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my LITTLE PONY™

MICRO-SERIES

featuring

TWILIGHT SPARKLE



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CANTERLOT...

ARE YOU *NERVOUS* ABOUT YOUR TEST, *TWILIGHT SPARKLE?*

MY *INTERMEDIATE LEVEL TWO MAGIC TEST?* WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT, *SPIKE?*

WELL, THE *MANE CHEWING* IS ONE SIGN.

AND WE'VE BEEN STANDING AT THE TOP OF THESE STAIRS FOR ALMOST *HALF AN HOUR.*

I HAPPEN TO *LIKE* THE VIEW OF *CANTERLOT* FROM HERE. AND I--

--OH, *WHO* AM I KIDDING? IT'S ONLY THE *HUGEST TEST* **EVER!**

YEAH, IT'S *PRETTY BAD.* IN FACT, THERE'S ONLY *ONE* THING I CAN THINK OF *WORSE* THAN THAT.

BEING LATE.

WHAT?

POOF!

GREETINGS, TWILIGHT SPARKLE. YOU CERTAINLY SEEM *EXCITED* TO TAKE YOUR TEST.

YES, PRINCESS CELESTIA. THAT'S DEFINITELY *ONE WAY* OF LOOKING AT IT.

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S BEEN A *CHANGE OF PLANS.*

SUMMER MANE, THE *ROYAL ARCHIVIST* HAS HAD A *FALL* AND SHE CAN'T GET AROUND.

I NEED TO SEND *SOMEPONY* TO HELP HER UNTIL SHE CAN GET BACK ON HER HOOVES.

I WAS THINKING *YOU* MIGHT NOT MIND *POSTPONING* YOUR TEST--

TO GO TO THE *ROYAL ARCHIVES?* THE PLACE WE KEEP COPIES OF ALL OUR BOOKS? *ALL OF THEM?*

I'D SKIP THE TEST *FOREVER* TO SEE THAT!

I THINK A *FEW DAYS* WILL BE ENOUGH.

WHATEVER IT TAKES.

YES, PRINCESS.

THEN LEAVE *RIGHT AWAY*, PLEASE! I'M SURE THE WORK IS *PILING UP.*

I'M *SORRY*, SPIKE, I'M AFRAID I NEED TWILIGHT SPARKLE TO TAKE THIS ON--

--BY *HERSELF.*

THE ROYAL ARCHIVE...

HELLOOOO. IS ANYPONY--

WHO ARE YOU?

ARE YOU *SUMMER MANE?* THE PRINCESS SENT ME TO HELP Y--

DON'T WANT ANY HELP.

SLAM!

CLEARLY.

BUT THE *PRINCESS* ORDERED ME TO--

DON'T CARE.

IT SURE LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT *RAIN* OUT HERE.

THEN YOU'D BEST *GALLOP BACK* BEFORE IT STARTS.

ALL RIGHT. BUT THE PRINCESS SAID THAT IF YOU *DIDN'T* LET ME IN, I WAS TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THE *NEXT PONY* SHE SENDS WILL BE YOUR *REPLACEMENT.*

FINE.

WHAT'S YOUR *NAME?*

TWILIGHT SPARKLE. I THINK--

I THINK YOU *TALK* TOO MUCH.

OKAY, *TRY-RIGHT,* IF YOU'RE GOING TO WORK HERE, YOU NEED TO KNOW *THE RULES.*

FIRST RULE: DON'T BREAK THE RULES.

DO WE--?

SECOND RULE: DON'T ASK QUESTIONS.

DON'T MAKE TROUBLE.

DINNER IS PROMPTLY AT SIX. *DON'T MISS IT.*

THERE'S A *GUEST SUITE* DOWN THE HALL. THAT'S *YOURS.*

NO SNORING!

AND, ABOVE ALL, NEVER, *EVER* ENTER MY PRIVATE OFFICE.

GOT IT.

THOSE ARE *BOOKS.*

DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE, TWYLEK. YOUNG PONIES THESE DAYS *DON'T READ.*

I KNOW *VERY WELL* WHAT BOOKS ARE. I *LOVE* TO READ!

PROBABLY JUST *COMIC BOOKS.* OR MAYBE THAT SILLY SERIES WITH THE *VAMPIRE PONY--*

I READ *EVERYTHING.* I'VE READ DARING DO AND THE QUEST FOR THE SAPPHIRE STATUE, OF PONIES AND PREJUDICE, THE HORSEBACK OF NOTRE DAME--

FINE, YOU'VE READ THE *TITLES* OF BOOKS. WHO'S YOUR *FAVORITE AUTHOR?*

THAT'S EASY! *JADE SINGER!* SHE WROTE *CANTER IN THE SKY!*

SHE'S A *MYSTERY,* TOO. SHE ONLY WROTE THAT *ONE* BOOK AND THEN *DISAPPEARED.*

BUT *WHAT A BOOK!* IT'S THE *MOST AWESOME--*

--BOOK--

--EVER?

FINE. YOU CAN *READ.* CONGRATULATIONS.

IT'S *LATE.* WE START TOMORROW AT *SIX.*

KNOCK! KNOCK!

TIME TO *GET UP*, SPOTLIGHT. LET'S GET TO *WORK*.

?

MA'AM? I'M IN THE *LIBRARY*.

TWILIGHT SPARKLE *REPORTING FOR DUTY, MA'AM!*

YOU'VE GOT *SPUNK*, KID.

I *HATE* SPUNK.

THESE BOOKS NEED TO BE *SHELVED*.

YES, MA'AM. THESE DON'T LOOK *TOO BAD*.

OH, *THOSE* ARE JUST THE ONES THAT FELL OFF THE *MAIN STACK.*

NICE *CEILINGS.*

PRECISE ALPHABETICAL ORDER, *LIBRARY STYLE.* THEN ADD THEM TO THE *LOG BOOK.*

THINGS HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN *PILING UP* AROUND HERE, HAVEN'T THEY?

I'LL BE IN MY *OFFICE.* ARE YOU *CLEAR* ON THS PROJECT?

YES, MA'AM! *LIBRARY STYLE!* FIRST WORD, EXCLUDING "THE," "A," OR "AN," GOT IT!

GRUMBLE! PROBABLY DOTS HER I'S WITH HEARTS, TOO.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR BABY DRAGON. HUH. MAYBE--

Clang

YIPES!

LET'S SEE *HOW* YOU *DID*, FLASHLIGHT.

MARE ABOUT YOU... NEIGH OF THE WARRIOR... MARBLE UNIVERSE...

WAIT? *MARBLE UNIVERSE?*

DOESN'T "M" COME BEFORE "N" IN *YOUR ALPHABET, CHILD? MARBLE UNIVERSE?*

YES, BUT IT'S *NOT* CALLED "MARBLE UNIVERSE." LOOK AGAIN.

"THE *OFFICIAL HANDBOOK--"*

HURM.

YOU'RE *RIGHT.*

THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARBLE UNIVERSE

YOUR GUIDE TO EVERYONE'S FAVORITE METAMORPHIC ROCK

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.

YES, MA'AM.



DID YOU--
--EVER--
--NEVER MIND.



WHAT DID--
GULP!



SO, TWYLEK, WHAT ARE YOU READING?

LATER...

HELLO? WHAT NEEDS TO BE *DONE* TODAY?

AND *WHAT* ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?

KNOCK! KNOCK!

WHAT I'M DOING IS *MY BUSINESS.*

EYES MAY BE SHOT, HONEY, BUT THE *EARS* ARE *SHARP* AS *EVER.*

THESE BOOKS NEED TO HAVE *DUST COVERS* PUT ON THEM.

REALLY? BECAUSE THEY'RE *ALREADY* COVERED IN *DUST.*

SORRY, MA'AM. JUST A *LITTLE JOKE.*

VERY LITTLE.

♫ HMMM. ♪ HMMM.

♫♫ I KNOW IT'S *CRAZY*, BUT ♪ CALL ME *MANE...* ♫♪

ARE YOU *HURT?* I HEARD THIS *TERRIBLE SOUND--*

NO, , MA'AM, I WAS JUST *SINGING* TO--

SINGING? IS *THAT* WHAT YOU KIDS CALL MUSIC?

YOU WANT *MUSIC?* LET'S GET SOME *REAL* MUSIC.

HERE'S ONE. THE BOOGIE WOOGIE PONY BOY OF STABLE C.

OH BLAH DEE DOOBIE WOOBIE OOGIE BOOGIE HE[illegible] BO[illegible] OF STABLE C OOH YEAH OOH YEAH

THIS IS *GOOD STUFF.* ONCE YOU HEAR IT, YOU *CAN'T* GET IT *OUT OF YOUR HEAD.*

THAT'S WHAT I'M *AFRAID* OF.

BIT LATER...

--NO, SHE WROTE THAT ONE OUT *LONGHAND.*

NO WAY! I THOUGHT *EVERYONE* USED A TYPEWRITER.

A *LOT* DO. IN FACT, SOME AUTHORS ARE *VERY PICKY* ABOUT THEIRS.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT *JADE SINGER* USED?

HMM. I THINK SHE USED AN OLD *LIPPONZONER* MODEL. I *DON'T KNOW.*

YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO *HOOKED* ON HER, YOU KNOW. HAVE YOU EVER READ ANYTHING BY *CESIUM GRANDE?*

NO, MA'AM.

IF YOU LIKE SINGER, YOU'LL *LOVE* GRANDE, AND SHE WROTE MORE THAN JUST *ONE OVERRATED BOOK.*

I'LL GET IT FOR YOU--

TRY-LIKE?

TRY-LIKE SPACKLE? *WHERE* ARE YOU?

TRY-LIKE?

TRY-LIKE?!

TWILIGHT!!

I'M SORRY! I JUST *OPENED* THE COVER AND THE *NEXT THING I KNEW--*

YOU'RE HERE TO *WORK*, CHILD, *REMEMBER?* LETTING DOWN THE PRINCESS, WHY I *NEVER--*

I'M SORRY! *SO SORRY!*

THE FIRST PARAGRAPH WAS JUST *SO GOOD*, I *COULDN'T* HELP MYSELF.

HAPPENS TO ME *ALL THE TIME*, TWILIGHT.

WHY DO YOU THINK THE BOOKS *PILE UP* AROUND HERE?

--MORE *MACARONI*, TWILIGHT?

YES, *PLEASE.*

NOW, YOU WERE SAYING...?

IT JUST SEEMS TO ME THAT THE *POINT* OF HAVING ALL THOSE DIVERSE PONIES AT THE END *ISN'T* A TELLING STATEMENT.

IT'S *JUST AS LIKELY* THAT AT THE END OF THE WORLD, A *PEGASUS* WOULD SURVIVE.

THAT'S *VERY INSIGHTFUL.*

THANK YOU. AND IT DOESN'T TAKE AWAY FROM *I HAVE NO SNOUT YET I MUST WHINNY* BEING A *GREAT BOOK,* OF COURSE.

YOU KNOW, THAT AUTHOR ALSO WROTE *PLAYS* AS WELL.

REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

THE NEXT MORNING...

"TWILIGHT, I DECIDED TO HOBBLE INTO *TOWN* AND GET US A *PIE* FOR TONIGHT. THERE'S A *NEW STACK* OF BOOKS THAT NEEDS FILED IN THE *SOUTH WING.*"

HMMMM...

SHE SAID *NOT* TO GO INTO THE OFFICE. *NEVER* GO IN THE OFFICE.

BUT SHE *DIDN'T* SAY I COULDN'T *LOOK* THROUGH THE DOOR IF SHE LEFT IT *OPEN*, RIGHT?

WOW.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I FORGOT MY CHECKBOOK. I--

I--

I *TOLD YOU* TO *STAY OUT OF THE OFFICE!* THE *MOST IMPORTANT RULE* WAS *STAY OUT OF THE OFFICE!*

I *DIDN'T* GO IN. THE DOOR WAS *OPEN* AND--

I'M *SORRY.* I JUST--

GET OUT OF MY SIGHT AND DO *YOUR WORK!*

I'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU *LATER.*


PACK YOUR THINGS. YOU LEAVE IN THE MORNING.

EARLY THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

WHAT THE *HAY?*

YOU SHELVED *ALL* THE BOOKS?

I WAS *SO UPSET* I *COULDN'T SLEEP.* FIGURED I MIGHT AS WELL DO *SOMETHING.*

I'M *SORRY* AGAIN. IT WAS JUST... IT WAS LIKE A BOOK WITH A *GREAT COVER*... I COULDN'T HELP TAKING A *PEEK*...

JUST *GO*.

TELL THE PRINCESS THAT SHE CAN *REPLACE* ME. I *DON'T CARE* ANYMORE.

SHE *NEVER* SAID YOU'D BE REPLACED.

I JUST MADE THAT UP SO YOU'D *LET ME IN*.

HA HA! THAT'S HOW... *HA HA*... HOW I GOT MY FIRST JOB AS AN *ASSISTANT EDITOR!* TOLD *OLD PONY BOB* THAT THE *OWNER* SENT ME... *HA HA HA!*

YOU SHOULD KNOW--

TWILIGHT SPARKLE, *YOU* SHOULD KNOW--

--I'M REALLY *JADE SINGER*.

YEAH, I *KNOW*.

I FIGURED THAT OUT A *FEW DAYS AGO*.

HOW-- HOW DID YOU--?

I TOLD YOU, JADE SINGER IS MY FAVORITE AUTHOR. I KNOW ALL ABOUT HER.

"I RECOGNIZE THE READING GLASSES THAT YOU WERE WEARING IN THE AUTHOR PHOTO ON THE BACK OF THE BOOK.

AUTHOR JADE SINGER

LIPIZZANER

PRAISE FOR CANTER IN THE SKY

"In her debut novel "transforms the

"I KNOW THAT JADE SINGER IS A HUGE FAN OF SWING MUSIC.

RING IN THE SWING VOL. XIII

"HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE OLD TIME SWING MUSIC.

"I KNOW CUTIE MARKS DON'T SMEAR, EITHER. UNLESS YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE YOURS LOOK LIKE SOMETHING ELSE.

"BOOKS INTO BOOKSHELVES.

"AND IF THAT DIDN'T DO IT, I CERTAINLY RECOGNIZED THE TYPEWRITER. YOU EVEN TOLD ME ABOUT IT.

"AND YOU STILL WRITE EVERY DAY, DON'T YOU? THAT'S WHAT YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO SEE.

LIPIZZANER

"ALSO, YOU MIGHT NEED TO GET THAT SERVICED. IT SOUNDS PRETTY LOUD."

SO WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?

WELL, I FIGURED IF YOU WANTED TO BE HIDDEN, THERE HAD TO BE A REASON. I WAS JUST RESPECTING THAT.

YOU KNOW, I *WASN'T* A LOT OLDER THAN YOU WHEN MY BOOK WAS PUBLISHED. IT WAS A *BIG HIT.*

TOO BIG.

YOU *DON'T KNOW* WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING *THAT GREAT* OUT OF THE GATE.

AND HAVING TO LIVE UP TO THAT A *SECOND TIME.*

BUT *I DO.*

WHEN I TESTED FOR *MAGIC SCHOOL,* I MADE SUCH A SPLASH THAT PRINCESS CELESTIA TOOK ME AS HER *PERSONAL STUDENT.* I HAVE TO LIVE UP TO THAT *EVERY DAY.*

HOW DO *YOU* DO IT?

IT'S *HARD.* BUT THEN I WAS SENT TO PONYVILLE AND I *MADE FRIENDS,* AND THEN IT WASN'T SO BAD. THEY *SUPPORT* ME.

THEY *CELEBRATE* MY VICTORIES AND *CATCH ME* WHEN I FALL.

I *NEVER* HAD *FRIENDS* LIKE THAT.

WELL, YOU DO *NOW.*

BARNS AND NO BELL

A LITTLE WHILE LATER...

THE NEW BOOK FROM JADE SINGER

I HEAR IT'S BETTER THAN HER FIRST ONE--

TWILIGHT! YOU GOT A LETTER! I THINK IT'S YOUR TEST RESULTS!

NOW ON SALE

JADE SINGER

IT IS! I PASSED!

AND THERE'S A NOTE FROM THE PRINCESS, TOO.

Twilight Sparkle, I ask you to write me letters about your lessons in friendship. Today I have to write YOU one.

You see, I was friends with Jade Singer years ago, but her fame and her fear turned her cold and distant. One of the last times I spoke with her was when I allowed her to "hide" as the archivist.

Thank you for taking care of her, for reaching her, for bringing her talent back into the world. But most of all--

--thank you for bringing back my friend.

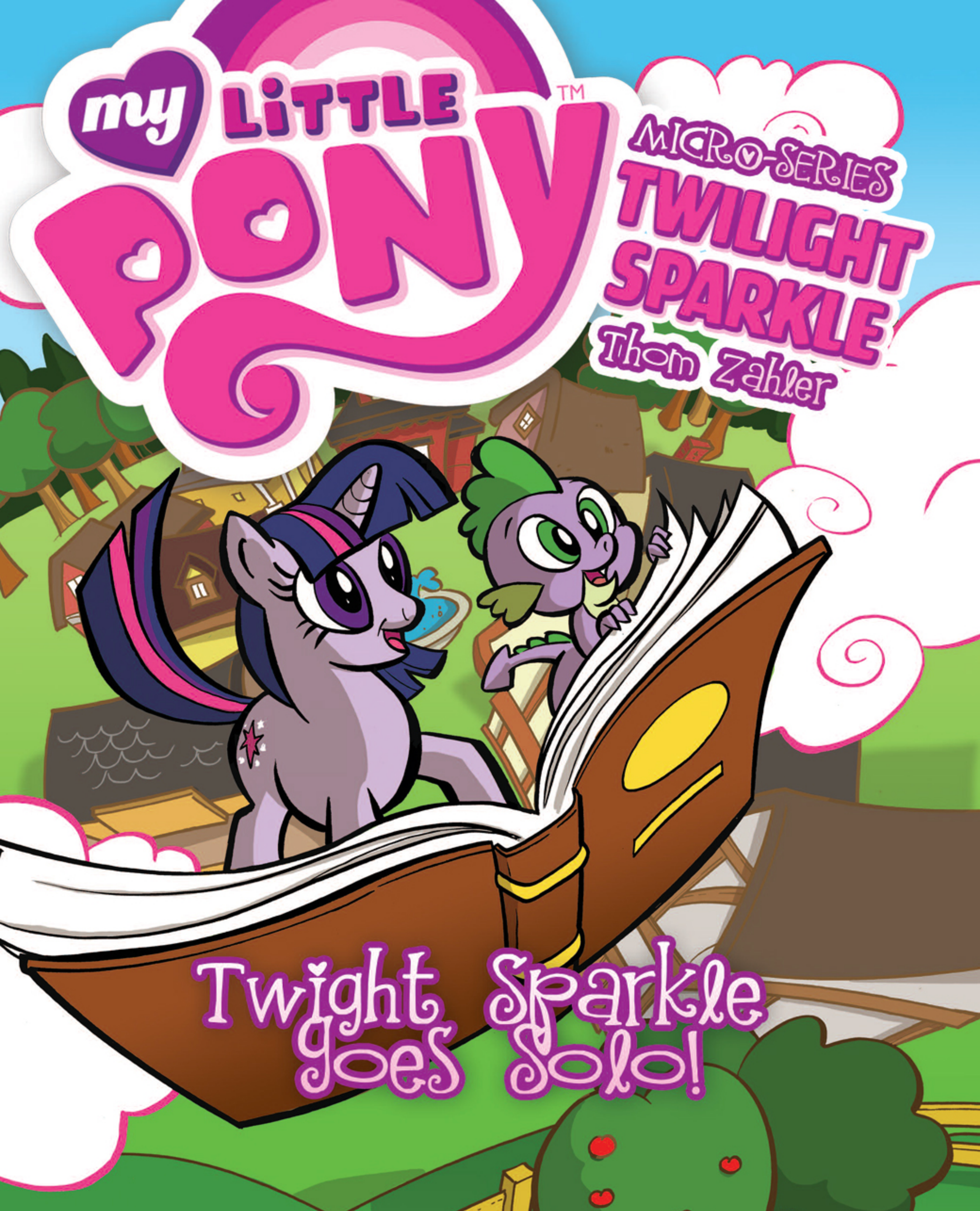
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Thom Zahler



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