T AS GOOD AS ONE ANOTHER.



THE MAGIC BERRIES WE THOUGHT WOULD SIMPLY STRIP OUR POWERS WERE ALSO SPICED TO SPUR ON OUR COMPETITIVE SPIRIT... BUT THAT ALSO AMPLIFIED INSECURITIES.

AND REALLY AMPLIFIED THE PETS WHEN THEY ATE THE EMPOWERMENT BERRIES! I THOUGHT THEY WERE A LITTLE SPICY!



SPEAKING OF LITTLE, I FEEL THAT BEING CALLED LITTLE SISTER SOUNDS LIKE I'M NOT YOUR EQUAL, LIKE YOU'RE TELLING OTHERS I'M NOT AS IMPORTANT AS YOU. IT'S JUST—YOU'RE EVERYTHING! SUNRISE, SUNSET, COLORS, AND WARMTH! IT'S NO WONDER EVERYPONY LOVES YOU BEST!

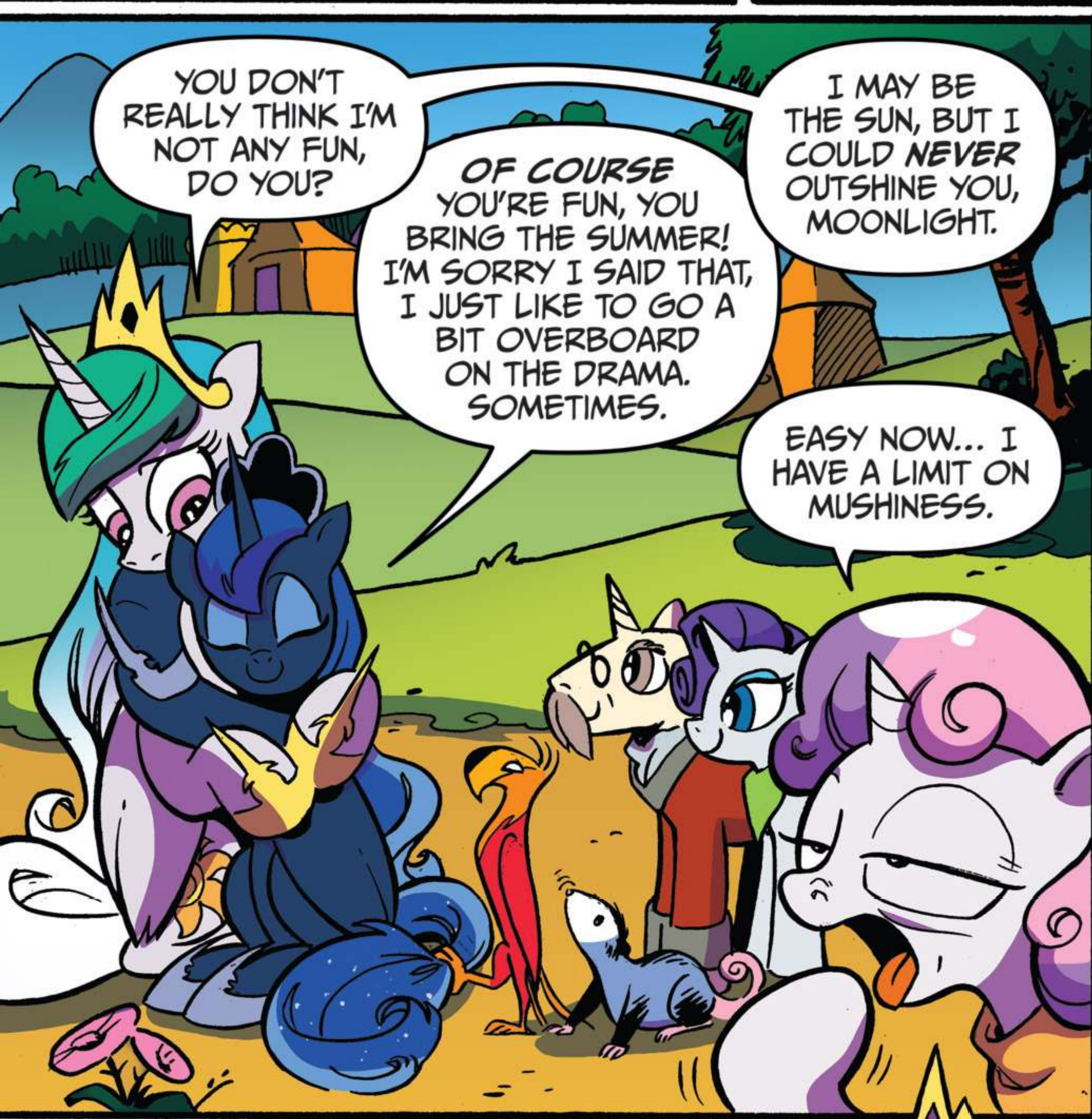
YOU ARE MY EQUAL—I ALWAYS MEAN IT TO ENDEAR, NOT UNDERMINE.



LOOK AT YOU! MYSTERY AND MOOD, DREAM TIME AND MOONLIGHT! EVEN RARE ROCKS! IT'S NO WONDER EVERYPONY LOVES YOU!

IT'S WHEN WE ARE IN HARMONY WE ARE OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL TO EVERYPONY!

TRUE! THERE CAN BE NO SUNRISE OR SUNSET WITHOUT THE NIGHT TO BLEND IN ITS BEAUTY.



YOU DON'T REALLY THINK I'M NOT ANY FUN, DO YOU?

OF COURSE YOU'RE FUN, YOU BRING THE SUMMER! I'M SORRY I SAID THAT, I JUST LIKE TO GO A BIT OVERBOARD ON THE DRAMA. SOMETIMES.

I MAY BE THE SUN, BUT I COULD NEVER OUTSHINE YOU, MOONLIGHT.

EASY NOW... I HAVE A LIMIT ON MUSHINESS.



SORRY I CALLED YOUR BIRD WEIRD. SHE'S ACTUALLY VERY PRETTY. I WISH YOU LIKED TIBERIUS MORE... HE'S MY FRIEND.

I'M SORRY IF I INSULTED HIM. I'VE JUST NOT GOTTEN TO KNOW HIM YET. HE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY CUTE WHEN HE WADDLES AROUND THE CASTLE. I'VE NOT SEEN A SINGLE BUG THERE SINCE HE ARRIVED! THESE ARE **BOTH** THE BEST PETS!

LUCKY THE MAGIC WORE OFF. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHERE WE WOULD FIND A NEWSPAPER LARGE ENOUGH FOR PHILOMENA.



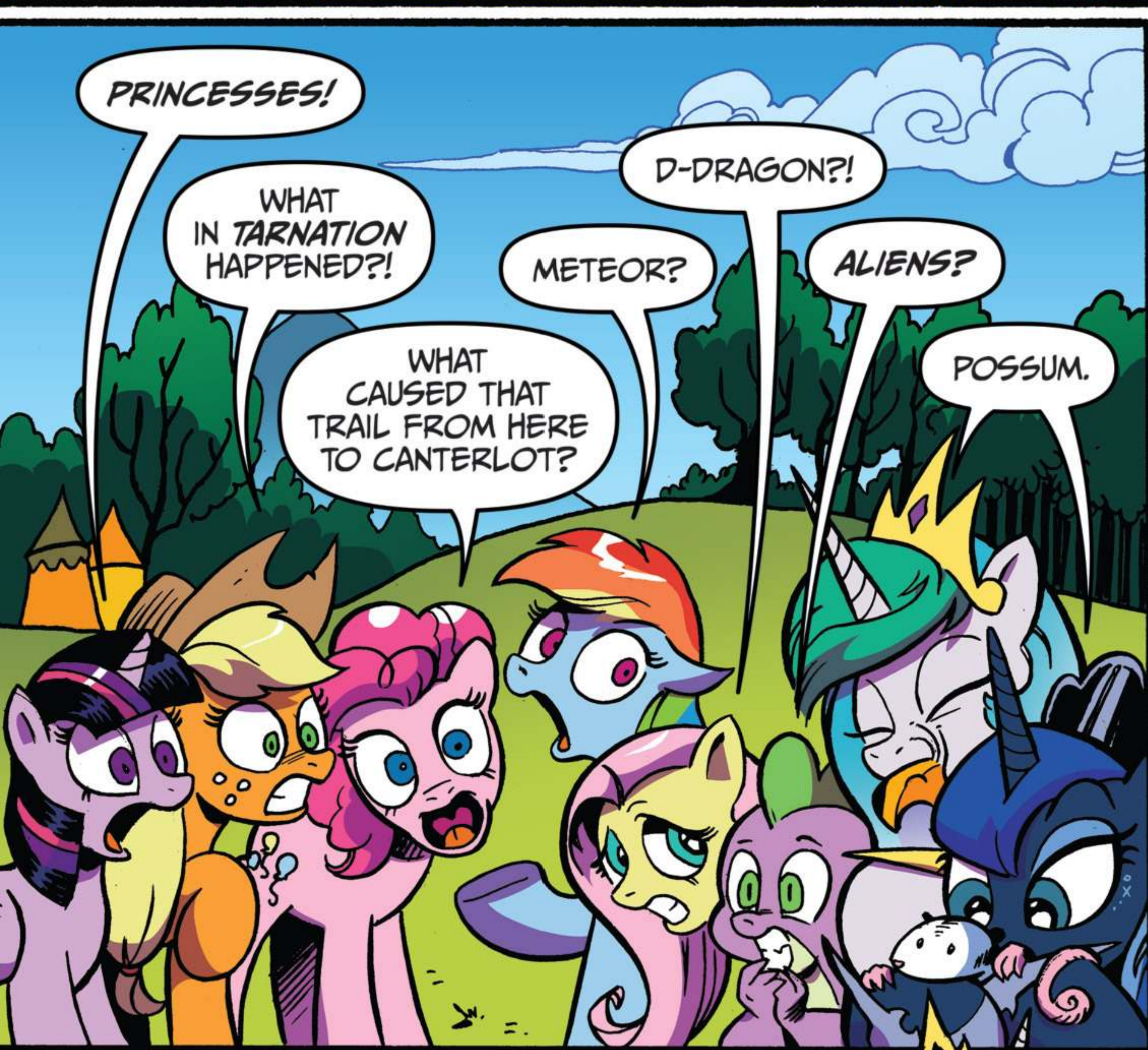
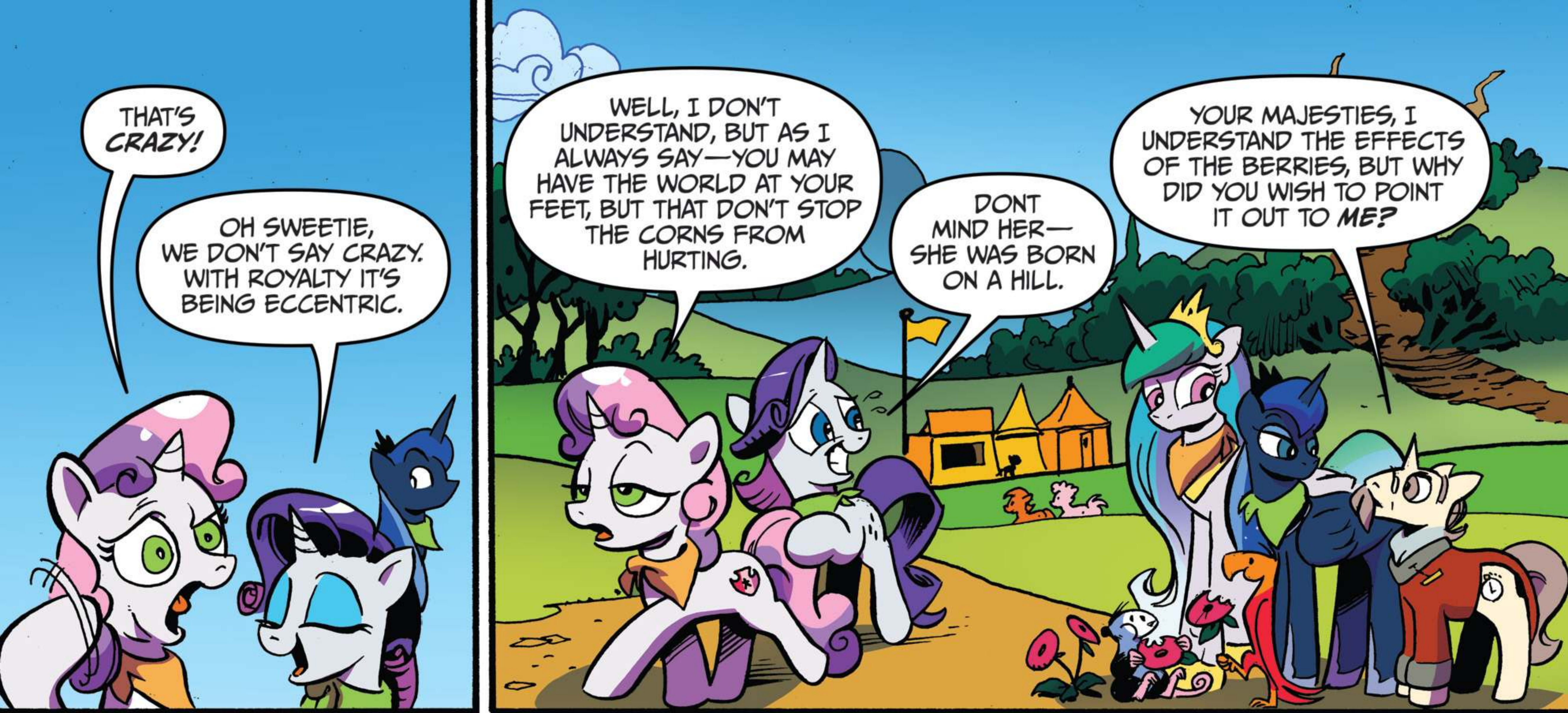
NOW THAT YOU KNOW TO TEMPER YOUR SCHEDULE, ARE YOU STILL GOING TO COMPETE?

YOU SAID IT BEST IN YOUR LETTER: IT'S ABOUT HAVING FUN TOGETHER. WE LOVE TO COMPETE, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE SAFETY OF OTHERS AROUND US, WE MIGHT STICK TO CHESS.

NO WAY! I SAY LET'S GET A FEW BUCKETS OF THE MAGIC STRAWBERRIES THE PETS ATE! MAYBE WE CAN GROW TO 50 FEET TALL AND HAVE A RACE AROUND EQUESTRIA! I'LL WIN OF COURSE!

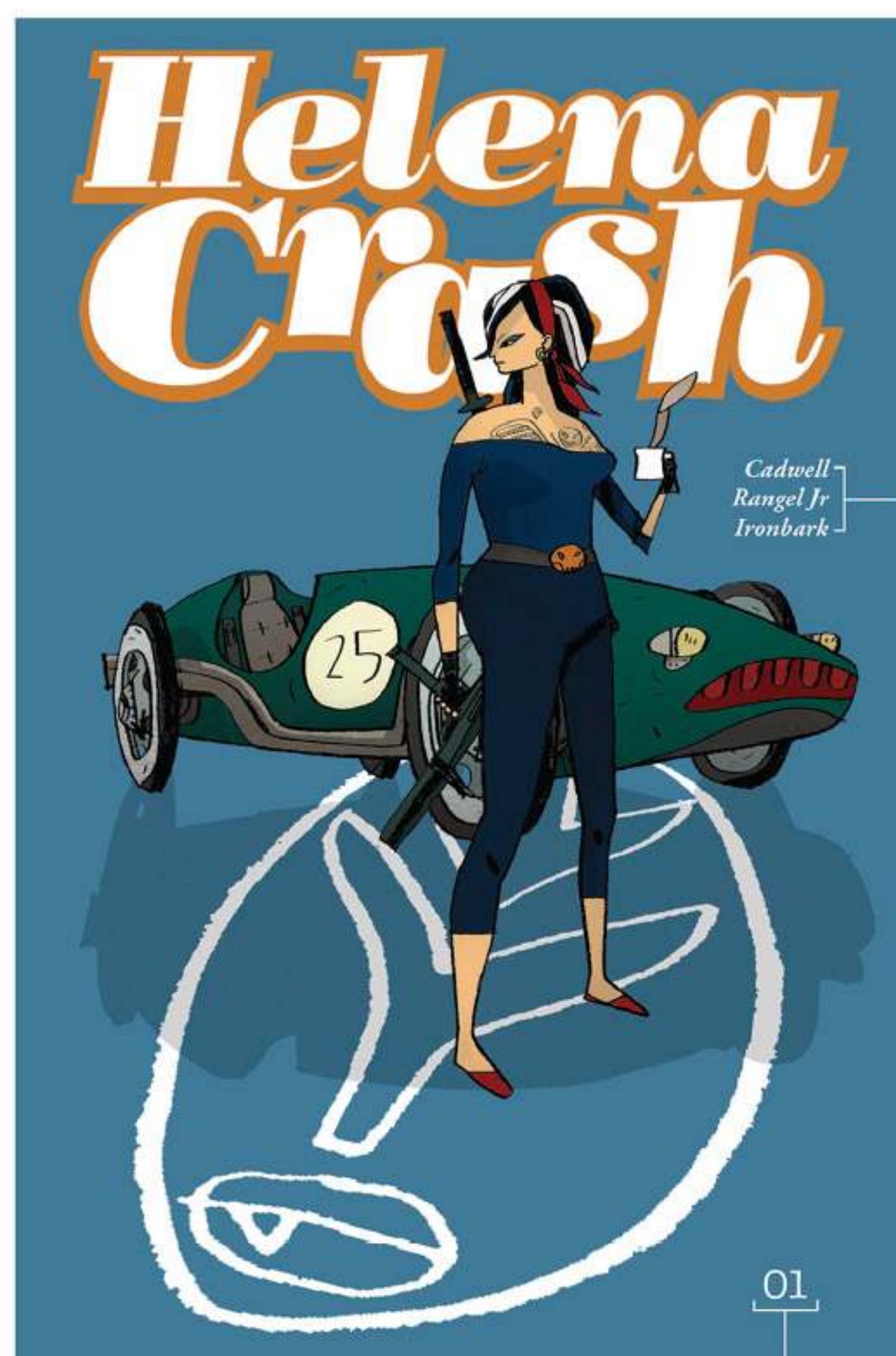
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, YOU DARK NUT.

I LOVE YOU TOO, MARSHMALLOW!



FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

by Ted Adams



I've got another fun creator-owned series to tell you about this month—**Helena Crash** by artist, **Warwick Johnson Cadwell**, and writer, **Fabian Rangel, Jr.**, with lettering by Ironbark. In a world where coffee has been outlawed and old technology is highly coveted, Helena Crash is the woman who can get you whatever you want—as long as you're willing to meet her price.

TA: Fabian, I love the mix of old technology and new technology in **Helena Crash**—one of my favorite scenes in the first couple of issues is Helena getting an order from a client on a phone that projects a holographic image where she gets sent on a mission to find an old-school VHS tape. The whole world

is so fun and unique—aliens and gorillas mixing with humans, bad guys wearing Mexican wrestling masks, cool race cars, and more—that I don't know where to start. So, let's start at the beginning. How did you and Warwick meet?

FR: Glad to hear you dig the world of **Helena Crash**! Warwick and I have had the best time filling it with all of our favorite things. I became aware of Warwick after he did a pin-up for *Space Riders*, and started following him on social media. It didn't take long after that for me to hit him up asking to collaborate. His work is really inspiring.

TA: What other work have you done before **Helena Crash**?

FR: It's safe to say the comic I'm most known for is *Space Riders* with Alexis Ziritt, and before that, a comic I did with Ryan Cody called *Doc Unknown* that I ran a few Kickstarters for. I also wrote an issue of *Jim Henson's The Storyteller*, the *Lucha Underground* comics for El Rey, and I did a back-up story in *TMNT: Amazing Adventures*.

WJC: I did a 4-issue run on *Tank Girl* a few years ago and more recently in the multi-artist *21st Century Tank Girl*, both for Titan Comics. I have worked with UK publishers Blank Slate and SelfMadeHero and made small press and independently published comics like *Dangeritis* and *The Marionette Unit*. I've also done animation design for Aardman, Laika and Nickelodeon.

TA: What's your work process?

FR: These days, it starts with finding an

awesome artist to work with, and letting their art inspire the start of a story — whether that means a genre, or a character, or a setting. I don't even think of something new anymore until I know who I'm working with. Other elements include drinking lots of coffee, listening to movie or TV show scores on vinyl, and staring at the toy collection in my office. After that, it's filling notebooks and scripting. I also keep a big whiteboard on the wall that has everything I need to write in red.

WJC: My work process is like a hurricane. Not that it's an epic force of nature, commanding awe and respect, but more that it's a giant, messy, unpredictable event that I find impossible to steer. In the middle though, there is a short moment of sweet clarity and that's where the work gets done.



TA: Warwick, I see a little bit of Paul Pope and Jim Mahfood in your art and storytelling—high praise intended. Who inspires you? Any particular books, movies, or music that you look to for inspiration?

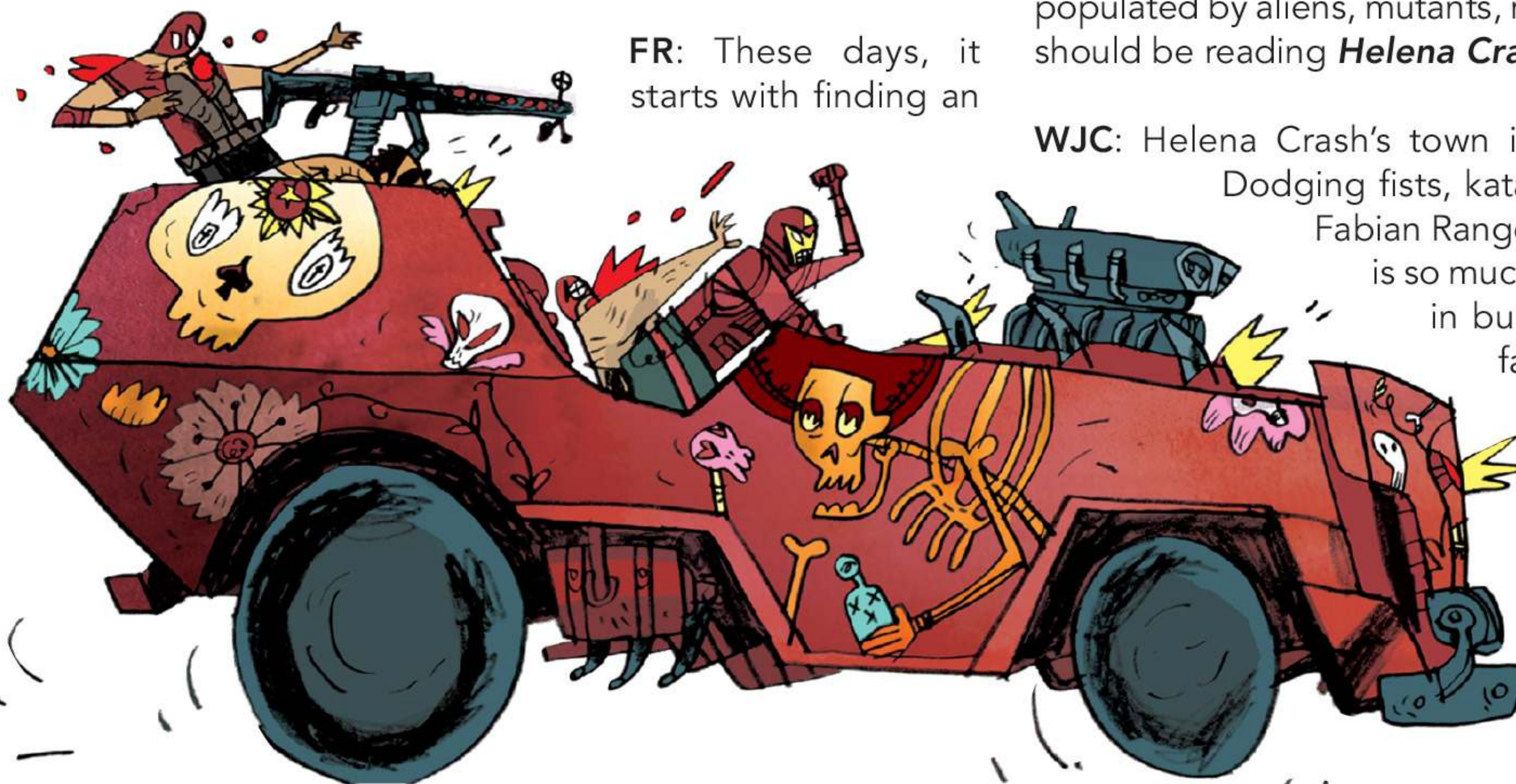
WJC: Well those two for a start. There are loads though. Mike Mignola, Mick McMahon, Kevin O'Neill, Duncan Fegredo. Then Frazetta, N.C. Wyeth, Kuniyoshi. Then Sergio Leone, Steven Spielberg, Genndy Tartakovsky. I've started listing and the problem is that I'll need to leave everyone else out. Anyone making stuff with love and care, that's what is inspiring.

TA: Anything else you'd like to tell our readers?

FR: If you like coffee, *Mad Max* style car battles, the thrill of collecting, larger than life characters doing battle in a city populated by aliens, mutants, robots, and monsters, then you should be reading **Helena Crash**.

WJC: Helena Crash's town is an incredible place to be. Dodging fists, katanas, machetes and ray guns. Fabian Rangel Jr. knows his stuff. This book is so much fun, with a capital "F" written in bullet holes on the side of your favourite gangsters car.

Thanks, guys. Next month, I'll be talking with the creators of *Night Owl Society*, James Venhaus and Pius Bak.



my LITTLE PONY

Legends of Magic

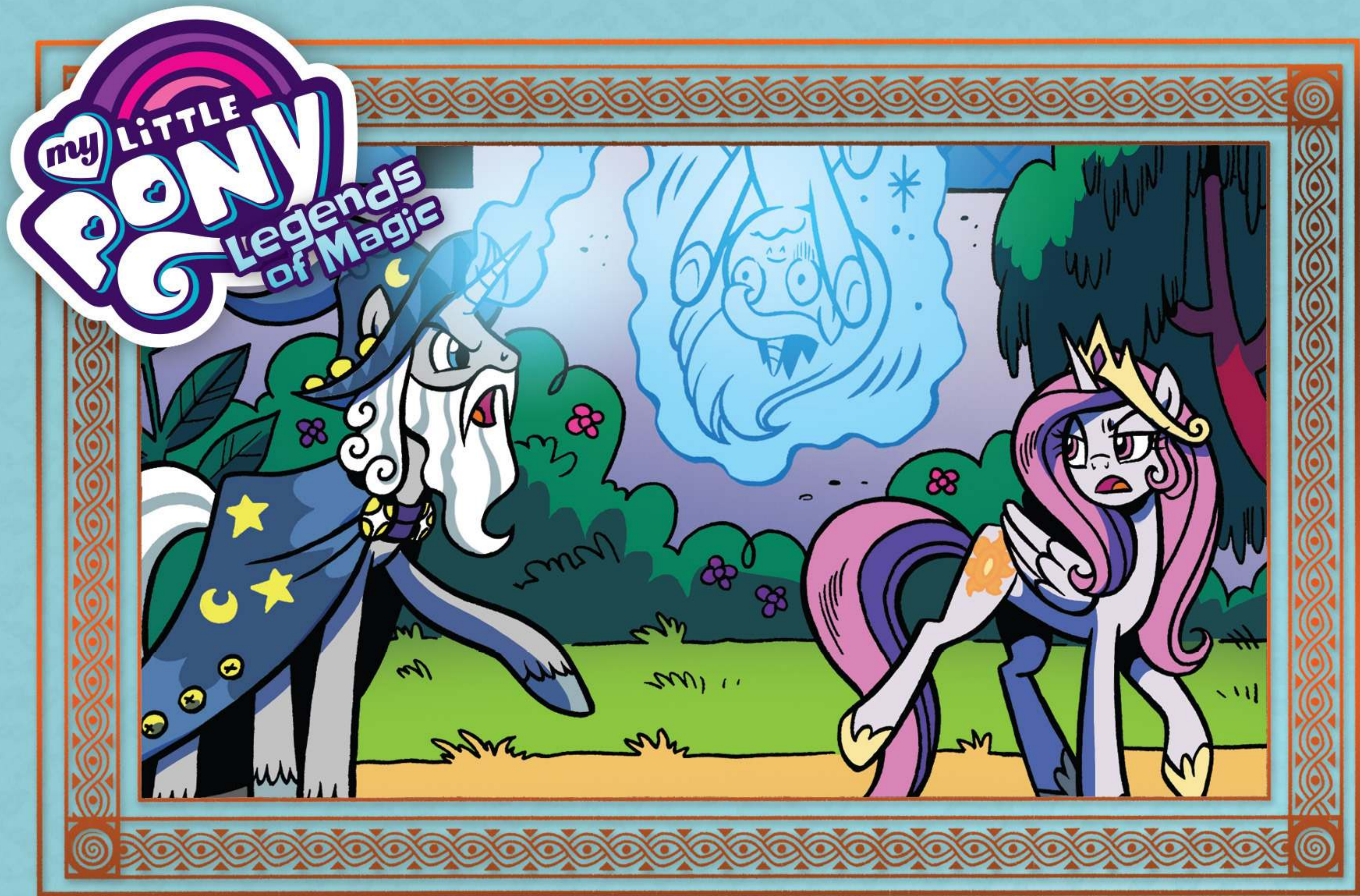


FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

CHECK OUT A SNEAK PEEK OF THE AWESOME NEW SERIES...

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Jeremy Whitley

art by
Brenda Hickey

colors by
Heather Breckel

letters by
Neil Uyetake

edits by
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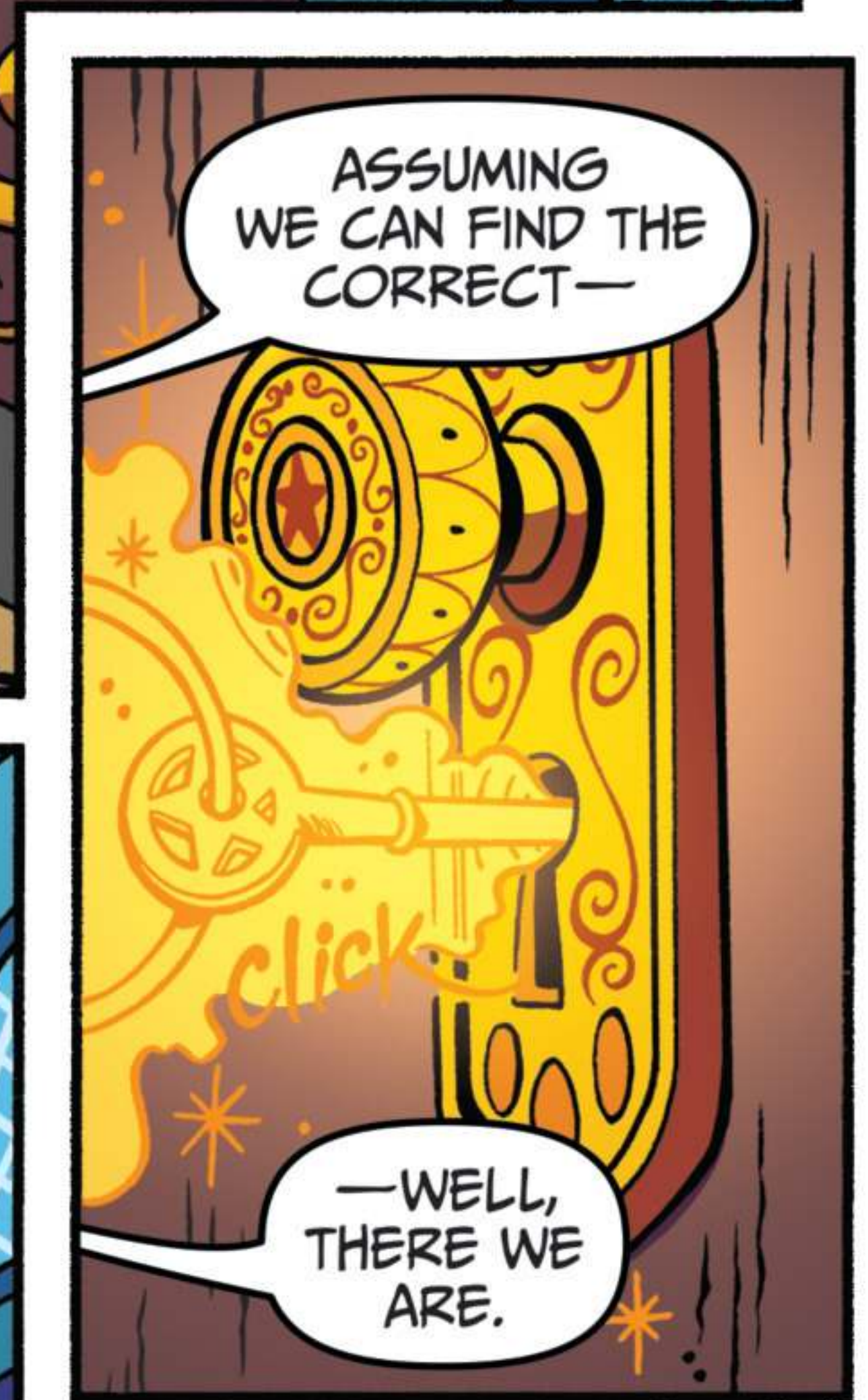
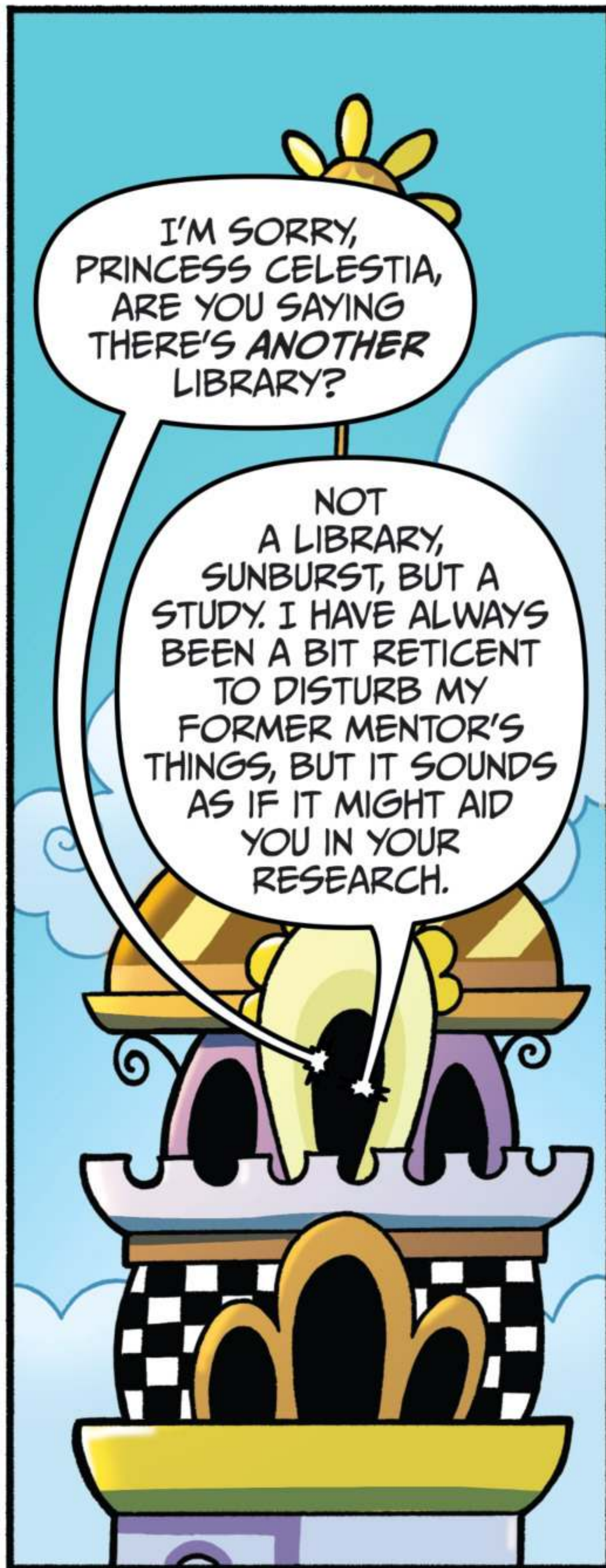
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THIS IS AMAZING!
WHO KNOWS WHAT
COULD BE IN
HERE!

WELL, I AM CERTAIN
THAT LUNA AND I READ
SEVERAL OF THESE
STORIES WHEN WE WERE
UNDER STARSWIRL'S
TUTELAGE.

WHY
WOULD YOU
KEEP ALL OF
THIS LOCKED
AWAY?



WHEN STARSWIRL
DISAPPEARED, LUNA AND I
WERE CONVINCED HE WOULD BE
BACK ANY DAY. HE WAS OFTEN
PULLED AWAY ON ADVENTURES,
JUST TO TURN UP A FEW
WEEKS LATER.

AND WHEN
HE DIDN'T
RETURN?

AT FIRST, WE WERE
SURE HE WOULD. THEN, ONCE
A FEW MONTHS HAD PASSED,
WE STOPPED LOOKING. BUT WE
WERE STILL YOUNG, AND DIDN'T
DARE TO DISTURB OUR
TUTOR'S THINGS.



THEN THERE WAS
THE FIGHT, AND I EXILED
LUNA TO THE MOON. AFTER
THAT I WAS TOO BUSY... OR
PERHAPS IT HURT TOO
MUCH TO THINK OF
THOSE DAYS.

"LEGENDS
OF MAGIC"?

STARSWIRL
WAS FOND OF
MYTHS AND
LEGENDS. STORIES
OF PONIES WITH
EXCEPTIONAL
POWER.

*Legends
of Magic*

IT LOOKS LIKE
HE WROTE THESE
HIMSELF.



WHEN HE HEARD
A STORY OR A SONG
OF A LEGEND, HE WOULD
ALWAYS WRITE IT DOWN.
USUALLY THEY WERE
NOTHING MORE THAN
TALL TALES.

WHAT
ABOUT THIS
ONE?

WHAT IS IT
CALLED?

"THE GREAT
STARSWIRL THE
BEARDED, THE
TWO SISTERS, AND
THE MAGICAL
VORTEX."



THAT...
THAT'S ABOUT
ME!



LATER THAT NIGHT.

FASCINATING!
THIS WAS WRITTEN
BY STARSWIRL, BUT
IT DOESN'T READ
LIKE A JOURNAL
HERE.

HE'S WRITTEN
AN ACCOUNT
OF HIS OWN
LEGEND.



"NOW, WITHOUT A
DOUBT, MANY AMONG YOU
WILL KNOW THE LEGENDS
OF STARSWIRL THE
BEARDED."

"ONE OF THE
GREAT HEROES OF
OUR TIME, STARSWIRL WAS
KNOWN FOR FACING DOWN
MAGICAL CREATURES AND
FORCES NO OTHER PONY
WOULD DARE."

~~SNORT~~
HE CERTAINLY
WASN'T KNOWN
FOR HIS SMALL
EGO.



Indeed, Starswirl was one of the
great pony heroes. His feats will
be sung long after he has left us.



But perhaps the most challenging
role for Starswirl was not that of
mage, or wanderer, or hero. But the
most dangerous of all professions—

HALT, KNAVE!
GO NO FURTHER!



IT IS NOT YOUR JOB TO MONITOR OR COMMENT ON YOUR SISTER'S PROGRESS. I AM THE INSTRUCTOR HERE.

WELL, THAT MUST BE FRUSTRATING FOR YOU.



ARE YOU OKAY, PRINCESS LUNA?

THANK YOU FOR GETTING ME DOWN. HOW CAN MY OWN SISTER BE SO MEAN? CAN YOU BELIEVE HER?

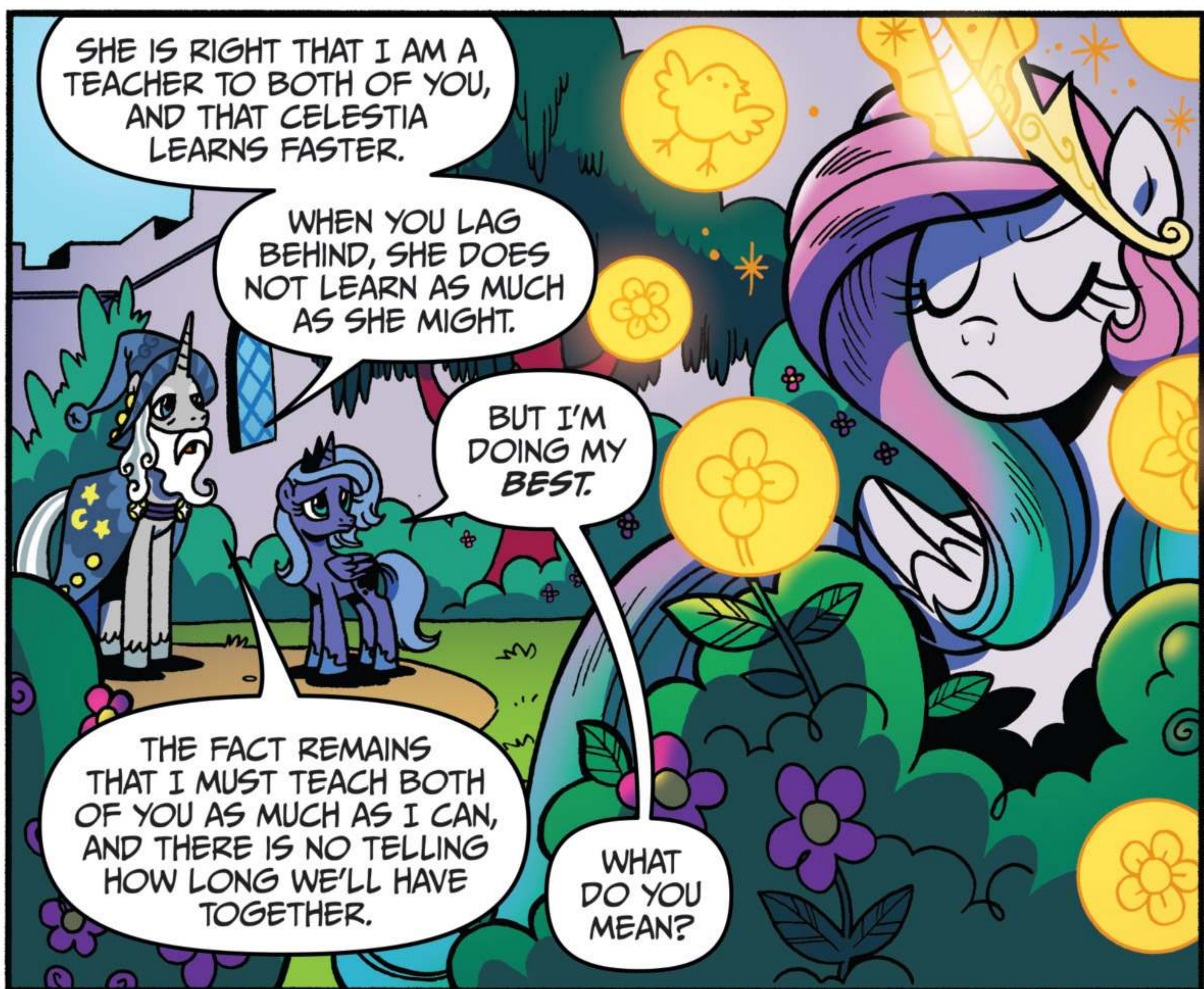
TO BE FRANK, HER COMPLAINT HAS MERIT.



I... I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON MY SIDE.



THERE ARE NO *SIDES* HERE, PRINCESS LUNA.



SHE IS RIGHT THAT I AM A TEACHER TO BOTH OF YOU, AND THAT CELESTIA LEARNS FASTER.

WHEN YOU LAG BEHIND, SHE DOES NOT LEARN AS MUCH AS SHE MIGHT.

BUT I'M DOING MY *BEST*.

THE FACT REMAINS THAT I MUST TEACH BOTH OF YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN, AND THERE IS NO TELLING HOW LONG WE'LL HAVE TOGETHER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



WHEN A CRISIS ARISES, I MAY BE CALLED ON TO DEAL WITH IT, AND SOMEDAY I MIGHT NOT RETURN.

SOMETIMES OUR LIVES REQUIRE US TO DO THINGS THAT DO NOT SEEM IMMEDIATELY POSSIBLE TO US.



AS A PRINCESS, SOMEDAY THOSE THINGS MIGHT BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SURVIVAL OF YOUR KINGDOM OR THE FALL OF ALL OF EQUESTRIA.

IF YOUR BEST IS NOT UP TO THE TASK, EITHER YOU MUST FIND A *NEW BEST*, OR BE WILLING TO LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

my LITTLE PONY

Legends of Magic



TO BE CONTINUED IN...

MY LITTLE PONY: LEGENDS OF MAGIC #1

.....

Brenna Hickey

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