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COOK
PRICE
BRECKEL

my LITTLE PONY™

Friendship
is
Magic



BEHOLD
THE SECRETS
OF
STAR
SWIRL
THE BEARDED

For Spooky
Price 13!



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Language : English

File source : iTunes Store

Edition : PDF

Lossless : Yes

Original version released by : YayPonies.eu

Translated by : NNOPE

Translated version released by : NNOPE

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Special thanks to Erin Comella, Robert Fewkes, Joe Furfaro, Heather Hopkins, Pat Jarret, Ed Lane, Brian Lenard, Marissa Mansolillo, Donna Tobin, Michael Vogel, and Michael Kelly for their invaluable assistance.

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www.IDWPUBLISHING.com
IDW founded by Ted Adams, Alex Garner, Kris Oprisko, and Robbie Robbins

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AH, WHAT A LOVELY EVE! THE MOON IS A "WAXING CRESCENT"...



...OR IS THAT A "WANING GIBBONS"?



WHATEVER IT IS, 'TIS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT TO NOT BE BANISHED TO...



...THE MOON?

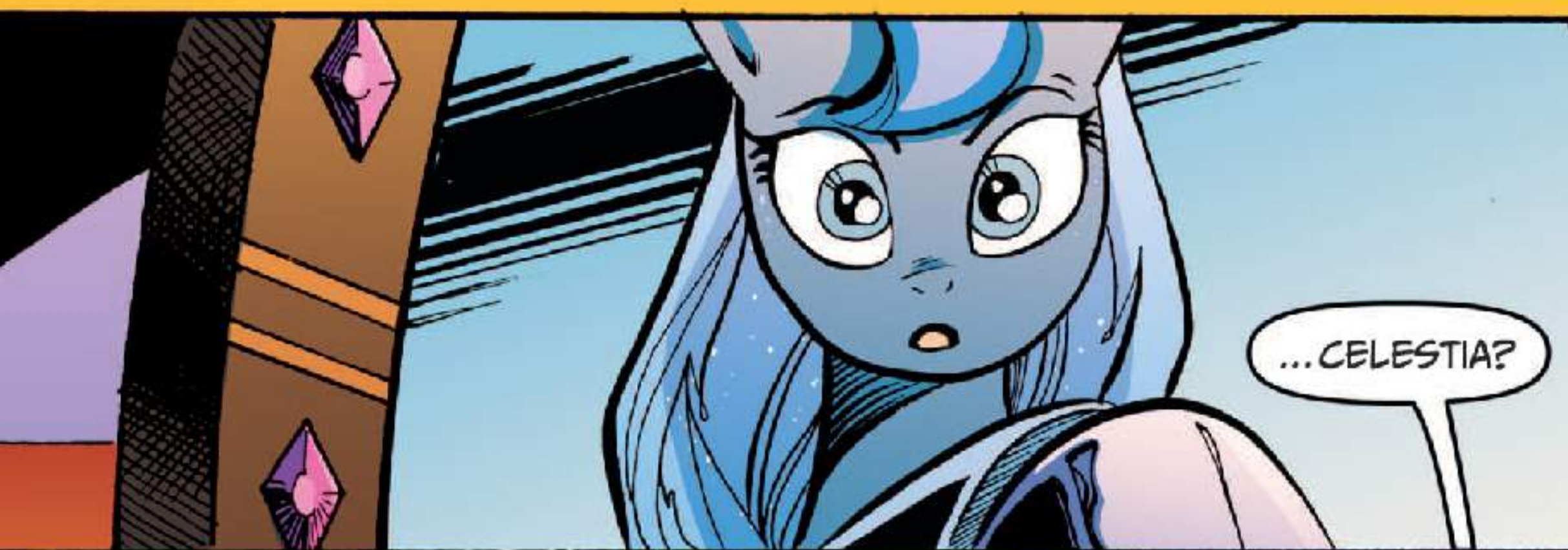
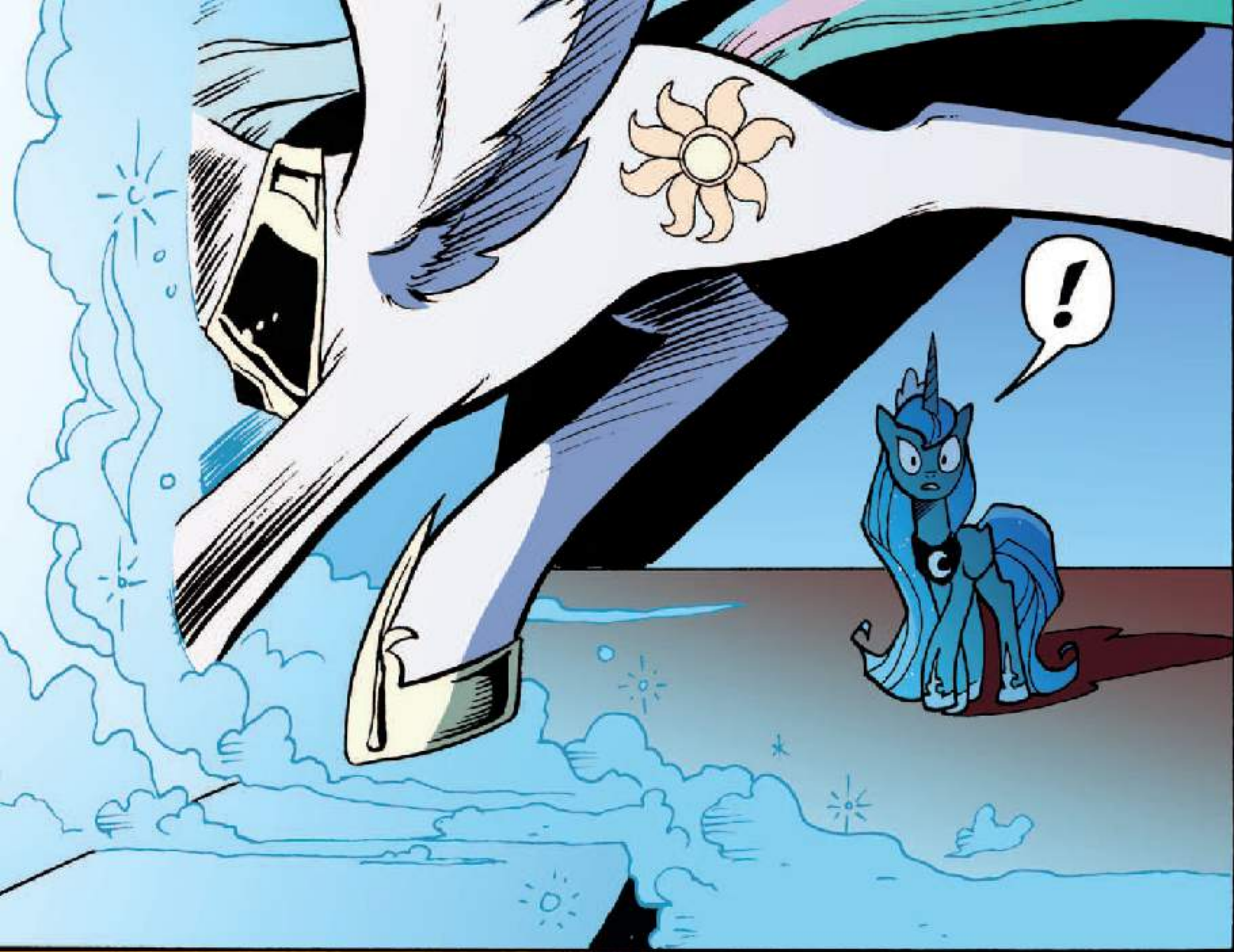


TWILIGHT SPARKLE... THERE IS MORE THAN ONE OF EVERYTHING.



WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHERE DID HE GO?



REFLECTIONS Part 1

REFLECTIONS Part 2



I'VE CALLED YOU SIX HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE...

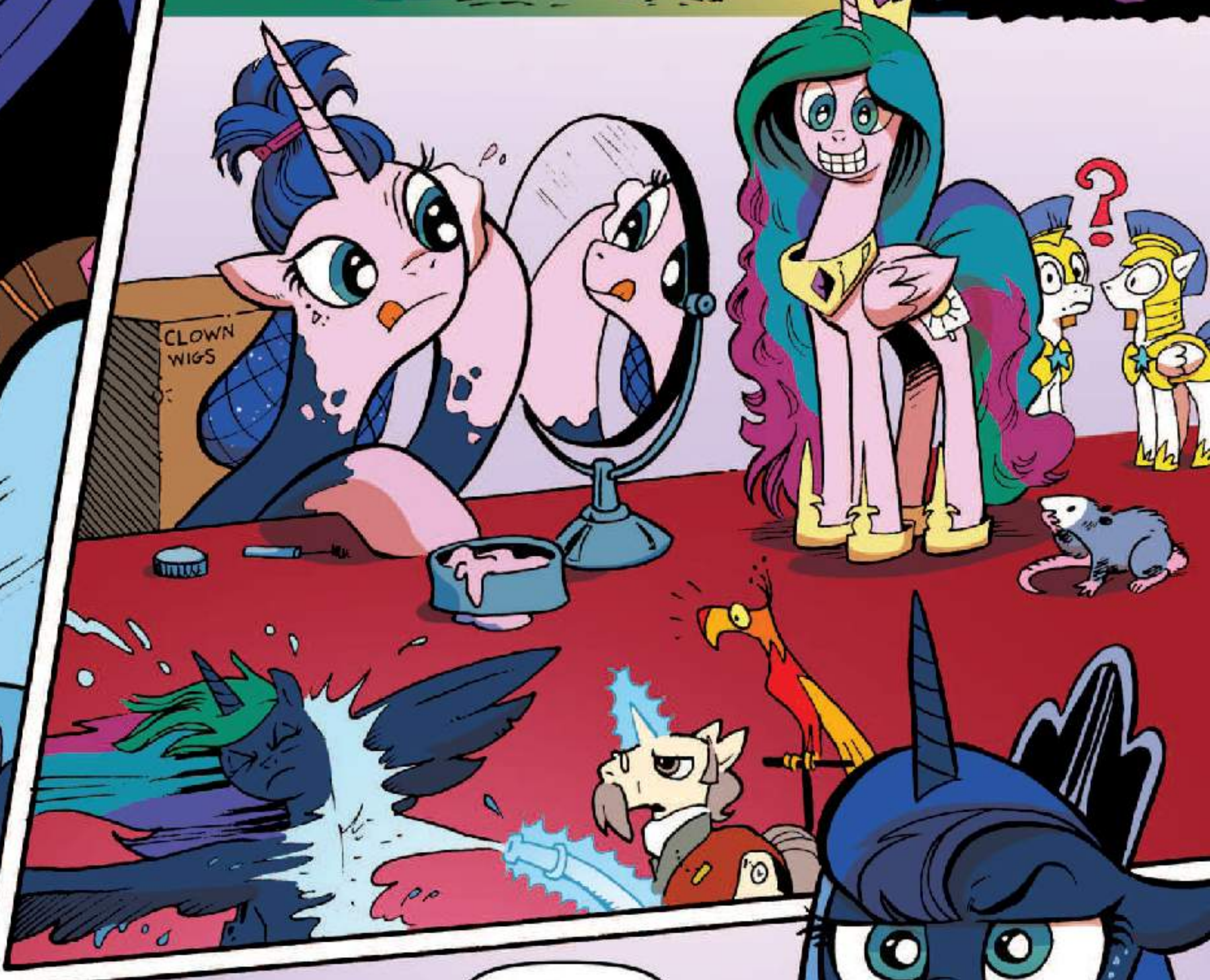
...SEVEN HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE I AM MOST DISTRESSED AND MY SISTER TENDS TO CALL UPON YOU WHEN SHE IS SUCH.

SEVEN! DON'T FORGET ME!

PRINCESS LUNA, WHAT'S GOING ON?

A WEEK AGO, CELESTIA WENT THROUGH THIS MIRROR AND SHE HAS YET TO RETURN.

A WEEK AGO AND YOU'RE JUST TELLING US NOW?! HOW HAVE YOU KEPT THIS QUIET?!



...TIS BEEN DIFFICULT.



THE *OTHER* MAGICAL MIRROR ONLY WORKS ONCE DURING EACH CYCLE OF THE MOON, MAYBE PRINCESS CELESTIA CAN'T GET BACK UNTIL THE MOON CYCLES BACK?

IF THAT WAS THE CASE, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW HER... I COULD NOT. THE PORTAL CLOSED BEHIND HER.

IF THE PORTAL IS CLOSED, THEN WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO TO HELP PRINCESS CELESTIA?

COME WITH ME, WE'LL TALK ON THE WAY.

MANY YEARS AGO, CELESTIA AND HER MAGICAL COUNSEL, STAR SWIRL THE BEARDED, USED TO BE FASCINATED BY THAT MIRROR. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT TIME AND ANY RECORDED INFORMATION OF IT SEEMS TO BE MISSING FROM THE CASTLE LIBRARY.

I'VE BEEN THROUGH EVERY SCRAP OF PAPER THAT STAR SWIRL EVER TOUCHED IN OUR LIBRARIES AND NOTHING HAS COME UP... BUT I KNOW THAT HE AND CELESTIA HAVE A HISTORY OF STUDYING THAT MIRROR. THERE *MUST* BE SOMETHING ABOUT IT LEFT IN ONE OF HIS ORIGINAL LIBRARIES.

STAR SWIRL'S... LIBRARY?!

STAR SWIRL THE BEARDED HAS BEEN GONE HUNDREDS OF YEARS. HOW COULD HE STILL HAVE A LIBRARY IN THE CASTLE... PARTICULARLY ONE THAT TWILIGHT HERE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT?

YOU'D THINK SOMEONY WOULD HAVE CONVERTED IT TO A CRAFT ROOM OR HOME GYM BY NOW.

STAR SWIRL'S MAGICAL STUDY WASN'T IN THE CASTLE ITSELF. IT WAS DEEP INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN THAT CANTERLOT IS BUILT UPON. THE CAVE SYSTEM TO GET TO IT IS COMPLICATED TO NAVIGATE. IT WAS BUILT BY STAR SWIRL HIMSELF AND HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN PLEBEIANS BEING ABLE TO FIND THEIR WAY.

SO YOU'VE EXPLORED THE CAVERNS? WHAT'S THE LIBRARY LIKE?

RESTRICTED ACCESS
WING
• NO •
ADMITTANCE

I HAVEN'T FOUND IT YET. I'M APPARENTLY ONE OF THOSE "PLEBEIANS."

ME TOO! RARITY CALLS ME THAT ALL THE TIME!

...AS A TERM OF ENDEARMENT, PINKIE.

ONE OF THESE ADVENTURES, I'D LOVE TO GO TO A TROPICAL ISLAND PARADISE INSTEAD OF INTO A MOUNTAIN.

IT'S IN THE COMFORT OF A DAY SPA AND A HOOFICURE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

OH, COME ON, RARITY. WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE?

IF ANYPONY CAN UNDERSTAND AND NAVIGATE THESE CORRIDORS, IT'S YOU, TWILIGHT SPARKLE. CELESTIA SPEAKS HIGHLY OF YOUR INTELLECT. SHE OFTEN COMPARES YOU TO STAR SWIRL HIMSELF... PERHAPS YOU CAN CHANNEL THAT PARALLEL ON THIS QUEST.



PRINCESS CELESTIA COMPARES ME TO... STAR SWIRL? THAT'S... THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE.

PERSONALLY, I THINK YOU'RE MORE LIKE CELESTIA WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER... STAR SWIRL WAS MORE LIKE THAT ONE.



NOW, BE OFF. FIND WHAT YOU CAN. WE NEED TO LOCATE MY SISTER... I FEEL AN UNKNOWN DARKNESS ALREADY PRESSING UPON THE KINGDOM WITHOUT HER PRESENCE.

I CANNOT. I MUST STAY HERE TO SEE TO BOTH OUR ROYAL DUTIES, THOUGH I FEAR I CANNOT KEEP HER DISAPPEARANCE A SECRET FOR MUCH LONGER.

PRINCESS, AREN'T YOU COMING WITH US?



SPIKE, I WANT YOU TO STAY BEHIND WITH PRINCESS LUNA. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT, YOU CAN COME GET WORD TO US. OKAY?

SIGH... MISSING OUT ON THE ADVENTURE... AGAIN...



NONSENSE, DRAGON YOUNGLING... YOU MAY BE MY ADORING COMPANION AS WE AWAIT THEIR RETURN! COME, YOU MAY START BY FETCHING ME A REFRESHMENT OF HOT COCOA WITH MARSHMALLOW BITS.



BEST OF LUCK! I HAVE FAITH YOU WILL TRIUMPH!

BRING ME BACK SOMETHING NICE!

WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN, PRINCESS!

I HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY MONSTERS IN HERE.

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT? THAT IS INVITING THAT KIND OF STUFF TO HAPPEN!



HOW EXCITING! A QUEST FROM THE PRINCESS AND THE PERSONAL LIBRARY OF STAR SWIRL THE BEARDED? IF CELESTIA HADN'T GONE MISSING, THIS WOULD BE A PERFECT DAY!

I COULD SEE HOW THAT WOULD BE A DAMPER ON THE FUN.

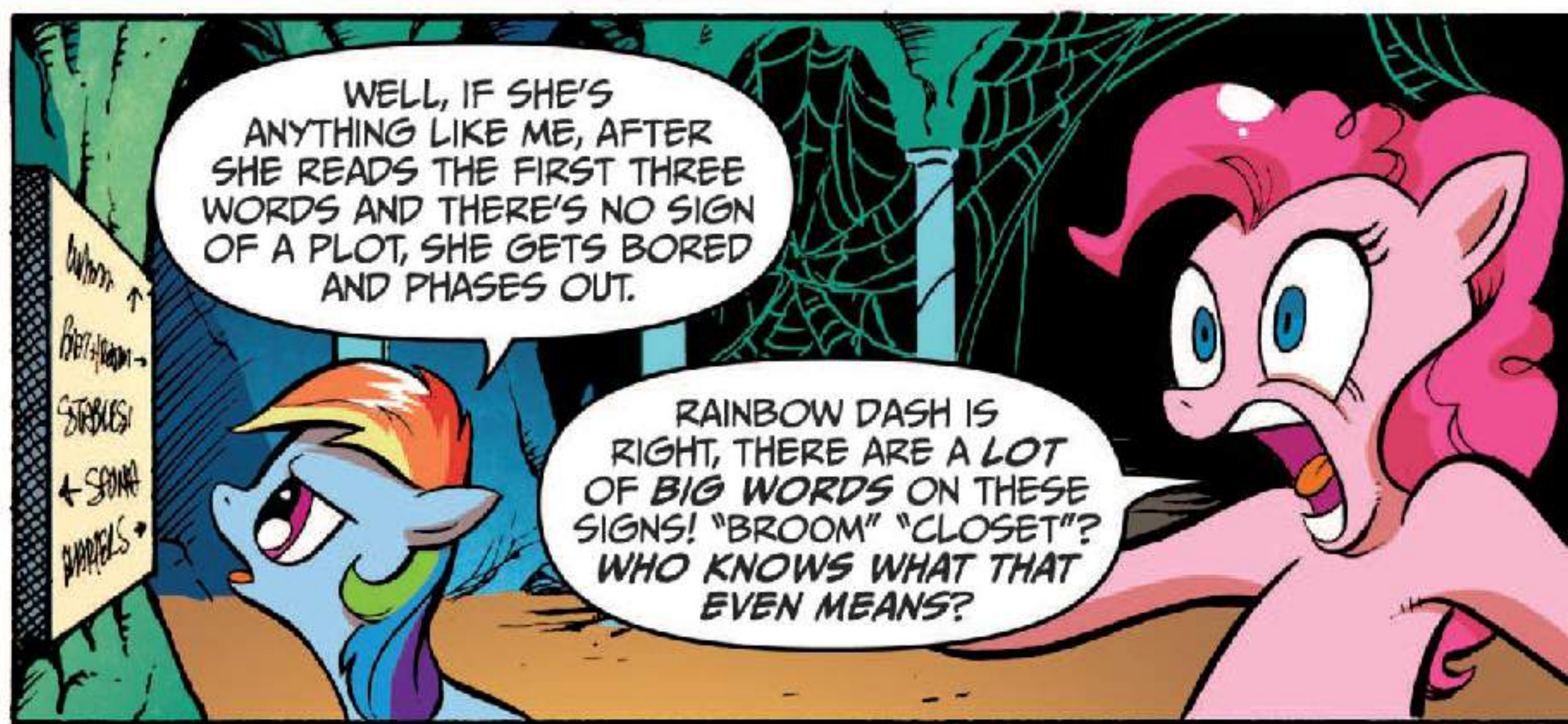


LUCRE CELLAR →
RESPIE NICHE ↑
STELLAR CARTOGRAPHY C
JEFFRIES TUBES ←
ATHENAEUM B
LARDER & SCULLERY →
BESOM REPOSITORY ↑

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY PRINCESS LUNA THOUGHT FINDING THINGS DOWN HERE WAS COMPLICATED, EVERYTHING IS SO WELL LABELED! IT'S LIKE...

...LIKE YOU BUILT IT?

WELL, YES!



WELL, IF SHE'S ANYTHING LIKE ME, AFTER SHE READS THE FIRST THREE WORDS AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF A PLOT, SHE GETS BORED AND PHASES OUT.

RAINBOW DASH IS RIGHT, THERE ARE A LOT OF BIG WORDS ON THESE SIGNS! "BROOM" "CLOSET"? WHO KNOWS WHAT THAT EVEN MEANS?



YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME, AREN'T YOU?



STAR SWIRL USED TO WALK THESE VERY HALLS... WE'RE STEPPING ON THE SAME DIRT THAT HE STEPPED ON!

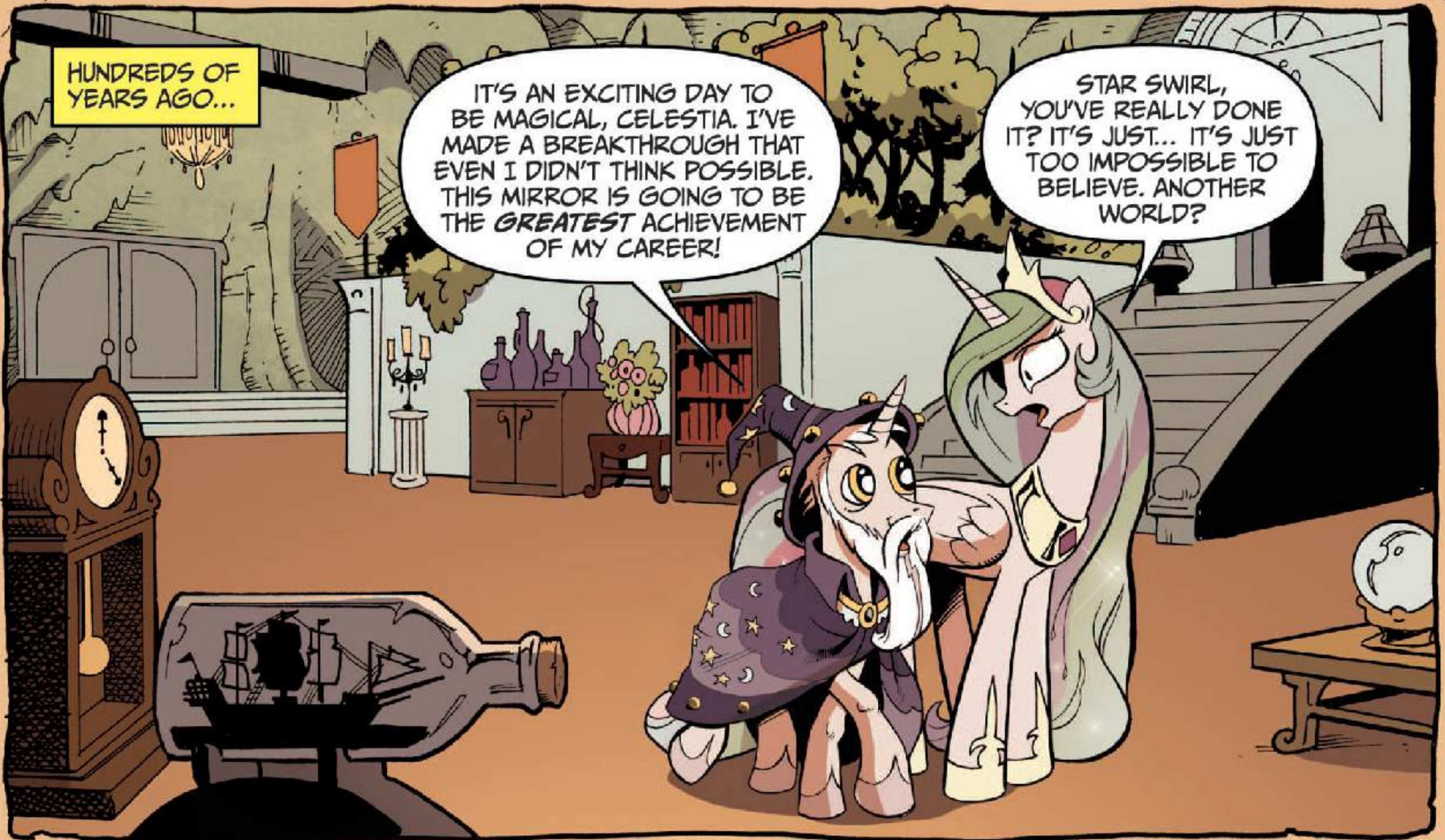
WOULDN'T HAVE HURT TO PUT HARDWOOD FLOORS DOWN HERE, WOULD IT?

CAN YOU JUST IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE HERE HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO?

HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO...

IT'S AN EXCITING DAY TO BE MAGICAL, CELESTIA. I'VE MADE A BREAKTHROUGH THAT EVEN I DIDN'T THINK POSSIBLE. THIS MIRROR IS GOING TO BE THE *GREATEST* ACHIEVEMENT OF MY CAREER!

STAR SWIRL, YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT? IT'S JUST... IT'S JUST TOO IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE. ANOTHER WORLD?



IN TIME WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO JUMP FROM UNIVERSE TO UNIVERSE... AREN'T YOU CURIOUS TO FIND WHAT ELSE IS OUT THERE IN THE COSMOS?

WITH LUNA BEING SO DISTANT LATELY, I'VE GOT SO MUCH TO DO... I DOUBT I'LL HAVE TIME TO HELP YOU WITH WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING.

NOW CELESTIA, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN CONCERNED SINCE YOUR SISTER STARTED TO ACT A BIT... DARK. I'M SURE WE'LL GET HER TURNED AROUND BEFORE ANYTHING SERIOUS HAPPENS.



OH, STAR SWIRL, THANK YOU. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I NEEDED TO HEAR THAT. I'VE HAD SO MANY DOUBTS LATELY...

NEVER DOUBT YOURSELF... YOU'LL DO GREAT THINGS FOR YOUR SUBJECTS. WE ALL KNOW THAT.

NOW, ON TO OTHER MATTERS... IF THE SECRETS OF CROSS-DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL ARE GOING TO BE KEPT DOWN HERE, DO YOU THINK I SHOULD PUT UP SOME PROTECTIONS? MAYBE A TRAINED SUPERNATURAL BEAST?

MAYBE A HYDRA?

OOOOOOOH! I LIKE THAT IDEA!



BACK IN THE CAVERNS...

I LIKE IT DOWN HERE!
IT'S GOT A SPOOKY, RUSTIC
CHARM... LIKE SOMETHING
OUT OF A SCARY STORY! I
BET THERE'S A BOOGIE-PONY
BEHIND THAT CREEPY
PILE OF THINGS!

WOULD YOU
STOP SAYING
THINGS LIKE
THAT?

SEE! IF YOU HAD
SAID THAT AND WE
WERE WALKIN' BY HERE
HUNDREDS OF YEARS
AGO, THIS COULD HAVE
TOTALLY BEEN
AN ISSUE!

WELL, IT'S
PINING FOR THE
FJORDS, SO IT'S
NOT AN ISSUE.

POOR
THING!

ICK!

ALL THESE SIGNS AND
WE STILL HAVEN'T SEEN ONE
THAT MARKS THE WAY TO
STAR SWIRL'S LIBRARY?
THAT'S ODD.

OOOH!
NEVERMIND! WE
FOUND IT!

ATHENAEUM? I
THOUGHT WE WERE
LOOKING FOR A
LIBRARY?

AN ATHENAEUM IS A
LIBRARY. DIDN'T I GIVE
YOU A THESAURUS FOR
YOUR BIRTHDAY? YOU
HAVEN'T READ IT?

ATHENAEUM
and
SUNDRIES

OF COURSE I
HAVEN'T READ IT! WHO
READS A THESAURUS
FOR FUN?!

I DO! IT MAKES
THE VERNACULAR
ABOUND WITH
CONVIVIAL
PLEASANTRY!

OOOH! TONGUE
TWISTERS! CAN YOU
SAY "CELESTIA SELLS
SEASHELLS BY THE
SEA SHORE"?

ATHENAEUM

"ATHENAEUM"?
WHAT IN EQUESTRIA IS
THAT... AND WHY DO I
GET THE FEELING I'VE
SEEN THAT WORD ON A
DUSTY, GOLD PLAQUE
ON A DOOR?

SOMETHING TO DO
WITH BOOKS. IT'S IN THE
THESAURUS TWILIGHT
MAKES ME READ. OOO!
TRIPLE WORD
SCORE!



OH MY GOSH! LOOK OVER THERE! IT'S AN ORIGINAL TOME OF STAR SWIRL'S STUDIES OF HEAVENLY SPHERES... AND OVER THERE! HIS ORIGINAL DIAGRAMS FOR THE USES OF PRACTICAL MAGIC! AND LOOK OVER THERE! IT'S HIS ORIGINAL HAT... COMPLETE WITH BELLS!

HEY! LOOK! ...COBWEBS.



WOW... CELESTIA LOOKS SO YOUNG IN THIS.

IT IS KIND OF HARD TO THINK OF HER AS ANYTHING BUT WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE NOW. SHE'S BEEN ALIVE FOR SO LONG...

Andy Price 14



I GUESS IT'S A LITTLE COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT SHE WAS A NEW PRINCESS ONCE TOO. SHE HAD PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME, JUST LIKE ME. I WONDER WHAT SHE WAS THINKING BACK THEN... I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVEN'T ASKED HER TO TELL ME ABOUT IT.

I THINK YOU'D WANT TO BE MORE LIKE *THIS GUY!* LOOK AT HIM! DIDN'T YOU TELL US HE WAS THE MOST *POWERFUL* MAGICAL PONY THAT EVER LIVED?!

AND HE BECAME CELESTIA'S MAGICAL COUNCIL!



WELL, TO BE HONEST, THAT'S ALWAYS WHERE I THOUGHT MY STUDIES WOULD TAKE ME... TO FOLLOW IN *HIS* HOOFPRIENTS. I... I WONDER...



IT'S LIKE LOOKING AT TWO PATHS, ISN'T IT?

HUH?



NEVERMIND. WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER.

LET'S GET LOOKING FOR WHAT WE CAME DOWN HERE FOR. WE NEED TO HELP PRINCESS CELESTIA.





YOU CAN'T JUST SAY "NEVERMIND" AFTER SOMETHING LIKE THAT! WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS, TWILIGHT! WE'RE HERE FOR ANYTHING YOU NEED... JUST LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!



WELL... I'LL START WITH THIS... WHEN YOU WERE A FILLY, WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU'D BE DOING WHEN YOU GREW UP?

FASHIONISTA!

APPLE FARMER!

WONDERBOLT!

PROFESSIONAL CUPCAKE TASTER!

DENTIST!



WHAT? I LIKED FLOSSING, OKAY?



WELL, I ALWAYS KNEW I WANTED TO STUDY MAGIC. I WANT TO DO SOMETHING WITH ALL THAT KNOWLEDGE I'VE SPENT MY LIFE LEARNING... JUST LIKE STAR SWIRL DID. JUST LOOK AT ALL THE STUFF HE ACCOMPLISHED IN HIS LIFE!



NOW, I GUESS I'M SECOND GUESSING IF THAT'S GOING TO BE SOMETHING I CAN CONTINUE DOING... WHAT IF I'M SUPPOSED TO BE MORE LIKE HER.

THE WEIGHT OF THAT MANY RESPONSIBILITIES... THE THINGS SHE'S HAD TO DO. SHE HAD TO BANISH HER OWN SISTER TO THE MOON FOR A THOUSAND YEARS FOR PONIES' SAKE! WHO NEEDS THAT KIND OF PRESSURE?!



PFFT. BE BOTH. BE A MAGICAL WONDER OF THE WORLD AND A PRINCESS WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ENTIRE KINGDOM ON HER SHOULDERS... IT CAN'T BE THAT HARD.

HMM... WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, IT SOUNDS REALLY HARD.



YOU'LL BE FINE, TWILIGHT. YOU'LL FIGURE IT ALL OUT.

YOU REALLY THINK SO?



I HATE TO BREAK UP THIS EMOTIONAL SOIREE, BUT I THINK I FOUND WHAT WE CAME DOWN HERE FOR!

OOH! DUSTY BOOKS! TIME FOR RESEARCH!

RESEARCH ON MIRRORS →

BRAIN DEPOSITORY CLOSED AT 5PM ←



LOOK AT THIS... STAR SWIRL RECORDED EVERYTHING WHEN HE WAS CREATING THE MIRROR! EVERYTHING THAT WENT INTO MAKING IT, EVERY FAILURE... EVERY... EVERY DETAIL OF A WORLD HE AND CELESTIA EXPLORED? WHAT?



HA! WHAT MERRIMENT SUCH PALTRY PLAYTHINGS CAN EVOKE!

...DID TWILIGHT GIVE YOU A THESAURUS TOO?



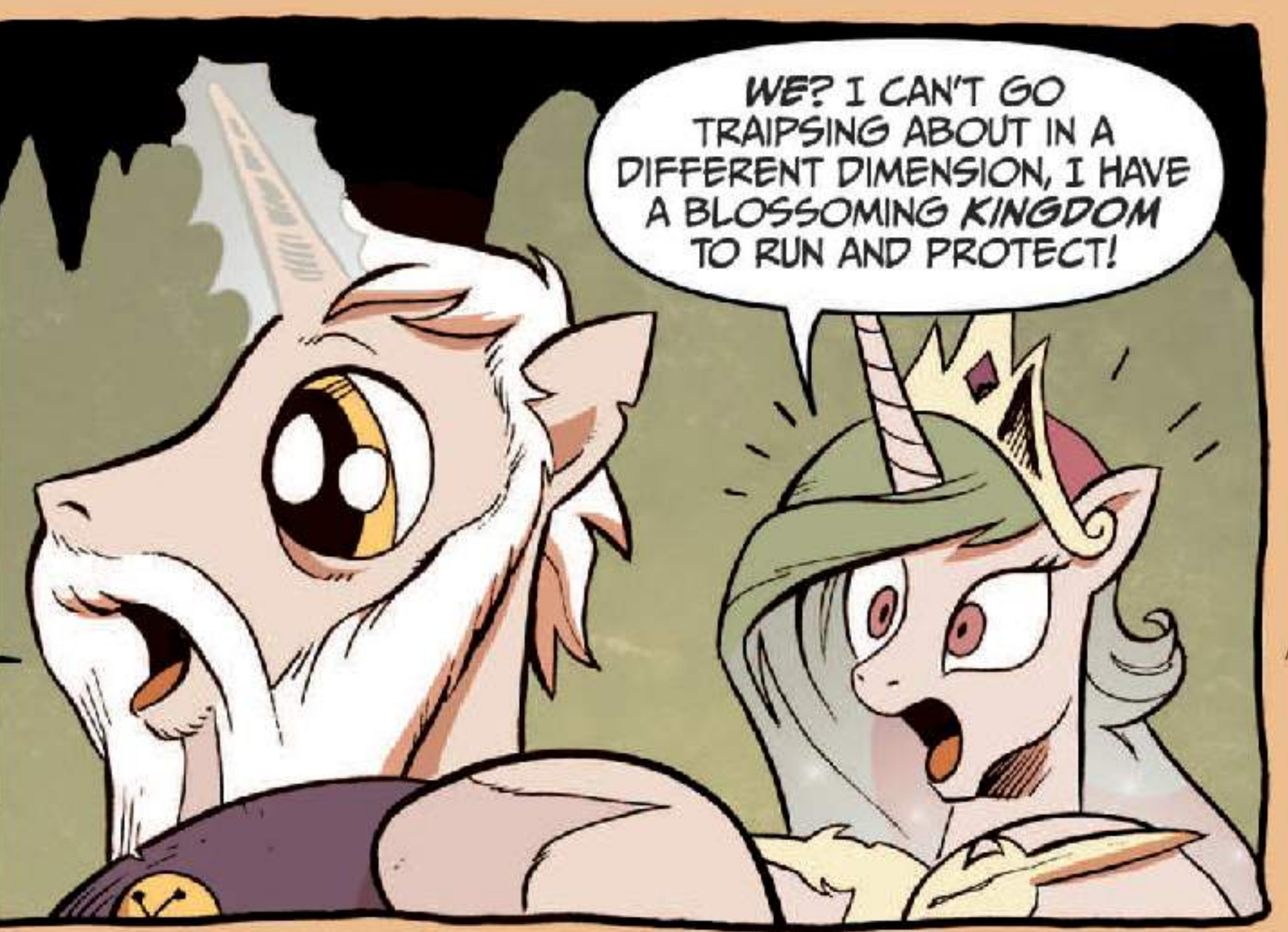
THERE IT IS! EVERY BIT OF MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE IN EQUESTRIA ALL WRAPPED UP IN A REFLECTIVE PACKAGE!

HOW DOES IT WORK?



SOME LANDS CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH SPELLS, SOME ONLY THROUGH THE PRECISE ALIGNMENT OF THE MOON AND STARS... AS OF RIGHT NOW, I'VE ONLY FORMED THE SPELLS FOR ONE OTHER WORLD.

THINK OF THE NEW MAGIC TO DISCOVER OUT THERE... THE KNOWLEDGE WE CAN ATTAIN...



WE? I CAN'T GO TRAIPSING ABOUT IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION, I HAVE A BLOSSOMING KINGDOM TO RUN AND PROTECT!



PISH POSH. YOU SAY THAT LIKE THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE ISN'T A WORTHY PASTIME.

IT IS WORTHY, BUT...



COME ALONG, PRINCESS. ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE.

...







ZZZZZ...



YAAAWWWN.
HRM? WHO'S THERE?
COOKIE WOOKIEE? IS
THAT YOU WITH MY
TEA TRAY?



HEH. IT SEEMS I
AM PUTTING THE SPELL
FOR THIS WORLD AWAY
EVERY WEEK OR SO. I
MUST BE LOSING MY
MARBLES!



...OR
AM I?



OH!

HOW MANY
TIMES HAVE
YOU BEEN
HERE?



NOT...
OFTEN.

HOW
OFTEN?!



ON AND OFF... FOR... A WHILE.

YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF CONSEQUENCES THERE ARE TO VISITING THIS WORLD TOO OFTEN. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS. YOU PROMISED ME... WE CAN'T RISK IT. YOU'RE PUTTING EVERYPONY IN DANGER. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WORTH IT?!



WHAT DO YOU THINK IS WORTH IT?



NO. CELESTIA... NO...

I'M SORRY... BUT I CAN'T JUST...

I'M ENDING THIS.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN "ENDING THIS"? YOU CAN'T, I...

I WILL NOT LET YOU PUT YOUR KINGDOM... AND HIS AT RISK. THIS IS OVER. NOW.



"KINGDOM COME, AND KINGDOM GO. A LAND SO CLOSE TO OUR CORE. OUR WORLDS NOW SEVERED, EBB AND FLOW. DOTH FROM THIS POINT, WE CLOSE THE DOOR."

NO! AT LEAST LET ME SAY GOODBYE!

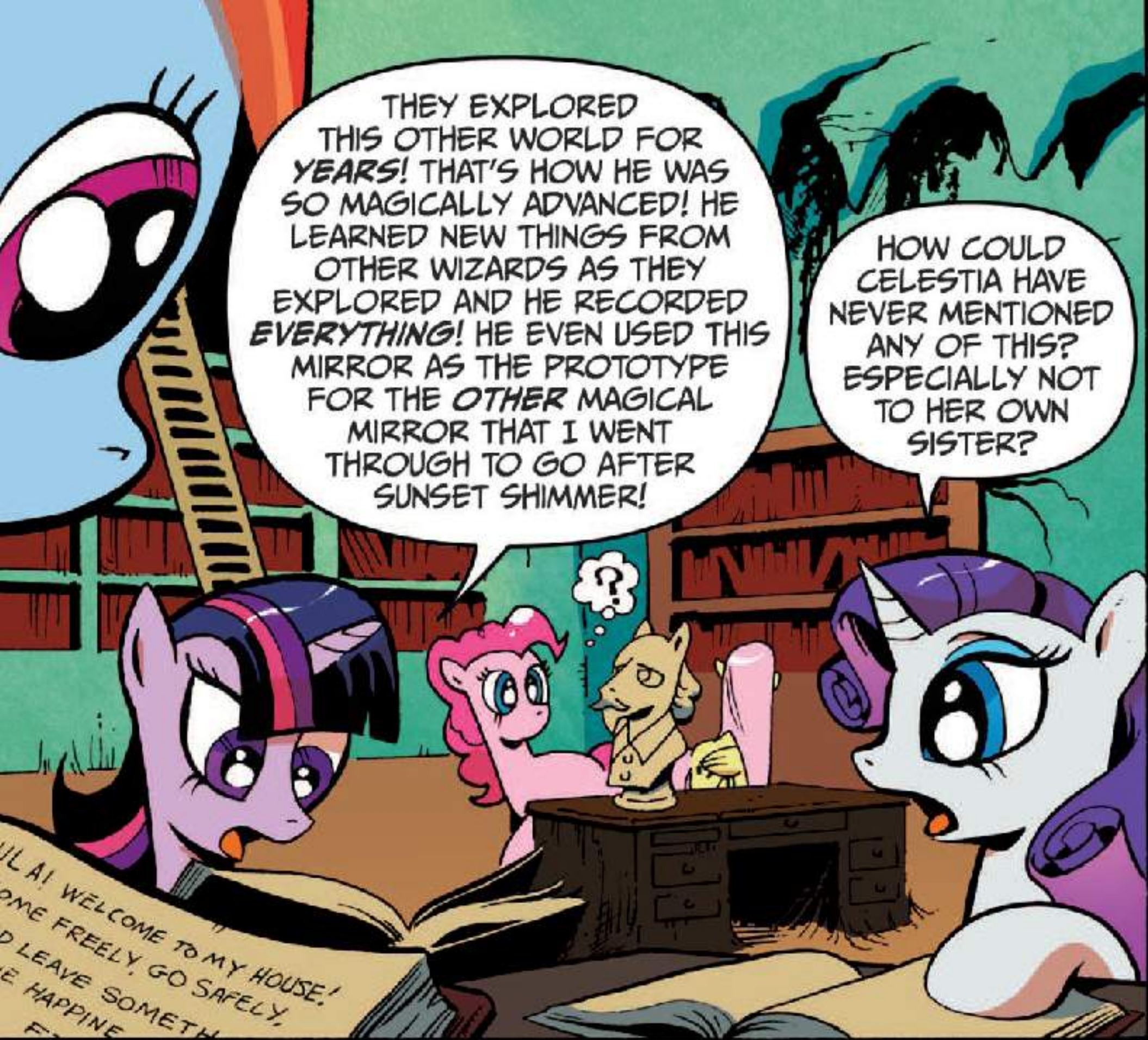


I NEVER WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS AGAIN. I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, PRINCESS.

Thud



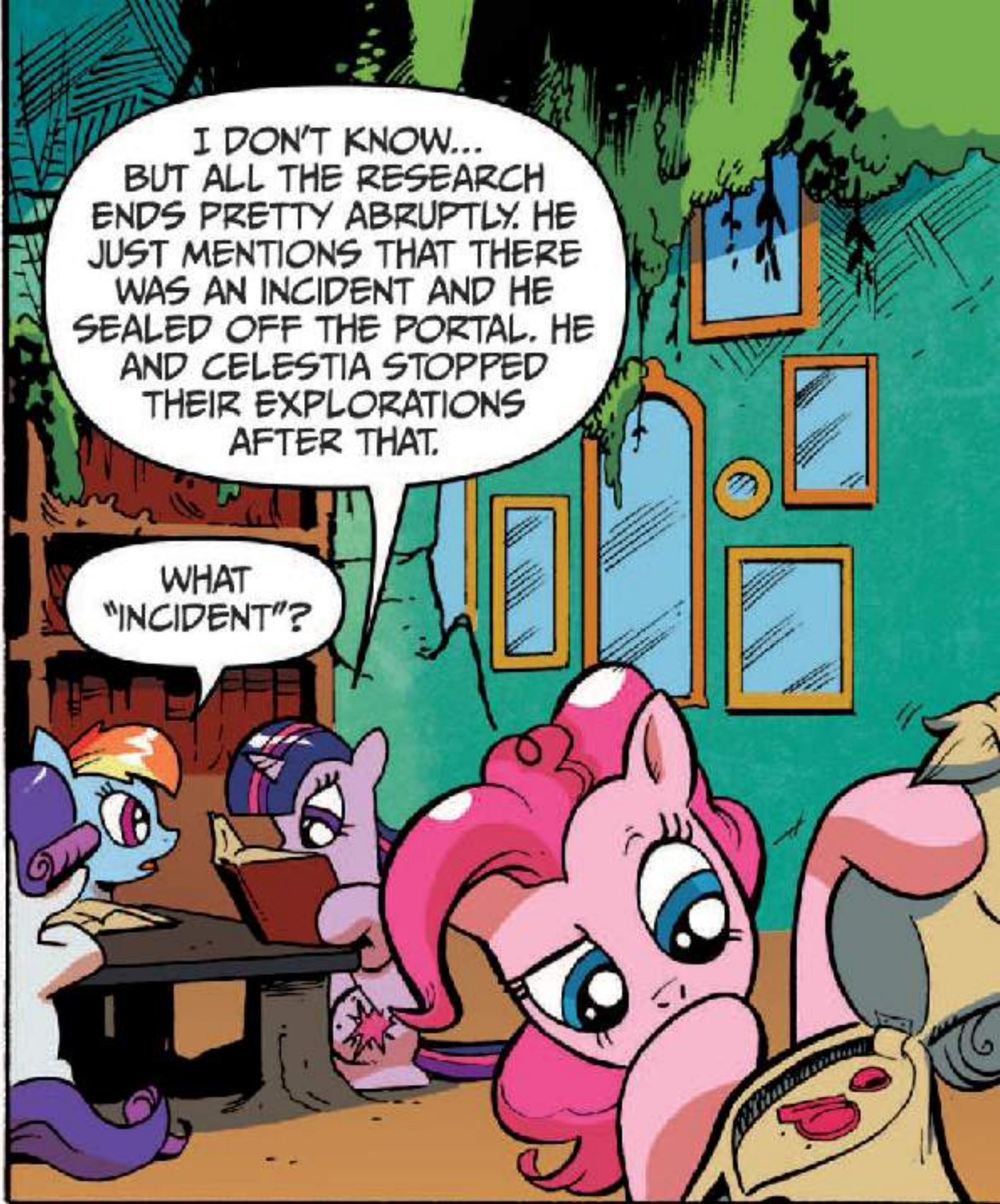
I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS.



THEY EXPLORED THIS OTHER WORLD FOR YEARS! THAT'S HOW HE WAS SO MAGICALLY ADVANCED! HE LEARNED NEW THINGS FROM OTHER WIZARDS AS THEY EXPLORED AND HE RECORDED EVERYTHING! HE EVEN USED THIS MIRROR AS THE PROTOTYPE FOR THE OTHER MAGICAL MIRROR THAT I WENT THROUGH TO GO AFTER SUNSET SHIMMER!

HOW COULD CELESTIA HAVE NEVER MENTIONED ANY OF THIS? ESPECIALLY NOT TO HER OWN SISTER?

WELCOME TO MY HOUSE!
COME FREELY, GO SAFELY,
AND LEAVE SOMETHING HAPPY



I DON'T KNOW... BUT ALL THE RESEARCH ENDS PRETTY ABRUPTLY. HE JUST MENTIONS THAT THERE WAS AN INCIDENT AND HE SEALED OFF THE PORTAL. HE AND CELESTIA STOPPED THEIR EXPLORATIONS AFTER THAT.

WHAT "INCIDENT"?



NO IDEA. IT JUST SAYS HE FELT TOO OLD TO CONTINUE ON BY HIMSELF. THERE'S SEVERAL MISSING PAGES AFTER THAT. I GUESS CELESTIA STOPPED GOING WITH HIM? WHY WOULD SHE STOP?

CELESTIA STARSWIRL
SECRET PASSAGE TO CASTLE



LET'S GET THIS ALL BACK TO PRINCESS LUNA!

HEY, EVERYPONY! LOOK WHAT I FOUND!



THANK YOU, PINKIE! THAT'S VERY HELPFUL!

WHAT?!



WHOA NELLY!





WEEEEEEELL...
THAT'S REALLY THE
ONLY ANSWER I
DIDN'T FIND...



WHAT...?
SISTER!

Fwoosh!

PRINCESS!



CELESTIA! WHERE
HAVE YOU BEEN? I HAD
NO IDEA WHERE YOU
WERE. I HAD NO IDEA IF
YOU WERE COMING BACK. I
AM A DELICATE FLOWER.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS
KIND OF STRESS
DOES TO ME?!

CASAP

KING SOMBRA?
NO!

SISTER! I
DIDN'T MEAN IT! I
LOVE STRESS!
WAKE UP!

TO BE
CONTINUED...



How Star Swirl Got His Hat
by Katie Cook

EW. THIS IS THE UGLIEST HAT I'VE EVER MADE! WHAT WAS I THINKING?!

