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#16

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my LITTLE PONY

FRIENDS
FOREVER





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"ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A RINKY-DINK LITTLE BACKWATER TOWN CALLED PONYVILLE.

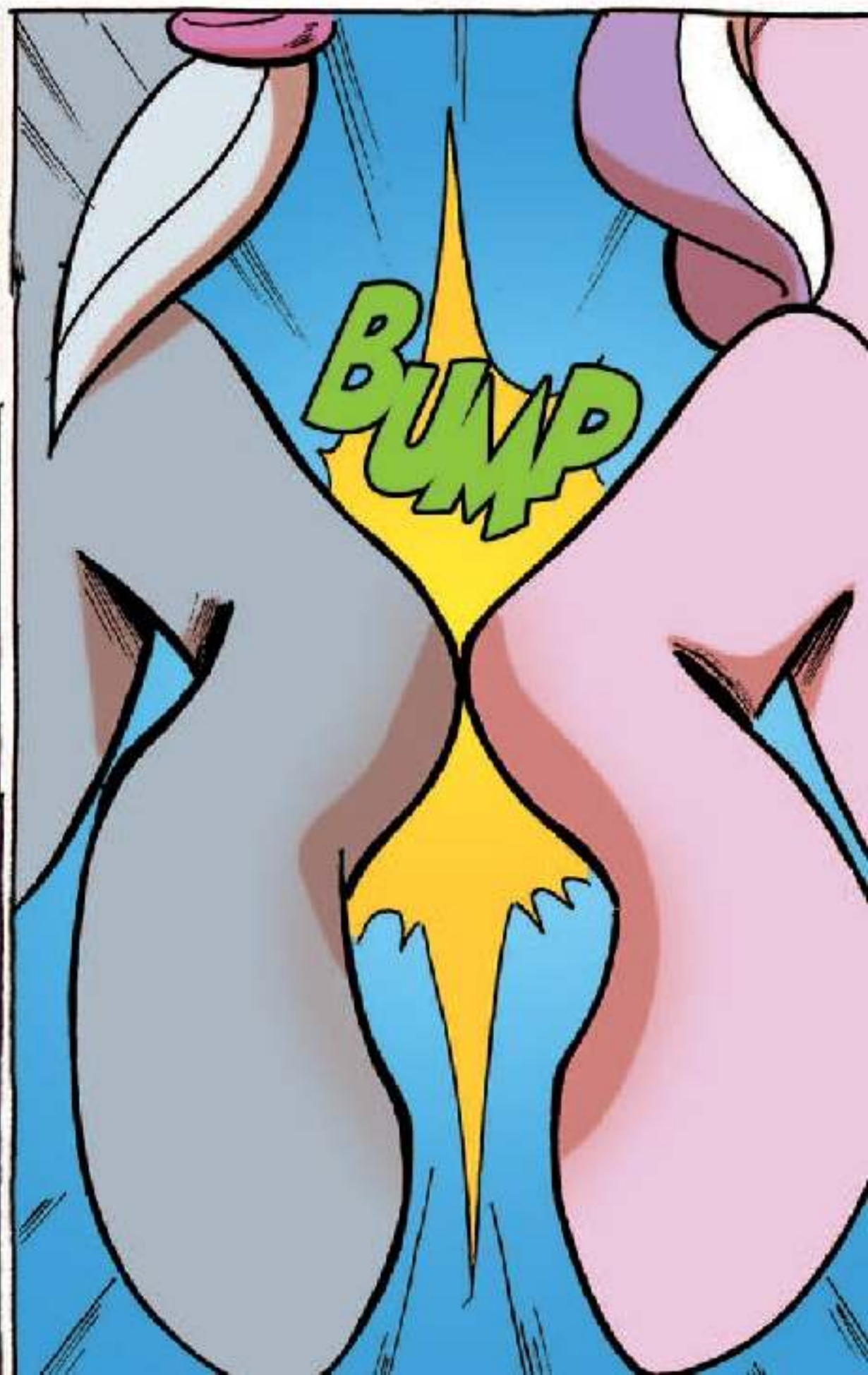


"IT WAS A TOWN SO FULL OF TOTAL LOSERS AND CHUMPS THAT IT WAS AMAZING THE BUILDINGS EVEN STAYED STANDING. THE KIND OF TOWN THAT MOST PONIES ONLY EVEN COME TO IF THEY GET LOST. A TOWN SO..."

"MOVE ON WITH THE STORY, PLEASE!"



"BUT IN THIS DULL HUM-DRUM TOWN FULL OF NOBODIES, THERE WERE A FEW VERY SPECIAL PONIES. PONIES WHO SHINED ABOVE THE REST. THEY WERE PONIES THAT EVERYBODY LOVED AND OTHER LITTLE PONIES WANTED TO BE LIKE. AND OTHER PONIES KNEW THEY WERE COMING BY THEIR CALL."







HISTORY? BLUEHAY MUSIC? SCAVENGING? WHAT, DID THEY JUST MAKE A LIST OF LAME STUFF I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH?

I KNOW! WHAT KIND OF LITTLE FILLIES DO THEY THINK WE ARE? THE PRIZE IS LIKE A PUNISHMENT!



THE PONY PICKERS! THAT'S APPLEJACK'S FAVORITE BAND! SHE WOULD EAT HER HAT IF I GOT HER TICKETS!

WE KNOW A LOT ABOUT PONYVILLE. I BET WE COULD DO PRETTY WELL IN THE SCAVENGER HUNT.

PRETTY GOOD? WE'D BE THE BEST! I CAN SEE IT NOW!



WE'LL BE THE BEST SCAVENGERERS IN TOWN. WE'LL WIN THAT PRIZE AND OUR CUTIE MARKS FOR SURE.

WE'LL BE CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS: INVESTIGATORS.

GOSH, YOU THINK SO?



YEAH! NO SWEAT! WITH THE POWER OF OUR FRIENDSHIP, WE CAN BEAT ANYPONY WORKING TOGETHER!

THAT'D SURE BE SWELL! APPLEJACK'S BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP TOO!

I GOTTA FIND ONE OF THOSE HATS! I WONDER IF RARITY COULD MAKE ONE!



WE'VE GOTTA WIN THAT SCAVENGER HUNT!

BUT I THOUGHT YOU SAID—

WE'RE BEST FRIENDS TOO! WE'LL SHOW THOSE BLANK FLANKS THAT WE'RE THE BEST.

BUT THERE'S ONLY TWO OF US. MISS CHEERILY SAID WE HAD TO HAVE A TEAM OF THREE.

I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL. TRUST ME.



DIAMOND TIARA, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MY LITTLE PRINCESS? YOU'VE BEEN MOPING AROUND EVER SINCE YOU GOT HOME.

IT'S JUST THAT I'M SO DISAPPOINTED, DADDY. I WANTED SOMETHING REALLY BADLY, BUT...



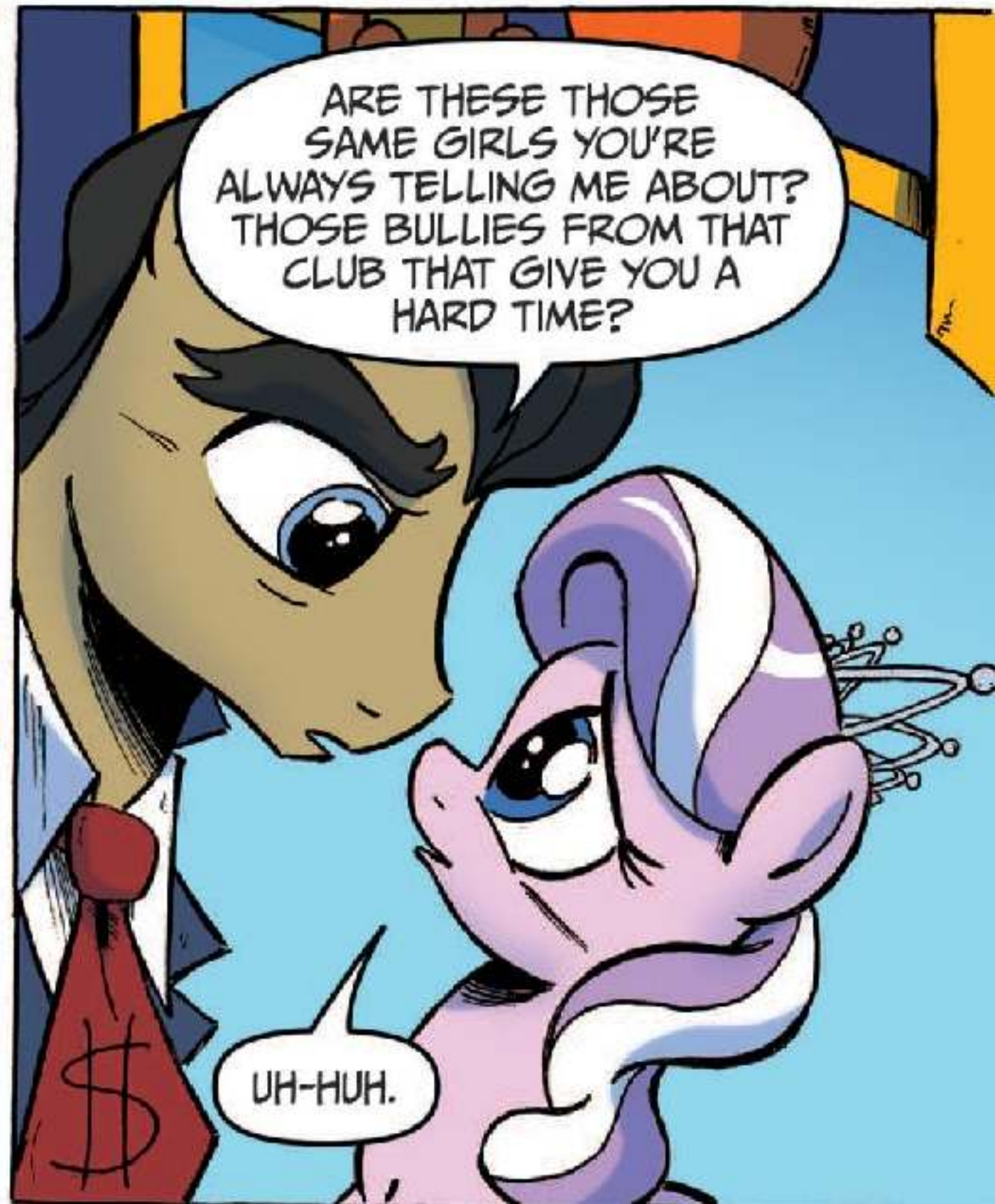
HEY NOW, IF MY LITTLE FILLY WANTS SOMETHING, SHE GETS IT.

OH DADDY, I WANT TO WIN THIS JUNIOR SCAVENGER HUNT, BUT WE HAVE TO HAVE A THREE-PONY TEAM TO COMPETE, BUT IT'S JUST ME AND SILVER SPOON.



WELL, THAT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL. I'LL MAKE SOME CALLS AND WE'LL FIND ANOTHER FILLY IN TOWN TO BE ON YOUR TEAM.

BUT DADDY, ALL THE OTHER FILLIES HERE ALREADY HAVE TEAMS. AND THOSE OTHER FILLIES WERE MAKING FUN OF SILVER SPOON AND ME. THEY SAID THEY COULD BEAT ANYPONY!



ARE THESE THOSE SAME GIRLS YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING ME ABOUT? THOSE BULLIES FROM THAT CLUB THAT GIVE YOU A HARD TIME?

UH-HUH.



WELL THEN, WE'LL SHOW THOSE BULLIES WHO'S REALLY THE BEST AROUND HERE! DON'T YOU WORRY, SWEETIE. I'LL GET YOU THE BEST TEAMMATE PONYVILLE HAS EVER SEEN.

DADDY! DO YOU MEAN IT?

OF COURSE I DO! YOU KNOW YOUR DADDY.



I LOVE YOU, DADDY!



BUT I DON'T GET IT. WHERE'S OUR THIRD TEAM MEMBER?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I TOLD YOU I'D HANDLE IT. IT'S HANDLED.



ARE YOU GIRLS READY?

QUICK, DRILL US!

OKAY, WHO WAS THE FIRST PEGASUS TO EVER LIVE IN PONYVILLE?

THAT'S EASY! IT WAS TOUCHDOWN, THE FAMOUS PEGASUS ATHLETE.



HE CAME FOR AN EXHIBITION MATCH AND LIKED THE TOWN SO MUCH HE STAYED.

YES, BUT WHAT ACCESSORY IS HE KNOWN FOR MAKING POPULAR IN PONYVILLE?

UMMM...

FLIGHT GOGGLES! NO EARTH PONY HAD EVER NEEDED THEM. BUT AFTER HIS ARRIVAL THEY BECAME ALL THE RAGE!



IMPRESSIVE.

BUT IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD.

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE? I THOUGHT YOU HATED SCAVENGER HUNTS!

WE LOVE SCAVENGER HUNTS! BUT MOSTLY WE LOVE WINNING. RIGHT, SILVER SPOON?

RIGHT, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO!



SOUNDS TO ME LIKE SOMEONE'S COUNTING THEIR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCH. YOU HAVE TO HAVE THREE PONIES ON YOUR TEAM TO COMPETE.

YOU'RE THE EXPERT ON COUNTING CHICKENS, APPLE PEEL.

YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.





THAT'S CHEATING!

YOU CAN'T HIRE A DETECTIVE TO HELP YOU WITH A SCAVENGER HUNT!

OH REALLY? MAYOR MARE, CAN YOU COME HERE FOR A MOMENT?



HELLO GIRLS! ARE YOU ALL READY FOR SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITION THIS MORNING?

BECAUSE YOU ARE! YOU HIRED A DETECTIVE TO HELP YOU WIN!

WELL, WE WERE, BUT THESE BLANK FLANKS ARE ACCUSING US OF CHEATING.

MAYOR, IS THAT AGAINST THE RULES?



THERE'S NOTHING IN THE RULE BOOK ABOUT IT, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM VERY MUCH IN THE SPIRIT OF—

SO IT'S NOT AGAINST THE RULES?

WELL, NO, BUT THE PRIZE ISN'T WORTH WHAT YOU WOULD SPEND TO—

HEAR THAT? IT'S ALL FAIR AND SQUARE. YOU'RE JUST A SOUR APPLE BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE!



HELLO, GIRLS!

OH GOOD, TWILIGHT WILL HELP US STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT.

ACTUALLY, I'M NOT HERE IN ANY SORT OF OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE ANYWAY?



WELL, I SAW PRANCY DREW HERE AND I JUST COULDN'T PASS UP THE CHANCE TO GET HER TO SIGN MY BOOKS.

OF COURSE! ANYTHING FOR THE PRINCESS. CAN I ASK YOU WHY YOU READ BY CANDLE LIGHT INSTEAD OF USING MAGIC THOUGH?

WELL, I THINK THE CANDLE LIGHT ADDS ATMOSPHERE TO MYSTERY STORIES... WAIT! HOW DID YOU KNOW?



WHEN YOU OPEN THE BOOKS, THE PAGES ARE CRISP AND CRACKLY. THEY GET THIS WAY WHEN YOU READ WITH A CANDLE BECAUSE THEY DRY OUT. MAGIC KEEPS THEM MOIST AND FLEXIBLE.

TEE HE HE HE HE HE HE! OBSERVATION! I LOVE IT!



ALL FILLY CONTESTANTS, MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? FIRST I WANT TO GO OVER THE RULES OF THIS CONTEST ONE LAST TIME.



ONCE I GIVE THE CLUE, IT WILL DIRECT YOU TO A HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT PLACE SOMEWHERE IN PONYVILLE. SOMEWHERE IN THAT PLACE YOU WILL FIND THE NEXT CLUE. ONCE YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY FOUND ALL THREE CLUES, YOUR WHOLE TEAM WILL COME BACK HERE. THE FIRST TEAM TO THE TOWN HALL STEPS WINS THE PRIZE.

NOW, FOR YOUR FIRST CLUE.



BEST OF LUCK, APPLE DUMPLING.

WE'RE GONNA WHOOP YOUR BEHINDS.

WITH A WORLD-FAMOUS DETECTIVE ON OUR SIDE? YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE.



AHEM,

"YOUR FIRST DESTINATION, EVERYONE KNOWS. TO CONNECT WITH NATURE IT'S WHERE EVERYPONY GOES. IT'S BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN AND SPUN ALL AROUND, BUT THANKS TO ITS RESIDENT, THERE'RE NO DRAGONS IN TOWN."



NOW, ON YOUR MARKS.

GET SET.



OH...



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT CLUE EVEN MEANS!

WELL, IT SAID THE PLACE WAS SPUN ALL AROUND. THE WINDMILL IS THE ONLY PLACE I CAN THINK OF THAT SPINS AROUND.

OF COURSE! GOOD THINKING, SWEETIE BELLE.



THE BLANK FLANKS ARE GOING TO THE WINDMILL, BECAUSE IT SPINS AROUND.

GOOD SPYING, SILVER SPOON! THEY FIGURED IT OUT ALREADY! WHY DIDN'T YOU THINK OF THAT, PRANCY?

I DID. I SIMPLY DEDUCED THAT THEIR ANSWER WAS INCORRECT.



MISS SAID IT'S "BEEN SPUN AROUND" WHICH IMPLIES IT'S NOT SPINNING ANYMORE. ALSO SHE MENTIONED CONNECTING WITH NATURE AND THE WINDMILL IS OUT ON THE EDGE OF TOWN. WHO WOULD GO THERE TO CONNECT WITH NATURE?

WELL THEN, WHERE ARE WE GOING?



THINK! WHO DO YOU ALL KNOW WHO'S DRIVEN OFF A DRAGON FROM PONYVILLE?

THERE WAS THAT TIME THAT RARITY YELLED AT SPIKE AND...

SPIKE IS STILL HERE. WHO ELSE?



I GOT IT!

"IT'S FLUTTERSHY'S HOUSE! SHE'S SCARED OFF THAT DRAGON THAT WAS SLEEPING IN THE MOUNTAINS!"

I'M SO GLAD I FIGURED THIS ANSWER OUT—

YEAH, GREAT JOB, DIAMOND TIARA!

AND THANKS TO ME WE'RE HERE WITH NOT ANOTHER PONY IN SIGHT.



I WONDER HOW THOSE LOSER BLANK FLANKS ARE DOING AT THE WINDMILL.

OH PLEASE, YOU KNOW HOW THINGS ALWAYS GO WHEN THEY'RE AROUND. ONE OF THEM'S PROBABLY HANGING OFF A WINDMILL BLADE RIGHT NOW.



HA HA HA HA HA HA.



HEEEELP!

HANG IN THERE, SCOOTALOO! WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO SAVE YOU!

AT LEAST I FOUND THAT BIG RUBBER BAND SO IT COULD HOLD THE WINDMILL IN PLACE WHILE WE RESCUED YOU!



OKAY, DON'T BE MAD BUT THE RUBBER BAND—



WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?

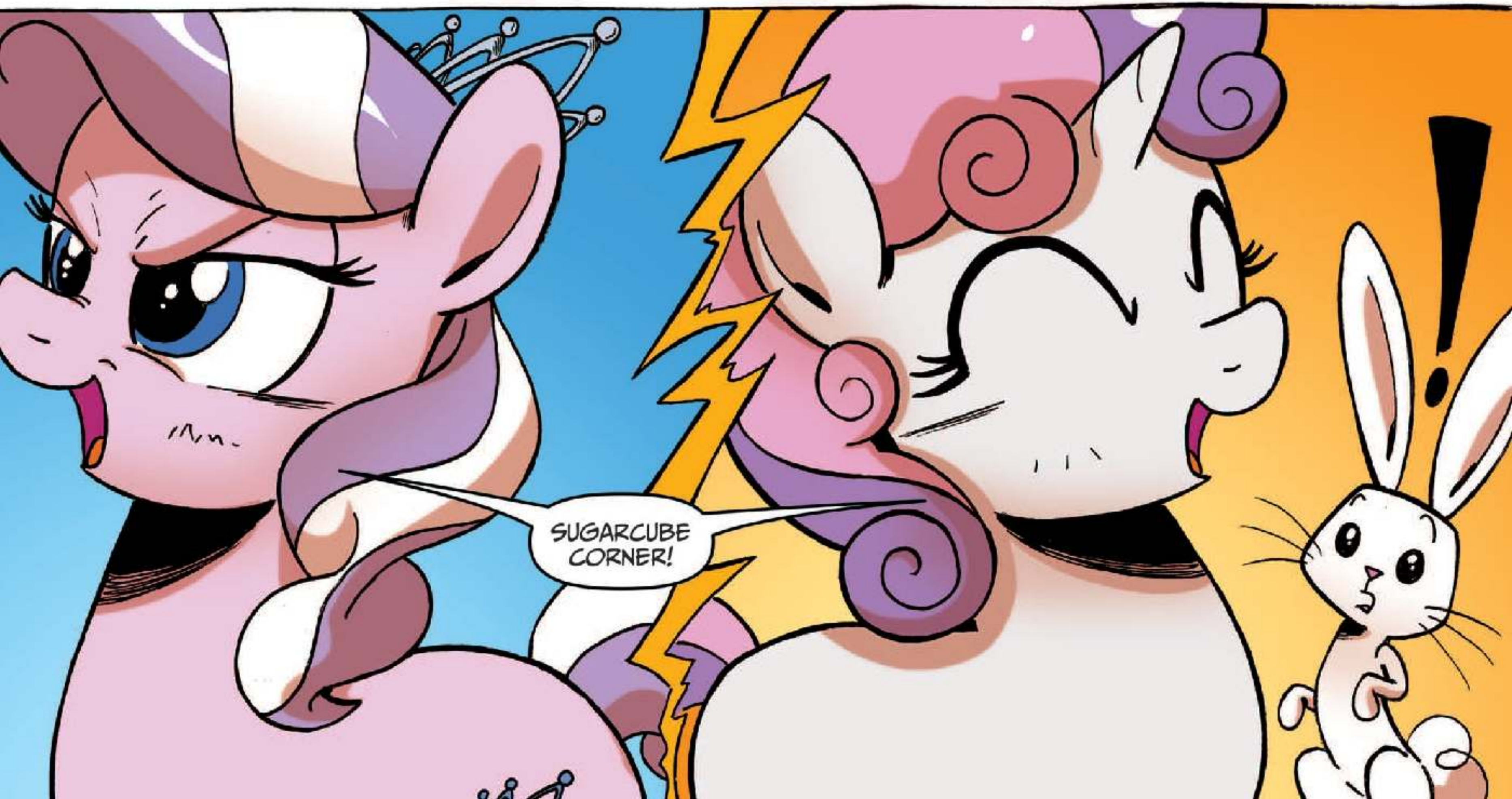
UH-OH.

RIIP

—BROKE!









HEEEEEEEYA GIRLS!



WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?

WELL, THE CAKES MADE A CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN. AAAAND... THAT GOT ME THINKING THAT IF YOU CAN HAVE A CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN, COULD YOU HAVE A CHOCOLATE WATERFALL? NOW MY CHOCOLATE WATERFALL HAS MADE A CHOCOLATE RIVER!



WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS NONSENSE! DO YOU HAVE THE CLUES FOR THE SCAVENGER HUNT OR NOT?

HUH? OH YEAH! THEY'RE AROUND TWO KNOTS OFF THE STARBOARD BOW.

HUH?



MS. PIE, KNOTS ARE A MEASUREMENT OF SPEED RELATIVE TO NAUTICAL MILES. TWO KNOTS AWAY WOULD BE OUTSIDE OF TOWN.

HUH?



NO, SILLY. IT'S OVER THERE BY THOSE TWO KNOTS.

OH. MY MISTAKE, I SUPPOSE?

IT'S OKAY! YOU'RE STILL YOUNG. YOU'LL LEARN A LOT MORE ABOUT CHOCOLATE NAVIGATION WHEN YOU GROW UP!



CONGRATULATIONS, YOU FOUND YOUR NEXT CLUE. AND IF YOU KNOW YOUR PRODUCE YOU'LL GET THIS ONE TOO!

HEAD TO THE PLACE WHERE THE LIGHTING ZAPS AND THE TOWN'S FIRST RESIDENTS PUT IT ON THE MAPS.



GRANNY SMITH WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SETTLERS AND THEY SETTLED AT SWEET APPLE ACRES.

INDEED MS. SPOON, JUST THE TICKET!



AND APPLE BLOOM LIVES THERE, SO SHE'S GONNA KNOW IT TOO. WHICH MEANS YOU TWO HAD BETTER MOOOOVE!



SHOOT! THEY'RE ALREADY HERE!

AND WE'RE ALREADY HEADED TO THE NEXT STOP, SEE YOU LOSERS LATER.

IF YOU'RE IN SUCH A HURRY, WHERE'S DIAMOND TIARA?



32 PPF
OW'S





OH NO, I'M SO WORRIED. LOOK HOW CLOSE BEHIND US THEY ARE, GIRLS. THEY TOTALLY MIGHT CATCH US!

YOU BETTER BE SCARED! WE'RE GONNA LEAVE Y'ALL IN OUR DUST!



WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN A HURRY.

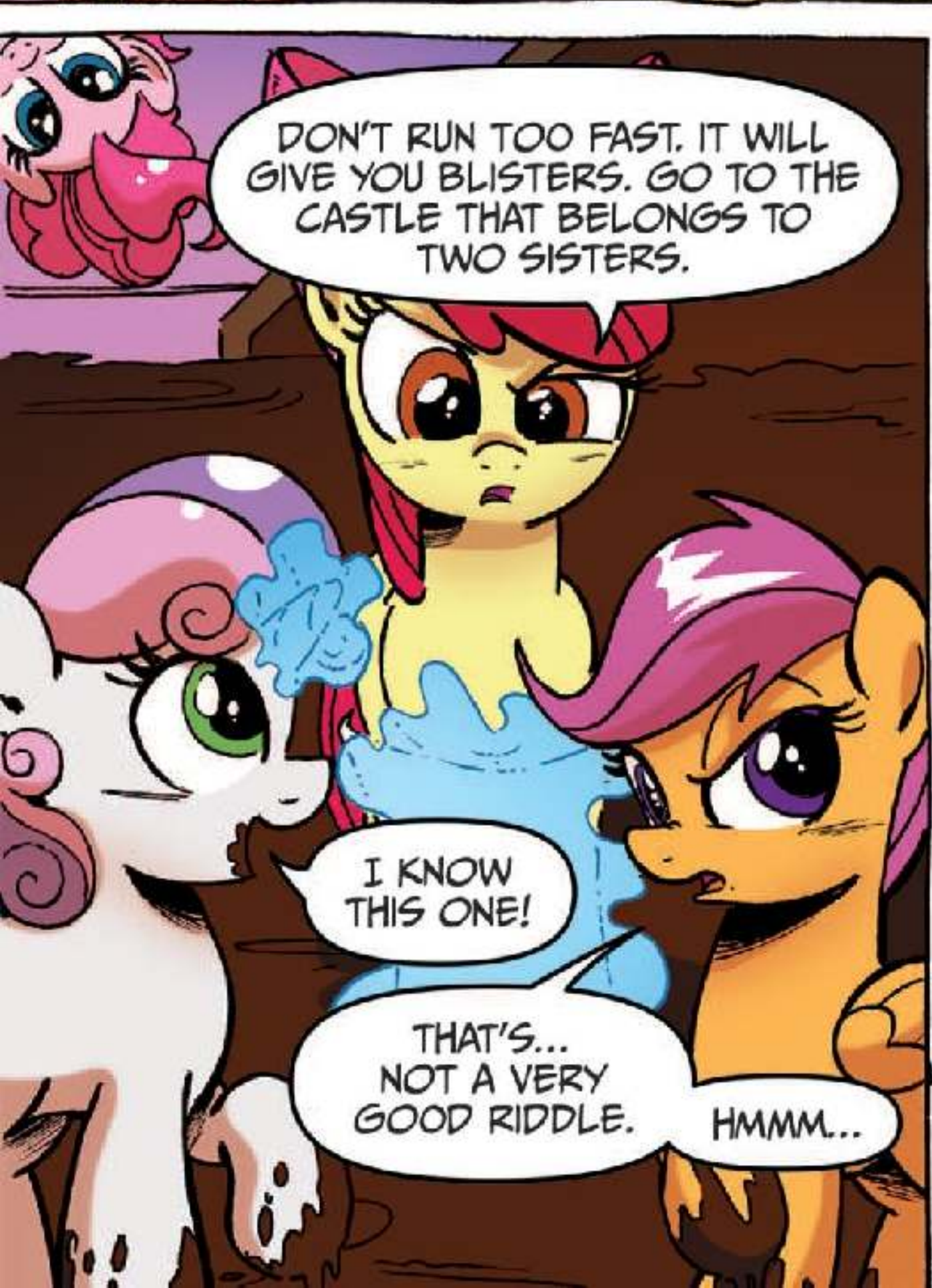
OH, NO NEED TO HURRY, I THINK I'VE PROVEN THAT WE'RE SMARTER THAN THEM.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, WE SHOULD PROCEED TO THE NEXT STOP.



WHAT DID YOU DO?

LET'S JUST SAY, THE CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS WILL BE TAKING A LITTLE DETOUR.



DON'T RUN TOO FAST. IT WILL GIVE YOU BLISTERS. GO TO THE CASTLE THAT BELONGS TO TWO SISTERS.

I KNOW THIS ONE!

THAT'S... NOT A VERY GOOD RIDDLE.

HMMM...



CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS GO!





WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE.

I'M STARTING TO THINK WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SET UP.

APPLE BLOOM, HAND ME THE CLUES, PLEASE.



UH-HUH, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. A FORGERY!

HOW CAN YOU TELL?

ONLY ONE PONY I KNOW DOTS ALL OF HER I'S WITH A HEART.

DIAMOND TIARA! THAT CHEATIN' RAT!



WHAT DO WE DO NOW? SHE'S PROBABLY HALFWAY BACK TO TOWN HALL BY NOW.

CLICK?



AWESOME!

WOO-HOO!

WHAT A WAY TO TRAVEL!

CLUE #1





RUN FASTER! WE HAVE TO WIN THIS!

I AM RUNNING FASTER!

I'M AFRAID CHASING CRIMINALS WAS NEVER MY FORTE.

IF YOU WANT TO GET PAID, YOU BETTER FIGURE IT OUT!



OOF!



OUCH!



FORGET HER! WE'VE GOT A CONTEST TO WIN!

SORRY. MY FRIEND NEEDS ME.



WAIT! MY LEG'S HURT! PLEASE!

WHINNY TO SOME PONY THAT CARES!



CONGRATULATIONS, LADIES.

MAYOR!
WE'RE HERE!
WE WON!

WE DID IT!
WE'RE THE
BEST.



WAIT
A MINUTE.
THERE'S ONLY
TWO OF YOU.
WHERE'S YOUR
PARTNER?

WHO CARES
ABOUT THAT
LOSER?

THE RULES CLEARLY
STATE THAT THE WINNING
TEAM IS THE FIRST ONE TO
HAVE ALL THREE FILLIES
CLIMB THE STEPS. WHERE
IS YOUR PARTNER?

I'M RIGHT
HERE!



I GOT HURT AND THEY
LEFT ME BEHIND! THEY'RE
TERRIBLE TEAMMATES! IT'S
ONLY BECAUSE OF THE CUTIE
MARK CRUSADERS THAT I
MADE IT HERE AT ALL.

HOW COULD
YOU LEAVE A
FRIEND BEHIND
LIKE THAT?



WHO SAID
SHE WAS MY
FRIEND? SHE'S MY
EMPLOYEE.

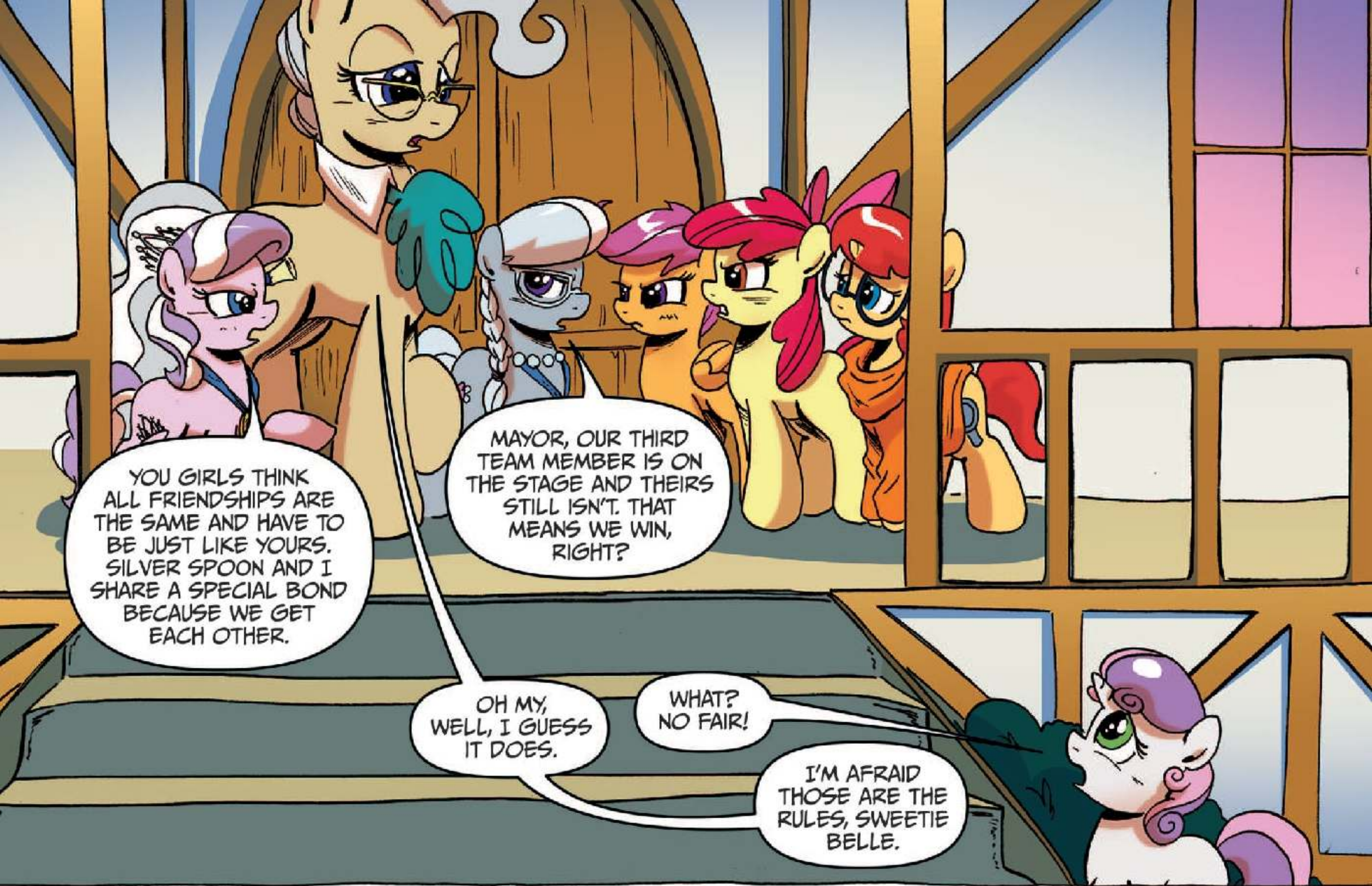
YOU STILL
OUGHTA TREAT
HER WITH
RESPECT!

UMM...
DIAMOND
TIARA...



WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER...

YOU'RE
RIGHT!



YOU GIRLS THINK ALL FRIENDSHIPS ARE THE SAME AND HAVE TO BE JUST LIKE YOURS. SILVER SPOON AND I SHARE A SPECIAL BOND BECAUSE WE GET EACH OTHER.

MAYOR, OUR THIRD TEAM MEMBER IS ON THE STAGE AND THEIRS STILL ISN'T. THAT MEANS WE WIN, RIGHT?

OH MY, WELL, I GUESS IT DOES.

WHAT? NO FAIR!

I'M AFRAID THOSE ARE THE RULES, SWEETIE BELLE.



THE OFFICIAL WINNERS, TEAM SUGAR LUMP RUMP.

BUMP! BUMP! SUGARLUMP RUMP!



AND TO OUR RUNNERS-UP, TICKETS TO THEIR WHOLE FAMILIES TO SEE THE PONY PICKERS!

THE PICKERS DONATED THEM WHEN THEY SAW HOW MANY TEAMS WE HAD THIS YEAR.

WHAT?



HOORAY! GO CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS!

NO! THAT'S NOT FAIR! WE WON! WE GET THE PRIZES! THEY CAN'T GET THEM TOO!


DIAMOND TIARA!



I HAD NO IDEA THE PRIZE WAS BLUE HAY TICKETS! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED BLUE HAY MUSIC!

WHY, YOU ONLY ENTERED THE CONTEST SO YOU COULD TAKE YOUR OLD DAD TO SEE HIS FAVORITE BAND, DIDN'T YOU?

UMMM... YEAH, DAD... OF COURSE.




I LEARNED SOMETHING TODAY.

FRIENDS ARE GOOD...
OR WHATEVER, BUT
THEY CAN'T BE BOUGHT.

I'M HAPPY TO HAVE ONE FRIEND
WHO UNDERSTANDS ME AND
KNOWS ALL THE REALLY GREAT
STUFF IN LIFE CAN BE BOUGHT.


LOOK AT THEM. SURE, THEY'RE HAPPY NOW.
BUT WHEN THEY GET HOME THEY WON'T HAVE
A BUTLER TO MAKE THEM HOT CHOCOLATE
AND FLUFF THEIR PILLOWS WHEN THEY WAKE
HIM UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. AND
THAT'S THE REALLY IMPORTANT THING.



BUT WHO NEEDS
MORE FRIENDS
WHEN YOU'RE A
WINNER.

AND THAT'S WHAT
SILVER SPOON
AND I ARE.

WINNERS.



AND WINNING IS REAL
HAPPINESS. LOOK
HOW HAPPY WE ARE.

OR WHATEVER...

THE END