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#37

WHITLEY
PRICE
BRECKEL

my LITTLE PONY

Friendship
is
Magic



Art by Price 15"



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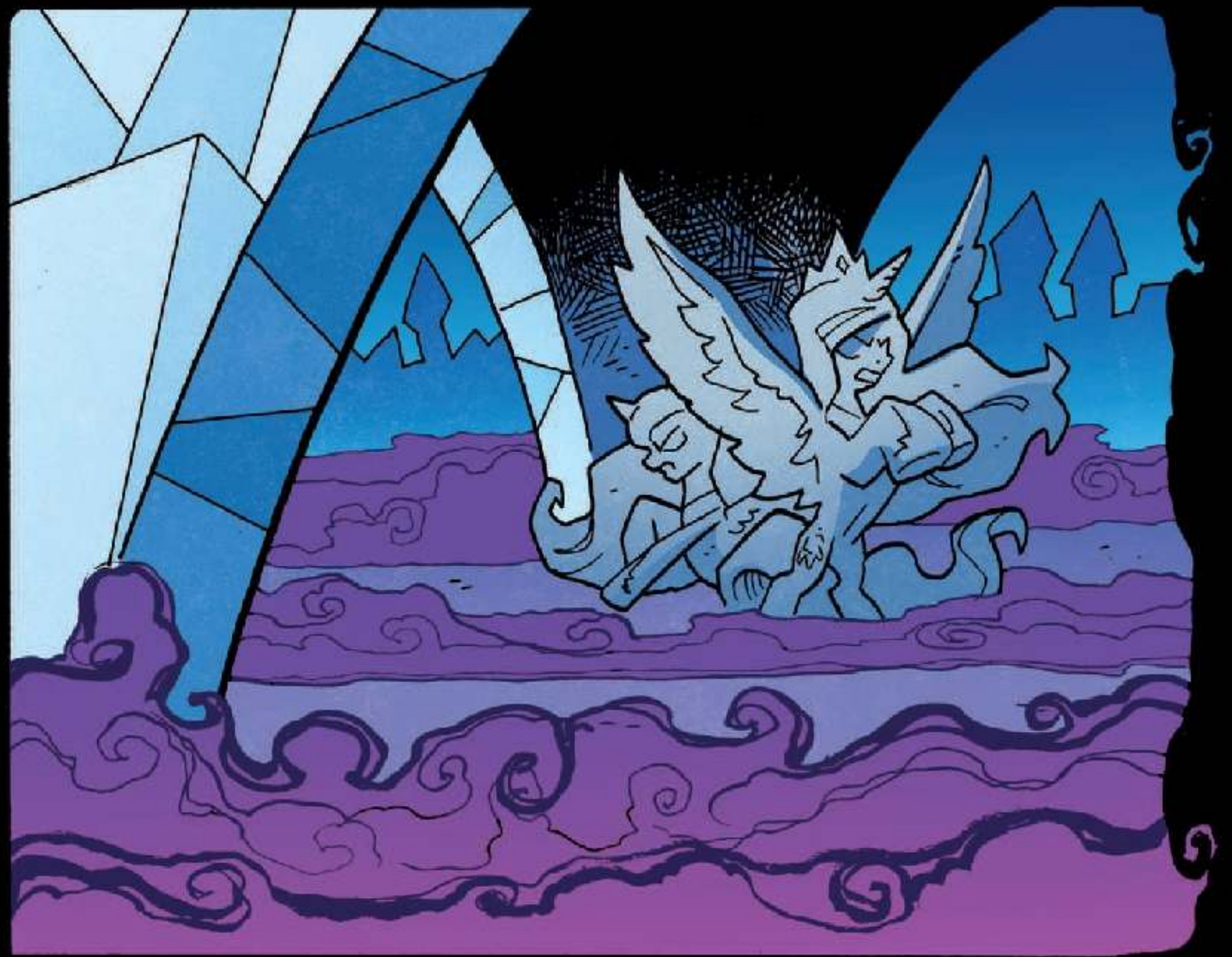
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SEIGE

of the

CRYSTAL EMPIRE

Part
IV





BOW TO YOUR RULER!

NO.

I WILL NEVER BOW TO HIM.



FOOLS! YOU WILL LEARN—

SAVE YOUR MAGIC!



AFTER ALL, THIS IS A SENTENCING HEARING, NOT A TRIAL. IT'S NOT AS IF THEY CAN SAVE THEMSELVES.

ALL HAIL EMPEROR SOMBRA!



TWILIGHT SPARKLE AND MI AMORE CADENZA, SO CALLED PRINCESSES OF EQUESTRIA. YOU ARE CHARGED WITH TREASON.

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!



TWILIGHT SPARKLE, YOU ARE CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON THE EMPEROR AND INJURY TO EMPRESS HOPE. ALSO, THE DESTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAYS TO COVER THE ESCAPE OF ENEMIES OF THE EMPIRE.

EMPRESS HOPE? SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE PART OF THIS ANY MORE THAN WE DO.

THEN IT IS A SHAME SHE HAS NOT SPOKEN SINCE YOU USED YOUR MAGIC ON HER.



MI AMORE CADENZA, YOU ARE ACCUSED OF ASSAULT ON THE EMPEROR AND ATTEMPT TO BRAINWASH THE EMPRESS INTO ATTACKING HER SUBJECTS.

HOPE THOUGHT SHE WAS HELPING THE GOOD HONEST CREATURES YOU TRICKED HER INTO BELIEVING YOU WERE. NOT THE MONSTERS YOU ARE!

AS I SAID, BRAINWASHING.



THE WISE EMPEROR HAS AGREED TO MAKE YOUR SENTENCING EASIER IF YOU GIVE US THE LOCATIONS OF THE FIVE REBELS YOU AIDED IN ESCAPING.

I'M NOT TELLING YOU WHERE MY FRIENDS ARE! I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO TO ME.

NEITHER AM I. TURN ME TO STONE IF YOU LIKE.



VERY WELL. WE THOUGHT THAT MAY BE YOUR DECISION.

BRING OUT THE PRISONER!



CADANCE!
TWILY! YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT!

QUIET YOU!



HE'S A CUTE
ONE, ISN'T HE? HE'LL
MAKE A WONDERFUL
STATUE.

NOOOOO!



WELL THEN,
WHICH ONE OF YOU
IS GOING TO SAVE HIM?
WHO'S GOING TO TELL
ME WHERE YOUR
FRIENDS WENT?

CANTERINE.
THE REBELS ARE
IN CANTERINE.

YOU SEE, EMPEROR
SOMBRA, SHE CAN BE
REASONABLE. YOU MAY
FIRE WHEN READY.



WHAT?

YOU'RE FAR TOO
TRUSTING. CANTERINE IS
FAR TOO REMOTE TO MAKE AN
EFFECTIVE DEMONSTRATION—
BUT DON'T WORRY, WE'LL DEAL
WITH YOUR REBEL FRIENDS
SOON ENOUGH.

STAY
STRONG, GIRLS!
WHATEVER THEY
DO TO—



ZAR!



AND NOW, PRINCESSES, IT'S YOUR TURN. EMPEROR, WHEN YOU'RE READY.

SAY GOOD—

WAIT!



YES?

WE'RE THE LAST PRINCESSES OF EQUESTRIA! IF YOU DO THIS HERE, NO ONE WILL BELIEVE THE STATUES ARE REALLY US. YOU'LL NEVER STOP THE REBELLION.



HMMM...

TRUST ME! I'VE READ ABOUT DOZENS OF REVOLUTIONS. THE ONLY WAY TO END ALL OF THIS IS TO DO IT IN PUBLIC. SOMEWHERE WHERE EVERYONE CAN SEE.

SHE HAS A POINT.

I'VE GOT IT! TURN US TO STONE ON THE CRYSTAL DAI! RIGHT WHERE THE CRYSTAL HEART USED TO BE! THE SAME PLACE THEY USED THEIR WEAPON TO LOCK YOU UP IS WHERE YOU CRUSH THEIR SPIRITS!

I LIKE YOUR STYLE! YOU SHOULD REALLY CONSIDER BECOMING A VILLAIN.

VERY WELL. ROUST EVERY PONY FROM THEIR HOUSE! WE WILL ELIMINATE THE PRINCESSES OF THIS WORLD ONCE AND FOR ALL. AND WE'LL DO IT WHERE EVERY PONY CAN SEE!

BUT—

AND EMPEROR, YOU'LL HAVE TO BRING EMPRESS HOPE.



"THEY NEED TO SEE THAT SHE IS WITH US."

HOPE, ARE YOU AWAKE?

KNOCK KNOCK



THERE YOU ARE. I WAS WORRIED THAT I WOULD WAKE YOU. SHOULD I HAVE SOMEONE BRING YOU DINNER?



WHY DO YOU LOOK OUT THERE, HOPE? IT ONLY SEEMS TO UPSET YOU. WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME?



WE'VE JUST TURNED THE PRINCE TO STONE AND WE'RE ABOUT TO DO THE SAME TO THE PRINCESSES OUT ON THE DAIS.

ON THE DAIS?

YES, WHERE THE HEART USED TO BE. WE PUT AN END TO THEM WHERE EVERYBODY CAN SEE THEM.



THAT WILL BE GOOD. THEN YOU'LL HAVE WON, RIGHT? THEN WE CAN LIVE HERE HAPPILY TOGETHER?

WELL, NOT QUITE YET. IF WE TAKE CLOUDSDALE BY SURPRISE, WE'LL HAVE THE HIGH GROUND TO ASSAULT CANTERLOT.

OH. SO THEN YOU'LL BE DONE?

HOPE! THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! THEN THERE'S THE GRIFFONS AND THE YAKS!



AND I AM TO BE YOUR EMPRESS IN THIS? I'LL STAND BY YOUR SIDE AND WATCH—OOPH!

HOPE!



GET BACK! I'LL DO IT MYSELF! IF I'M GOING TO BE AN EMPRESS OF MONSTERS, I OUGHT TO AT LEAST BE ABLE TO STAND ON MY OWN.

HOPE... I'M SORRY.



ARE YOU, SOMBRA? THEY TOLD ME THIS WAS WHO YOU WOULD BECOME, BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING BETTER IN YOU.

BUT HOPE, I—

NO!



I WAS A FOOL. YOU TOLD ME YOURSELF THAT YOU WERE A MONSTER. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED. BUT I HAD... HOPE. FOOLISH FOOLISH HOPE.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!



WHEN WE LOOKED IN THE CRYSTAL HEART THAT DAY, I SAW THIS! I SAW WHAT I AM NOW! I SAW MY DESTINY.



RABIA CONFIRMED IT. SHE TOLD ME I WAS A WEAPON. THEY MADE ME THE WAY I AM SO I COULD RELEASE THE OTHER MONSTERS! I WAS BORN TO BE A MONSTER.

LOOK AT ME.

WHAT?



WHEN WE LOOKED INTO THAT HEART, YOU HID WHAT YOU SAW. I TOLD YOU WHAT I SAW.

WHAT DID I SEE, SOMBRA?

YOU SAW YOURSELF AS A PRINCESS.



AREN'T YOU?

AND AM I A PRINCESS?

NO. AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU I LEFT MY TRAINING. I WENT OUT TO TRY AND FIND YOU. TO TRY AND HELP YOU.

SO, YOU NEVER BECAME A PRINCESS BECAUSE OF ME?

THAT'S RIGHT.



HOPE, I'M SO SORRY. I WANTED TO HURT YOU FOR TURNING ON ME. I NEVER DREAMED I'D ROB YOU OF YOUR DESTINY.

SOMBRA, YOU'RE A FOOL.

WHAT?



YOU DIDN'T ROB ME OF ANYTHING. I CHOSE. I HAD A CHOICE BETWEEN MY DESTINY AND YOU. I CHOSE YOU.

BUT...

NO MORE TALK ABOUT DESTINY, SOMBRA. I'VE NEVER BELIEVED IN IT.



YOU'RE THE ONLY THING I'VE EVER BELIEVED IN. NOW LET'S GO FORGE OUR DESTINY TOGETHER.



GREETINGS, EMPEROR SOMBRA, EMPRESS HOPE.

LADY RABIA HAS ALREADY TAKEN THE PRISONERS TO THE DAIS. SHE'S—

BOOM!



WHAT WAS THAT?!

I DON'T KNOW, SIR. IT SOUNDED LIKE A—



SMASH

—CANNON!



IT'S THE REBELS! GET THE MEN AND STOP THEM! THEY CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE PRINCESSES!

YES, EMPEROR SOMBRA!





OKAY, WE'RE READY NOW!

READY? READY FOR WHAT?

READY FOR US TO BEAT UP SOME TINY LITTLE ANIMALS? BECAUSE WE'RE ABOUT TO!



DISCORD! YOU PROMISED!

REALLY, FLUTTERSHEY, I'M VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW. WHEN I SAID I COULDN'T COME TO THE REBELLION BECAUSE I HAD TO WASH MY HAIR I WASN'T—



DISCORD!



FINE, FINE.



THERE. GOOD ENOUGH?

YES, THANK YOU. GET THEM, LITTLE GUYS!

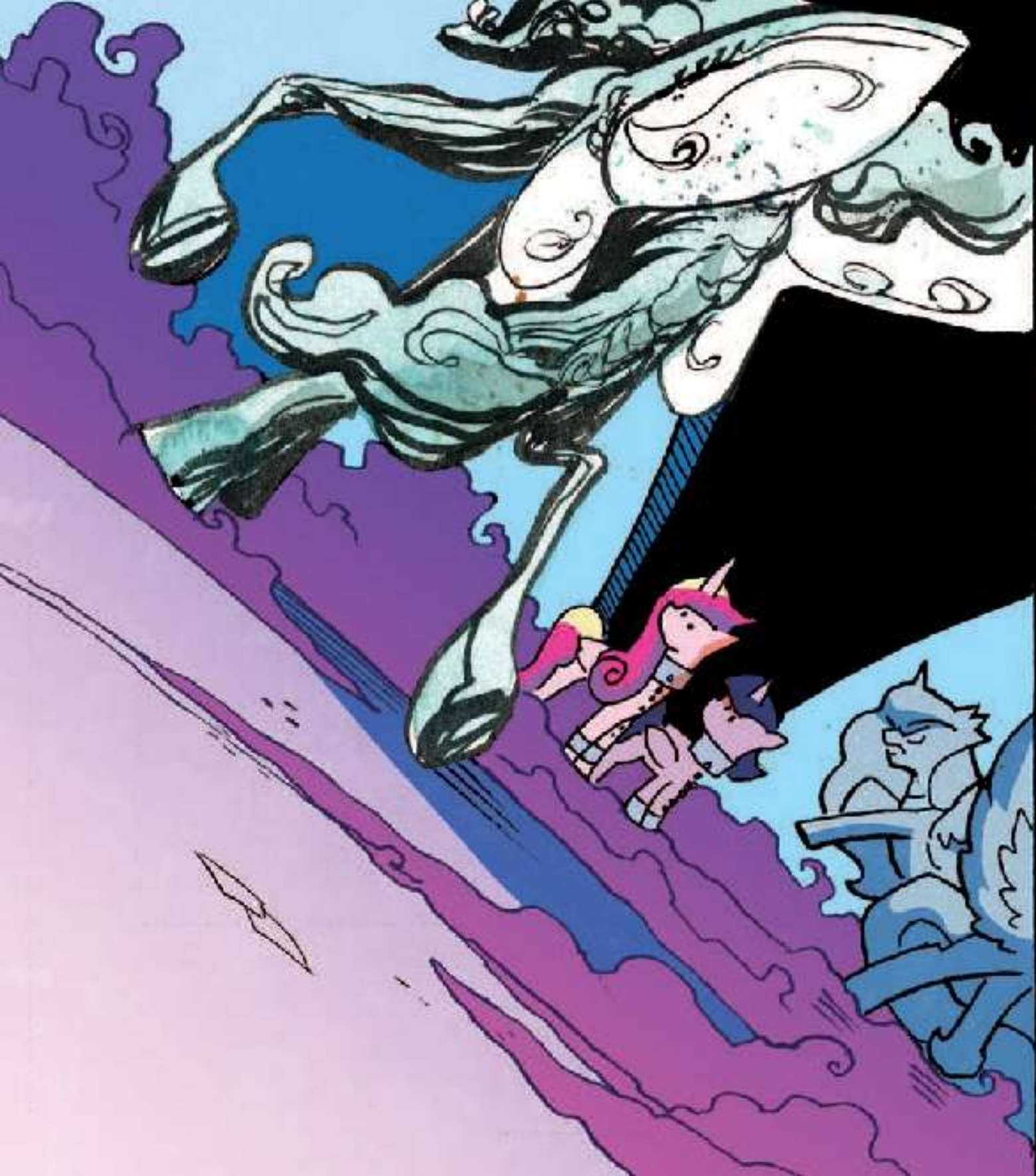
I REGRET MY PREVIOUS TAUNTING.



WE'VE GOT A CLEAR SHOT, EVERYONE! GET TO TWILIGHT AND CADENCE!



FOOLS! NOT SO FAST!



**SMACK
SPLAK
SWAK**



RABIA, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

PATHETIC PONIES BELIEVE THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE THEIR PRINCESSES. SOON, THEY'LL SEE THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE.



WE HAVE TO MAKE THEM SEE THAT THERE IS NO HOPE. ELIMINATE THE PRINCESSES NOW, SOMBRA.

BUT—

I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.



PRINCESSES ARE FINE, BUT THEY COME AND GO. ALL YOU NEED TO DESTROY THEIR HOPE IS THIS.

WHAT'S IN THAT BAG?



THE CRYSTAL HEART?

THE WEAPON?

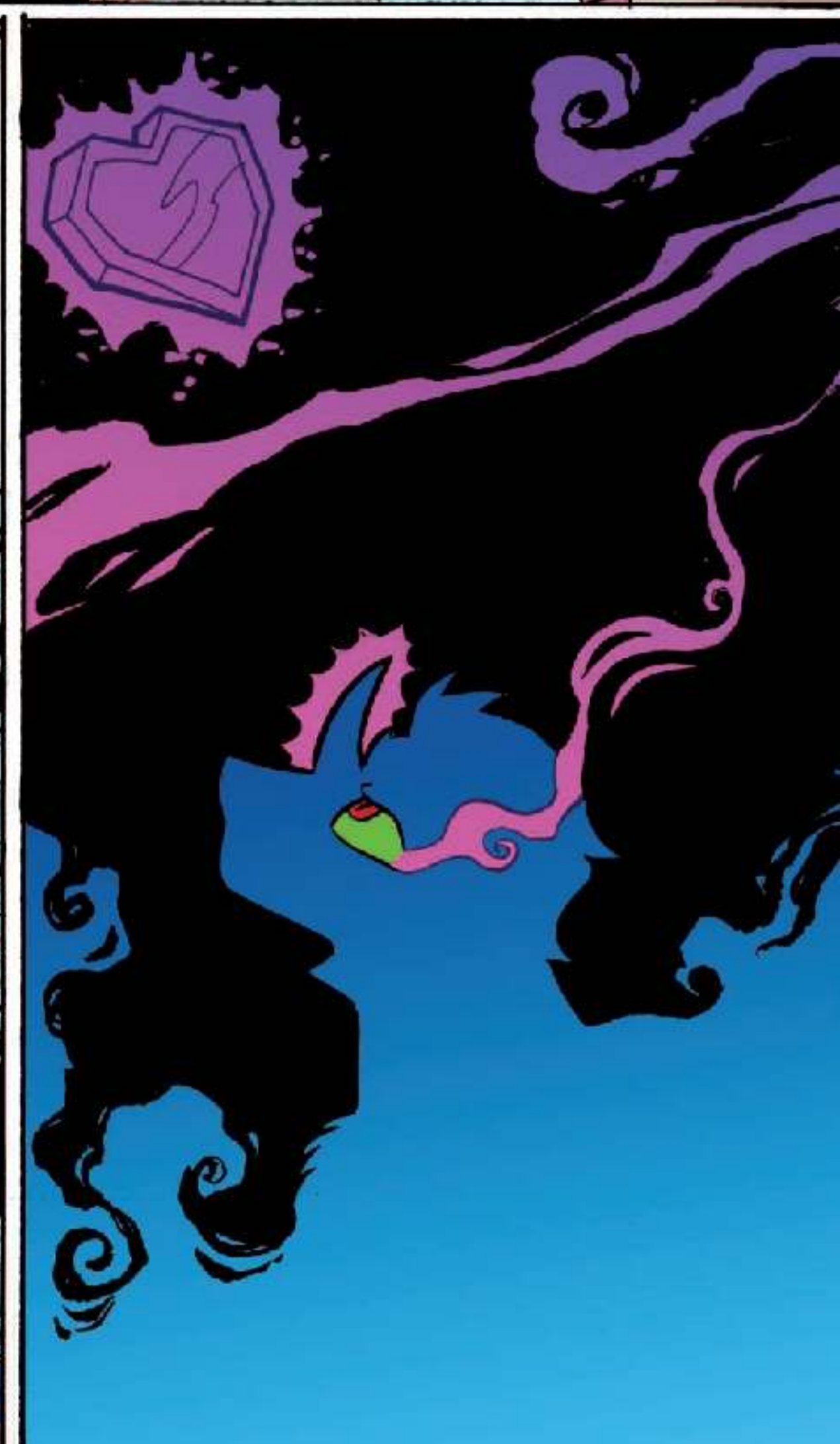
YES. IT'S THE SAME THING THAT HURT YOU. THAT LOCKED THE UMBRUM AWAY.

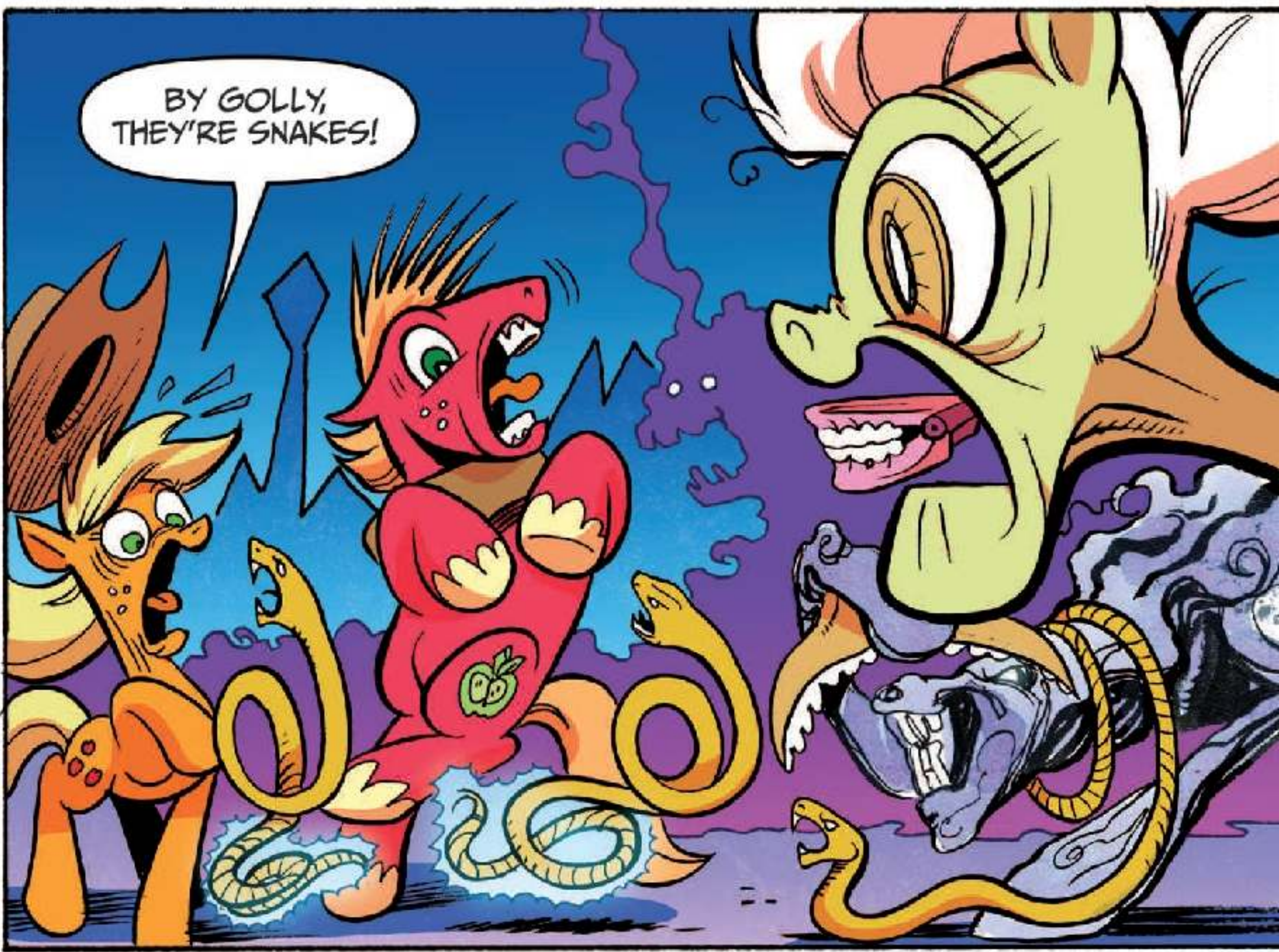


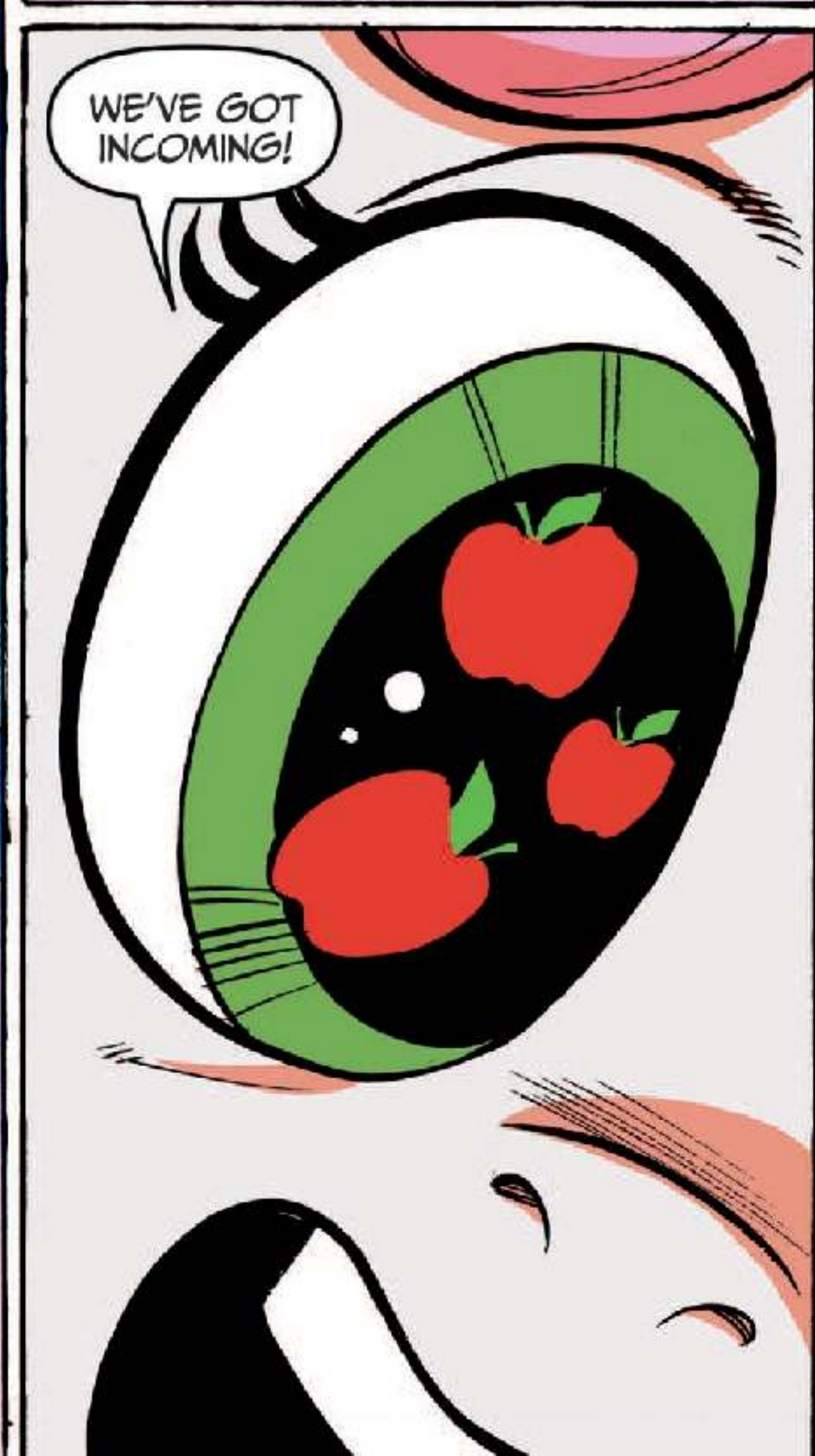
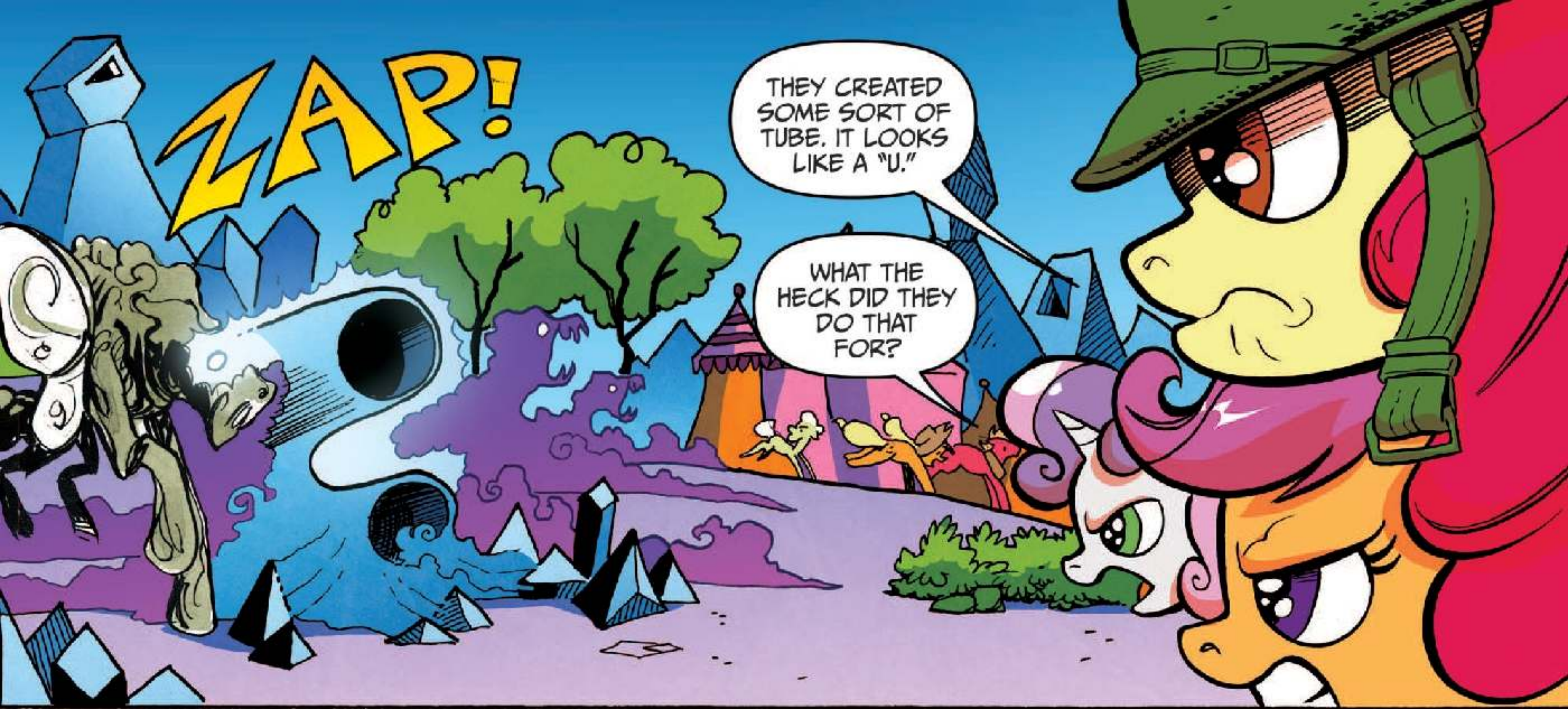
WHAT DO I DO WITH THAT?

IT'S THE LOCK THAT KEEPS THE UMBRUM IMPRISONED. AS LONG AS IT'S WHOLE, THE UMBRUM CAN BE LOCKED AWAY. IF YOU SMASH IT...

WE'LL BE FREE FOREVER! SMASH IT, SOMBRA!









GOOD. THE TANK IS DOWN AND THE CANNONS WILL BE WIPED OUT SOON. NOW IS THE TIME!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SOMBRA?

JUST REMEMBERING THE FIRST TIME I LOOKED INTO THIS THING. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW MYSELF AS A MONSTER.

WHAT DO YOU SEE NOW?



JUST ME. JUST MY REFLECTION.

MAYBE IT DOESN'T WORK IF IT'S NOT POWERED UP. ALL THE MORE REASON TO DESTROY IT.



NO, I THINK IT'S WORKING FINE.


HOPE?

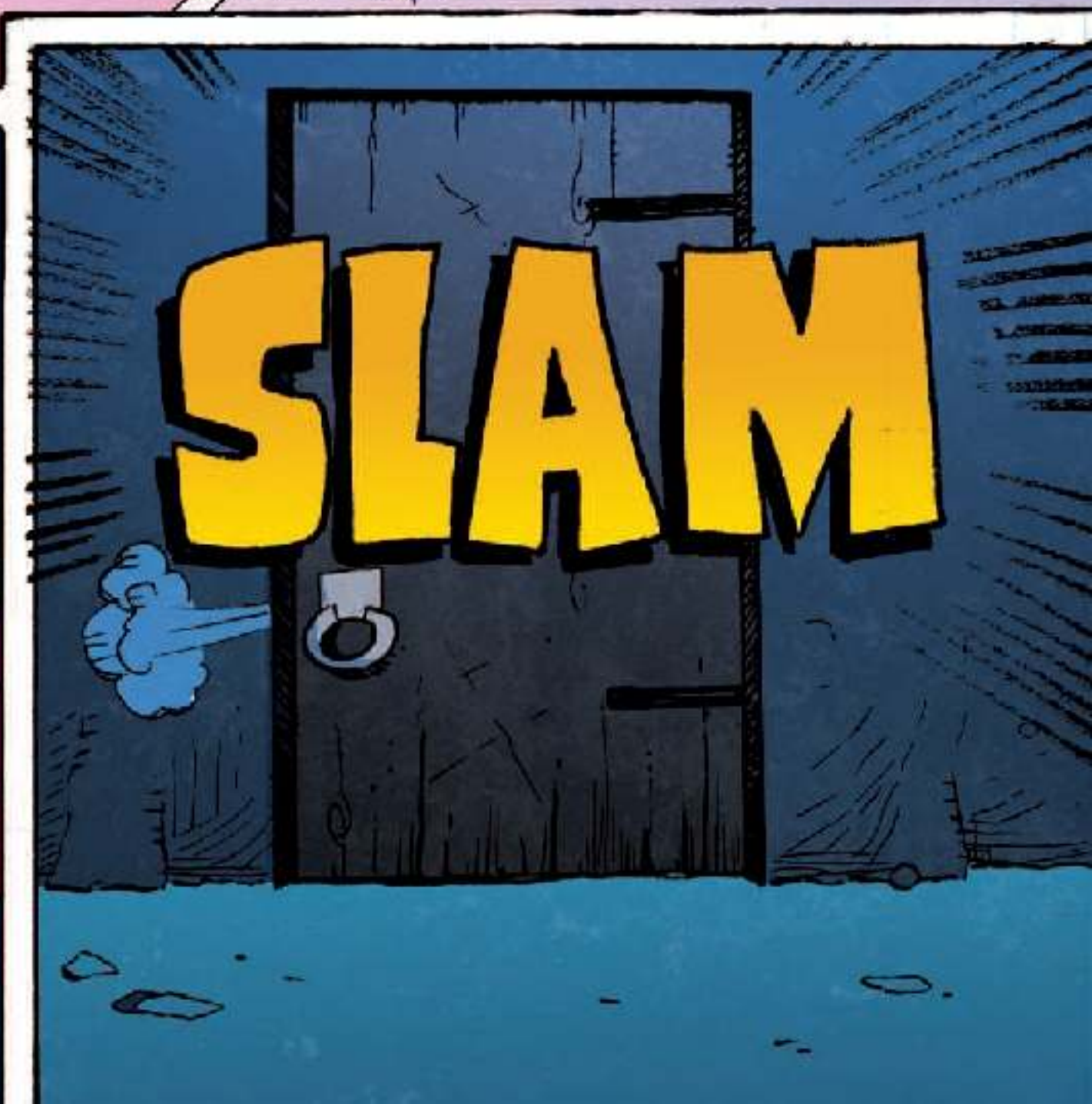
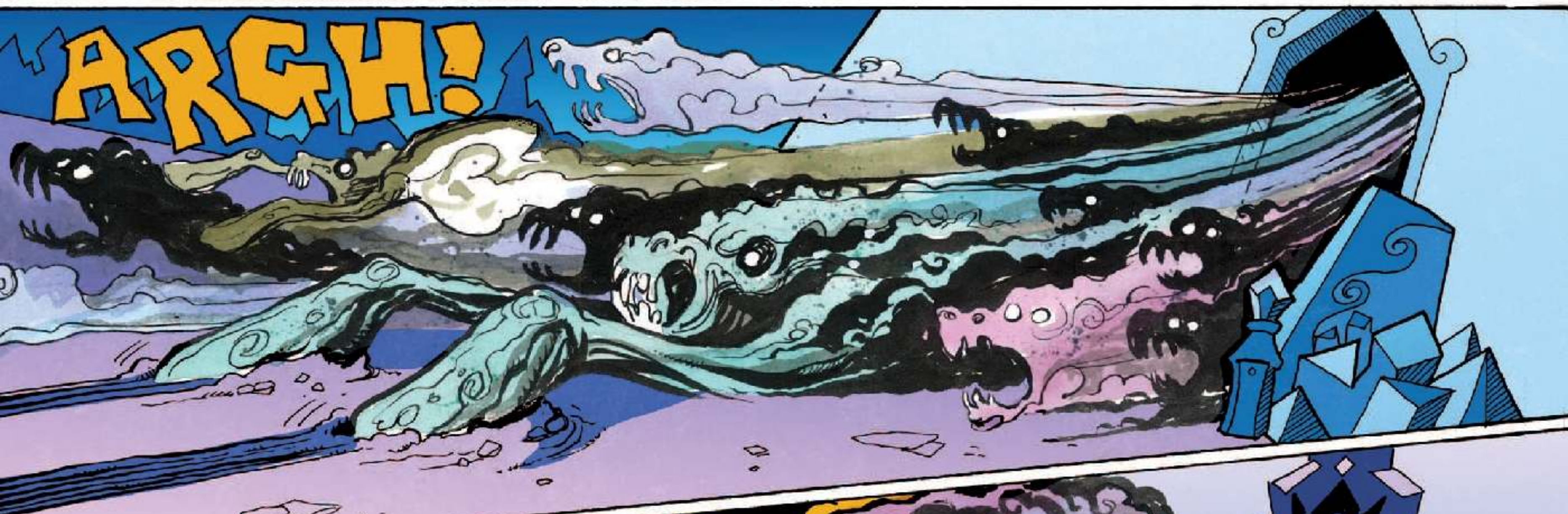
YES, SOMBRA?



THANK YOU.



FWOO  **OOOSH**





THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN ME, HOPE. I NEVER BELIEVED IN MYSELF. BUT I TRUSTED YOU... AND IF YOU—

OH, SOMBRA!



YOU SEE. I WAS RIGHT. YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER AT ALL. YOU SAVED EVERYONE.

I'M ALSO THE REASON THEY WERE IN DANGER.

STOP IT. YOU'RE A HERO, SOMBRA.



HEH. MAYBE. IT'S A FUNNY THOUGHT.

SOMBRA?

HOPE, YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME YOU WON'T RUN AWAY AGAIN. YOU CAN DO SO MUCH GOOD IN THIS WORLD.

I WILL.



SO THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE CRYSTAL FAIRE. I FINALLY GOT TO SEE IT. IT ONLY TOOK A THOUSAND YEARS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT'S MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I EVER IMAGINED.



SOMBRA?



NO! I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO!

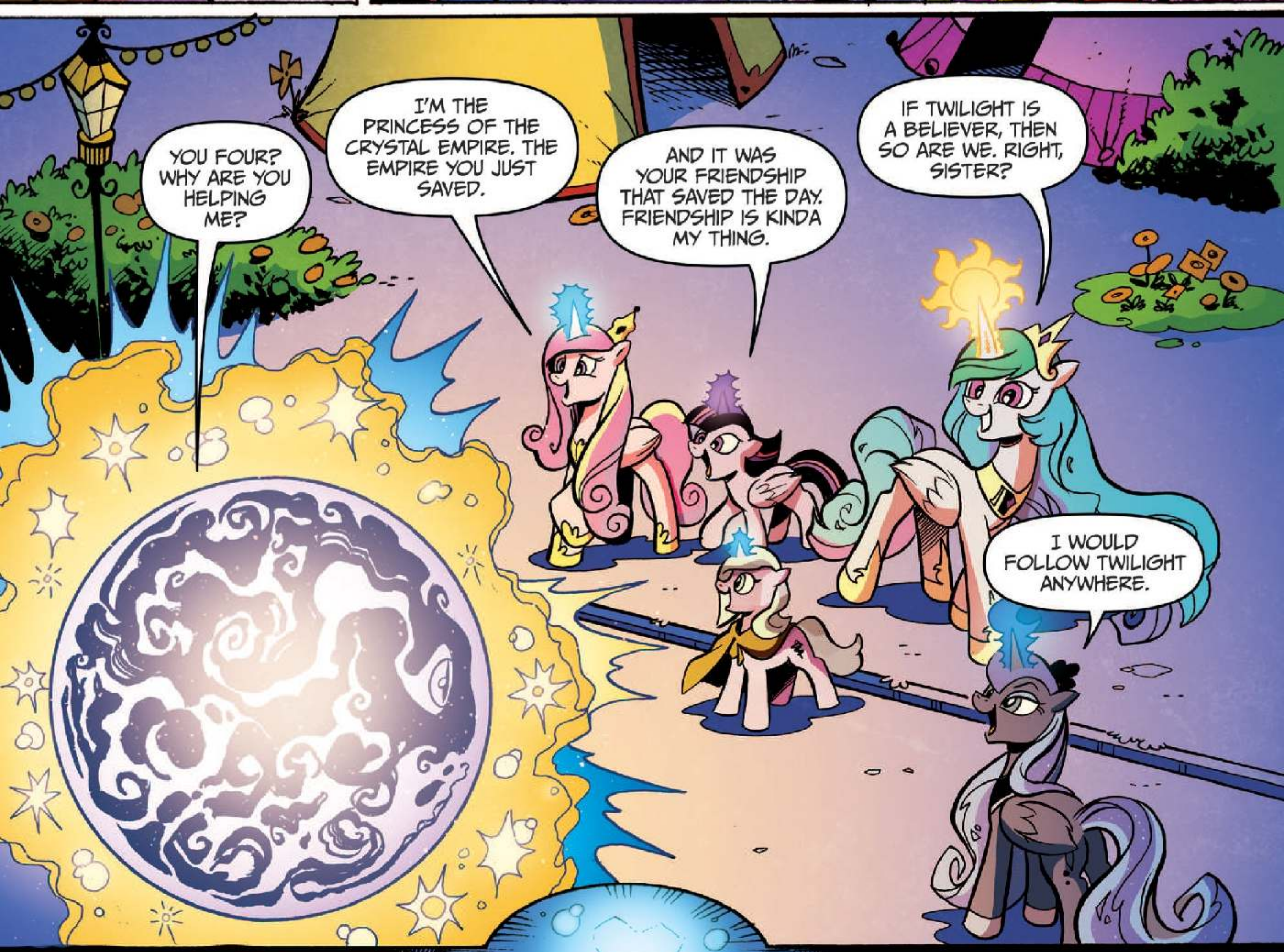


YOU SAID I COULD DO GOOD! NOW I'M DOING IT!

HOPE? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HOPE, YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE MAGIC OF THE CRYSTAL HEART ALONE! YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF!

SHE'S NOT ALONE!



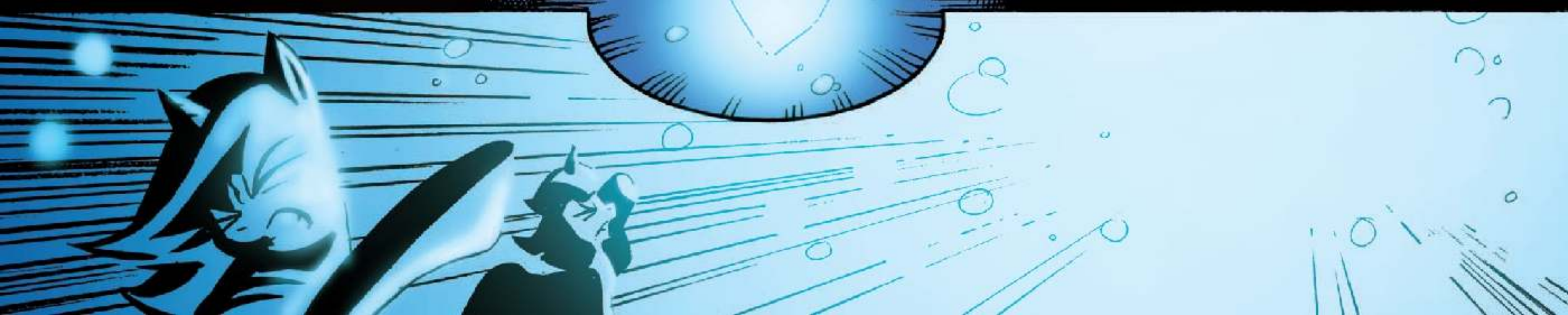
YOU FOUR? WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?

I'M THE PRINCESS OF THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE. THE EMPIRE YOU JUST SAVED.

AND IT WAS YOUR FRIENDSHIP THAT SAVED THE DAY. FRIENDSHIP IS KINDA MY THING.

IF TWILIGHT IS A BELIEVER, THEN SO ARE WE. RIGHT, SISTER?

I WOULD FOLLOW TWILIGHT ANYWHERE.





AM... AM I REALLY HERE?

SOMBRA!



HOPE... YOU SAVED ME!

I HAD SOME PRETTY BIG HELP.

I...

CAKE?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU OR HOW TO APOLOGIZE.

THERE IS NO NEED. SOMBRA, YOU HAVE SAVED EQUESTRIA AND YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN. YOU HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO DECIDE WHAT SORT OF PONY YOU WILL BE.



WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH IT?

I THOUGHT I WOULD START BY FORGIVING SOMEONE MYSELF. PRINCESS AMORE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE.

NOT KILLED. JUST SHATTERED.

AMORE? BUT YOU... KILLED HER.

WHAT?

I MADE HER INTO A STATUE AND SCATTERED HER PIECES ACROSS EQUESTRIA. IF YOU HELPED ME REBUILD THE STATUE...

WE COULD SAVE HER?! WE COULD BRING HER BACK?!

I THINK SO.

REFLECTIONS CUSTOM MIRRORS

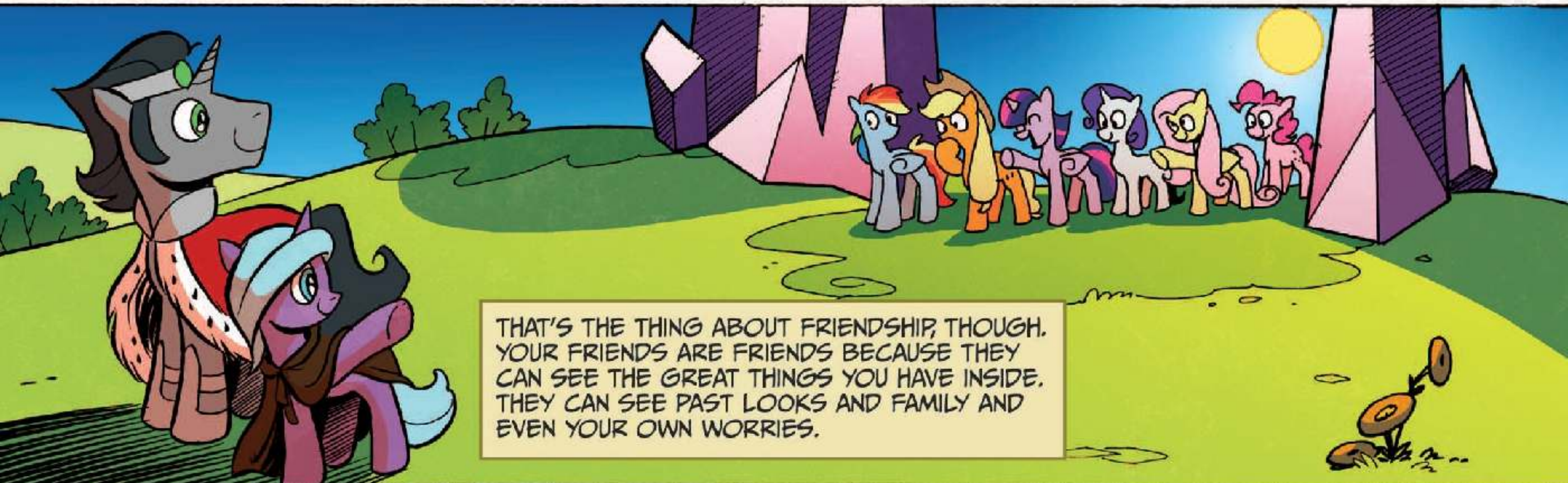
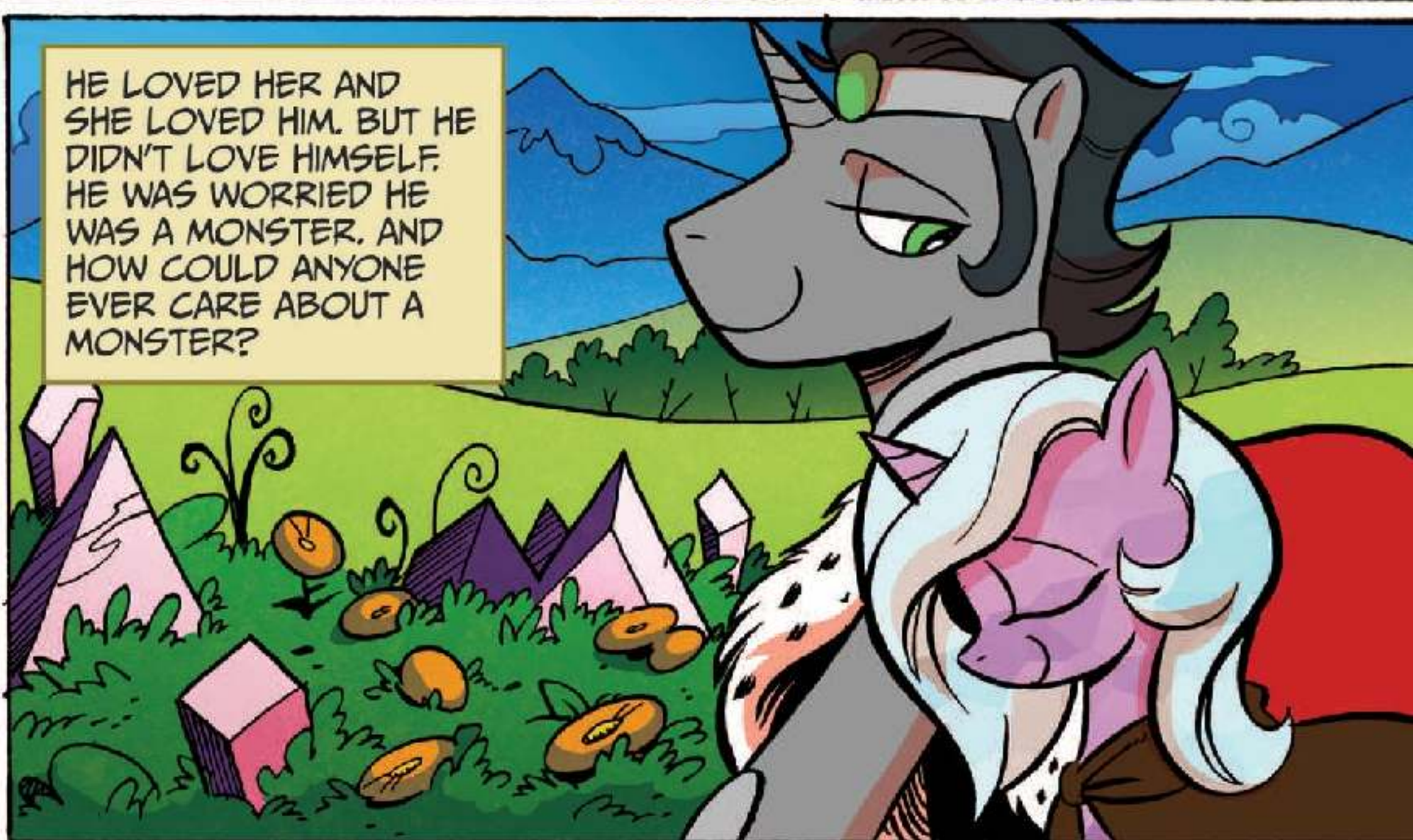
ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A YOUNG PONY WHO WASN'T LIKE THE OTHER PONIES. ALL HE WANTED WAS A FRIEND.



AND THEN, HE FOUND ONE. SHE WAS THE MOST AMAZING FRIEND THAT ANY PONY COULD HAVE ASKED FOR.



HE LOVED HER AND SHE LOVED HIM. BUT HE DIDN'T LOVE HIMSELF. HE WAS WORRIED HE WAS A MONSTER, AND HOW COULD ANYONE EVER CARE ABOUT A MONSTER?



THAT'S THE THING ABOUT FRIENDSHIP, THOUGH. YOUR FRIENDS ARE FRIENDS BECAUSE THEY CAN SEE THE GREAT THINGS YOU HAVE INSIDE. THEY CAN SEE PAST LOOKS AND FAMILY AND EVEN YOUR OWN WORRIES.

RACE YA!

YOU'RE ON!

AND THEY CAN SEE THE GOODNESS INSIDE OF YOU, EVEN IF YOU DON'T SEE IT YOURSELF.

