

IDW
ISSUE
26

my LITTLE PONY

FRIENDS
FOREVER



AMF!
15

WHITLEY • FLEECES • BRECKEL



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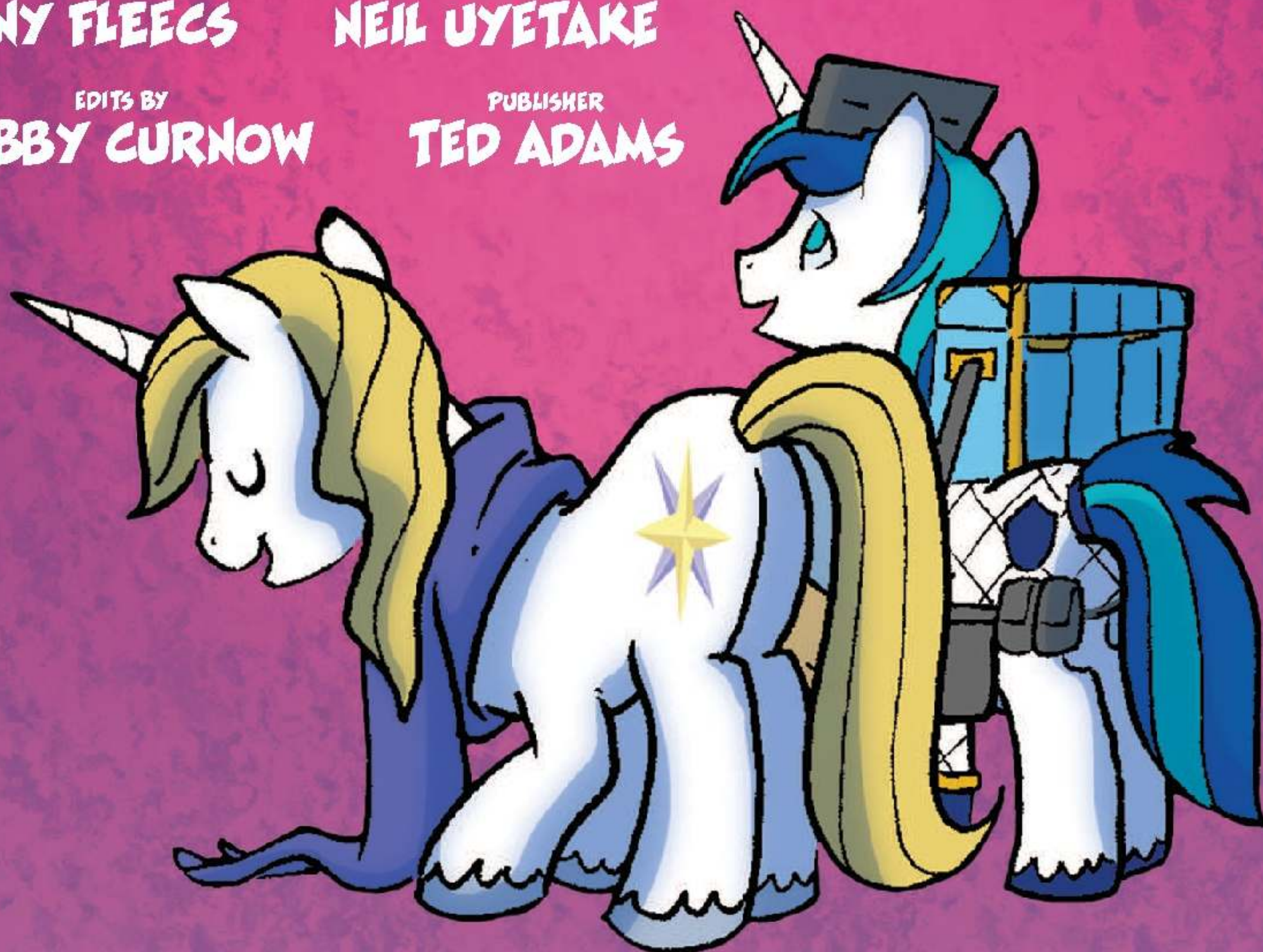
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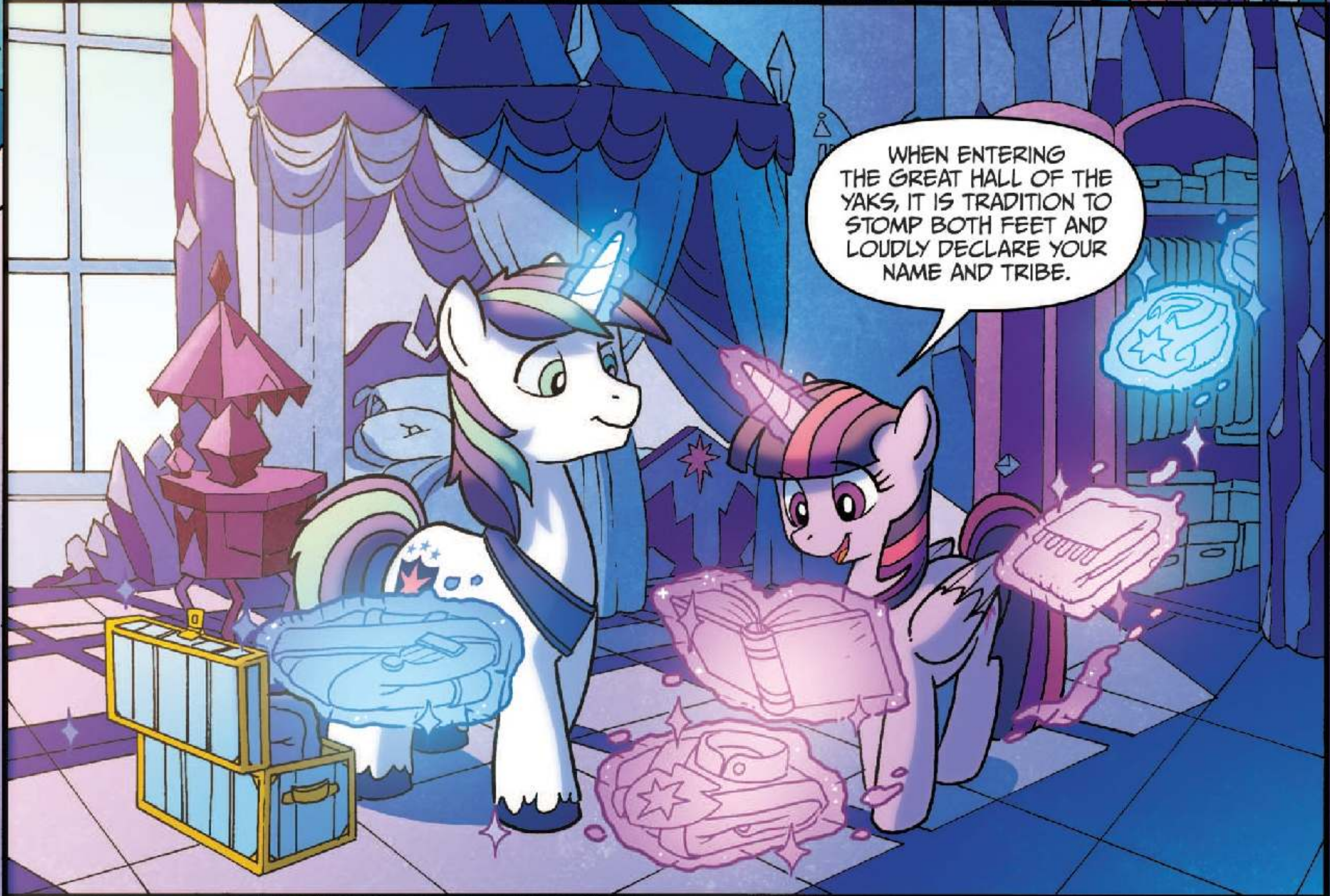
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OKAY, HERE'S AN IMPORTANT BIT FOR A DIPLOMAT TO KNOW.

HIT ME WITH IT, SIS.



WHEN ENTERING THE GREAT HALL OF THE YAKS, IT IS TRADITION TO STOMP BOTH FEET AND LOUDLY DECLARE YOUR NAME AND TRIBE.



SO, I WALK IN AND SAY "I'M SHINING ARMOR OF THE TRIBE OF..." WHAT SHOULD I SAY FOR TRIBE, TWILY?

WELL, YAK TRIBES ARE GENERALLY NAMED AFTER A MALE ANCESTOR. SO, I GUESS YOU COULD USE DAD'S NAME.

"I AM SHINING ARMOR OF THE TRIBE OF NIGHT LIGHT."

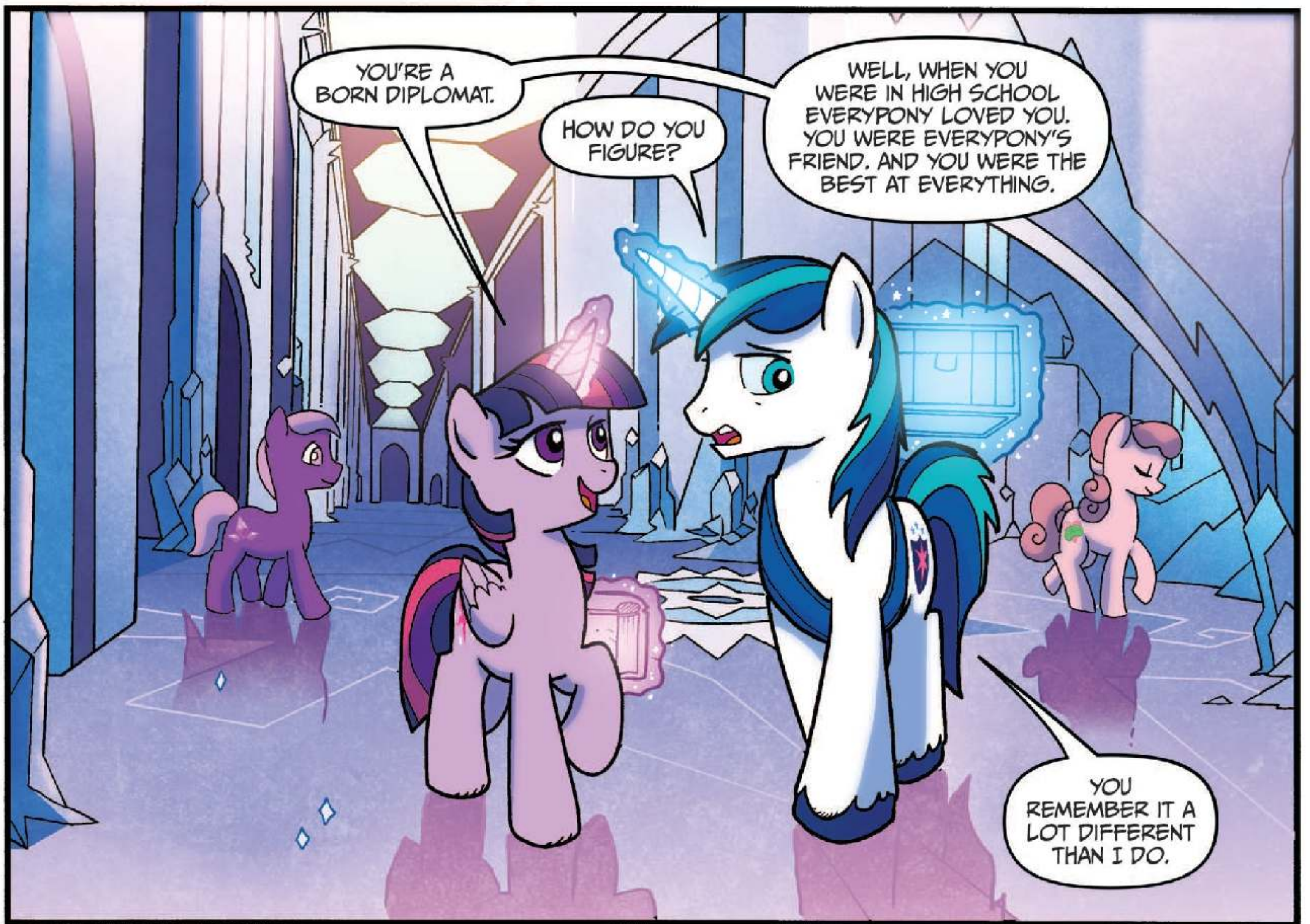
SOUND GOOD TO ME.



THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GO OVER ALL OF THIS WITH ME, TWILY. THIS IS A BIG DEAL TO ME.

NO PROBLEM, BIG BROTHER! I THINK YOU'RE WORRYING FOR NOTHING, THOUGH.

WHY?



YOU'RE A BORN DIPLOMAT.

HOW DO YOU FIGURE?

WELL, WHEN YOU WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL EVERYPONY LOVED YOU. YOU WERE EVERYPONY'S FRIEND. AND YOU WERE THE BEST AT EVERYTHING.

YOU REMEMBER IT A LOT DIFFERENT THAN I DO.



WELL, YOU'LL HAVE CADANCE WITH YOU.

THANK CELESTIA!

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE WHAT TO DO, JUST FOLLOW HER LEAD.

NOW THAT'S A PLAN I CAN GET BEHIND.



WHAT ARE YOU ALL SUPPOSED TO BE DOING THERE ANYWAY? I THOUGHT WE LEFT THINGS WITH THE YAKS ON PRETTY GOOD TERMS.

THAT'S THE THING, WE DID. NOW THE YAKS ARE INTERESTED IN SETTING UP A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE.

A TRADE AGREEMENT?

YES, APPARENTLY THEY REALLY LIKE CRYSTAL CORN AND WANT TO START TRADING IT FOR SOME OF THEIR CROPS. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TRADE.



WELL, JUST FOLLOW CADANCE'S LEAD. WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO ASK THAT?

AH, THERE THEY ARE. RIGHT ON TIME.



PRINCESS CELESTIA! PRINCESS LUNA! DID YOU COME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE THEM OFF?

I'M AFRAID NOT, TWILIGHT. I CAME FOR YOU AND CADANCE. THERE IS URGENT BUSINESS THAT REQUIRES THE ATTENTION OF ALL FOUR PRINCESSES.

I WISH IT WERE NOT SO, BUT THINGS MAY BECOME DIRE QUICKLY.



BUT CADANCE IS SUPPOSED TO BE GOING WITH MY BROTHER TO SEE THE YAKS.

IF CADANCE IS NEEDED IN CANTERLOT, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO PUT IT OFF.

I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT AN OPTION. THE YAKS WOULD TAKE THAT AS A GREAT INSULT.



I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE THIS TRIP WITHOUT ME, DARLING.

BUT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME GOING ANYWHERE AS AN AMBASSADOR. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TRADE.

ACTUALLY, CELESTIA THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.



I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN YOU, SHINING ARMOR. IF YOU ARE YOURSELF AND DO WHAT COMES NATURALLY, YOU'LL DO WONDERFULLY.

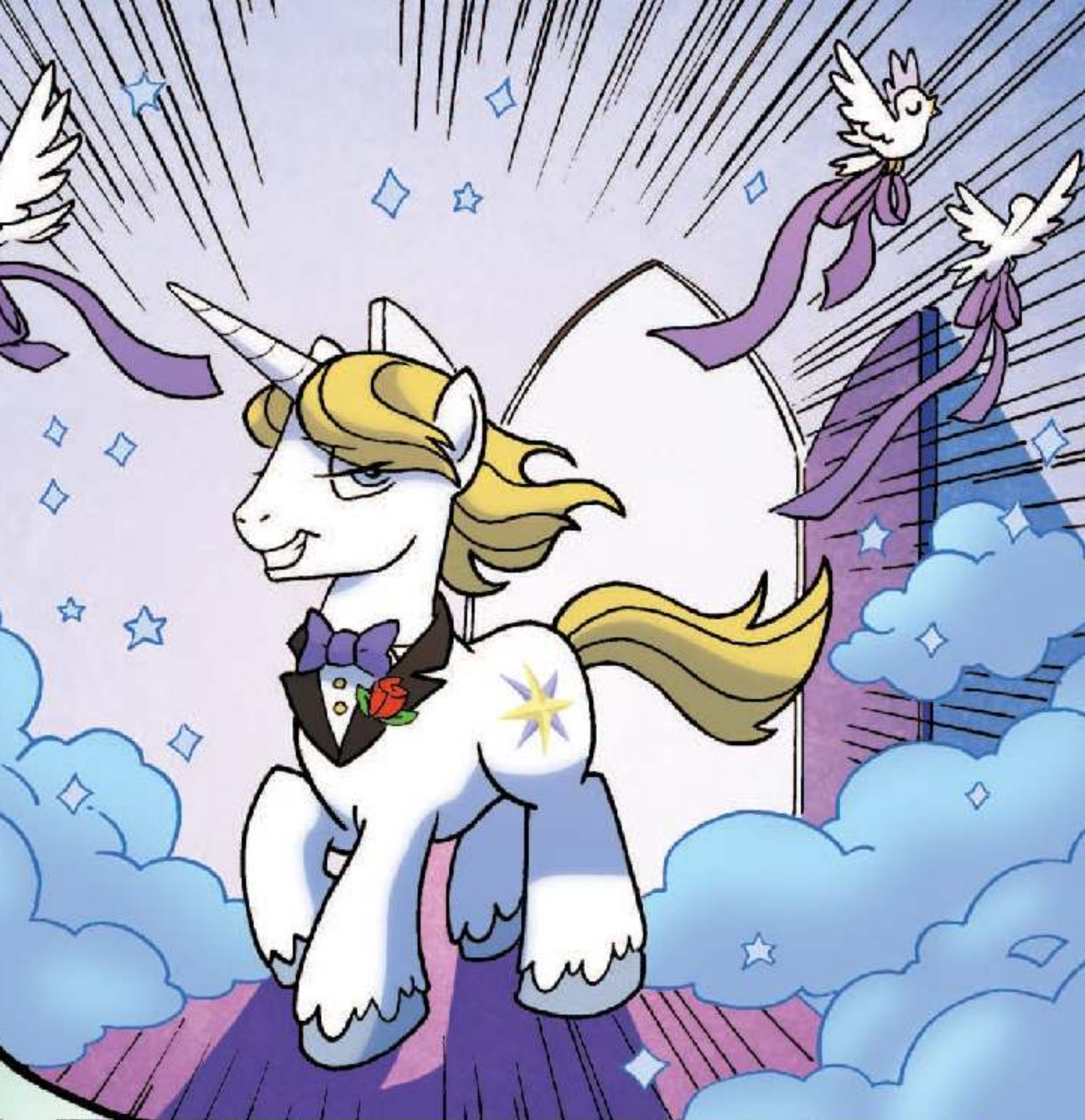
BUT... BUT...



BUT I KNOW THAT YOU ARE NERVOUS, SO I AM SENDING WITH YOU SOMEONE WITH MUCH MORE EXPERIENCE. SHINING ARMOR, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE—



PRINCE BLUEBLOOD.



SHINING ARMOR! IT IS SO GREAT TO MEET ANOTHER PRINCE! THERE ARE SO FEW OF US THESE DAYS, YOU KNOW?

OKAY. YEAH. UMMM...



THIS REALLY IS A GORGEOUS CASTLE YOU HAVE HERE. I'VE HEARD SUCH GREAT THINGS ABOUT IT BUT I HADN'T MADE IT OUT HERE BECAUSE, TRAIN TRAVEL, YOU KNOW?

IT JUST DOESN'T AGREE WITH ME. IT'S SO CROWDED AND... COMMON, YOU KNOW?

UH-HUH.



FOR A CASTLE THERE SURE AREN'T A LOT OF SERVANTS HERE. I HAVE SOME BAGS. WAIT, HERE'S ONE NOW.

OH! HOLD ON JUST A MOMENT, STAY RIGHT THERE! HOW HELPFUL IS THIS? SERVANTS WHO ARE ALSO MIRRORS! AMAZING.

UMMM...



YOU KNOW, THEY TOLD ME HOW SOFT SPOKEN YOU WERE, BUT I THINK IT'S JUST THAT YOU ONLY TALK WHEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING REALLY BRILLIANT TO SAY.

I OFTEN WISH I WAS MORE LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW? BUT I JUST CAN'T CONTAIN MYSELF. WAIT! IS THAT THE THRONE?





REALLY SOMETHING SPECTACULAR, AREN'T THEY?

HUH?



THE PRINCESSES. YOURS ESPECIALLY. REALLY LUCKED OUT.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WELL, I NEVER WOULD HAVE EVEN TALKED TO AN ORPHAN PONY. I WAS LOOKING FOR PRINCESSES. BUT THERE YOU GO FALL IN LOVE WITH AN ORPHAN AND YOU END UP WITH A PRINCESS.

I... WAIT... WHERE IS YOUR LUGGAGE? AND YOU'RE GOING TO FREEZE IN THOSE CLOTHES.



HAHAHA
HAHAHA!




OH GOODNESS, YOU'RE SERIOUS. PRINCES OF CANTERLOT DON'T CARRY THEIR OWN LUGGAGE. THAT'S WHAT SERVANTS ARE FOR. COME ALONG, SERVANTS!



AND ARE THEY GOING TO WEAR YOUR HEAVY COAT FOR YOU, TOO?

OF COURSE NOT. THAT'S WHAT THE PALANQUIN IS FOR.


ARG!



THE ROAD TO THE KINGDOM OF THE YAKS IS NOT A GENTLE ONE. THE SNOW IS HARD AND NEVER STOPS FALLING.


MY HEAVY COAT CAN BARELY KEEP ME WARM AND MY SNOW HORSESHOES ARE THE ONLY THINGS KEEPING ME FROM SINKING INTO THE SNOW.

YET I PUSH ON.



THE WIND IS COLD. SO COLD IT CUTS THROUGH TO YOUR BONES. THE COLD PUTS A SADDLE ON YOU AND RIDES YOU EVERY MOMENT.

IT'S NO WONDER THE YAKS CAN BE SO HARSH. THEY FIGHT THIS COLD EVERY DAY.



BUT STILL I PUSH ON, FOR CADANCE. FOR THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE. FOR EQUESTRIA.

CLIP CLIP CLOP



SLOW DOWN A LITTLE UP HERE, GENTS.



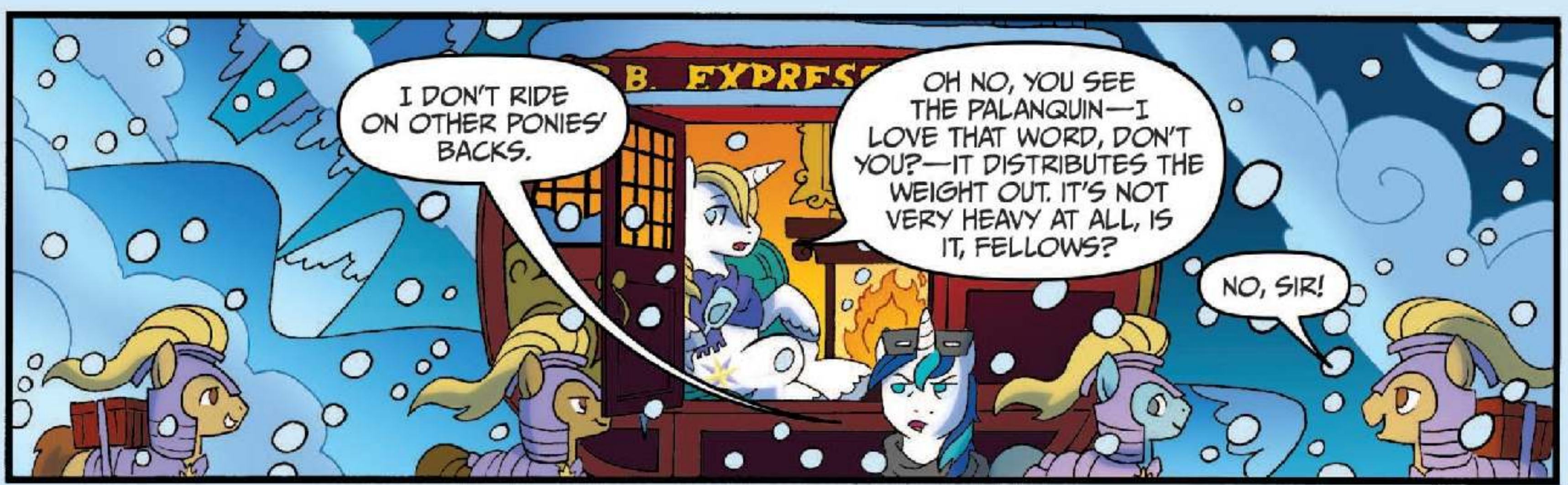
THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT THERE. EXCELLENT JOB.



AH, SHINE, THERE YOU ARE! GOODNESS, YOU LOOK COLD!

I AM.

WELL, COME ON THEN, FRIEND, HOP ON BOARD! I'VE GOT A ROARING FIRE GOING IN HERE.



I DON'T RIDE ON OTHER PONIES' BACKS.

OH NO, YOU SEE THE PALANQUIN—I LOVE THAT WORD, DON'T YOU?—IT DISTRIBUTES THE WEIGHT OUT. IT'S NOT VERY HEAVY AT ALL, IS IT, FELLOWS?

NO, SIR!



SOME OF US WEREN'T RAISED THAT WAY.

AND MORE'S THE PITY! BUT YOU HAVE IT NOW. WHY NOT ENJOY IT?

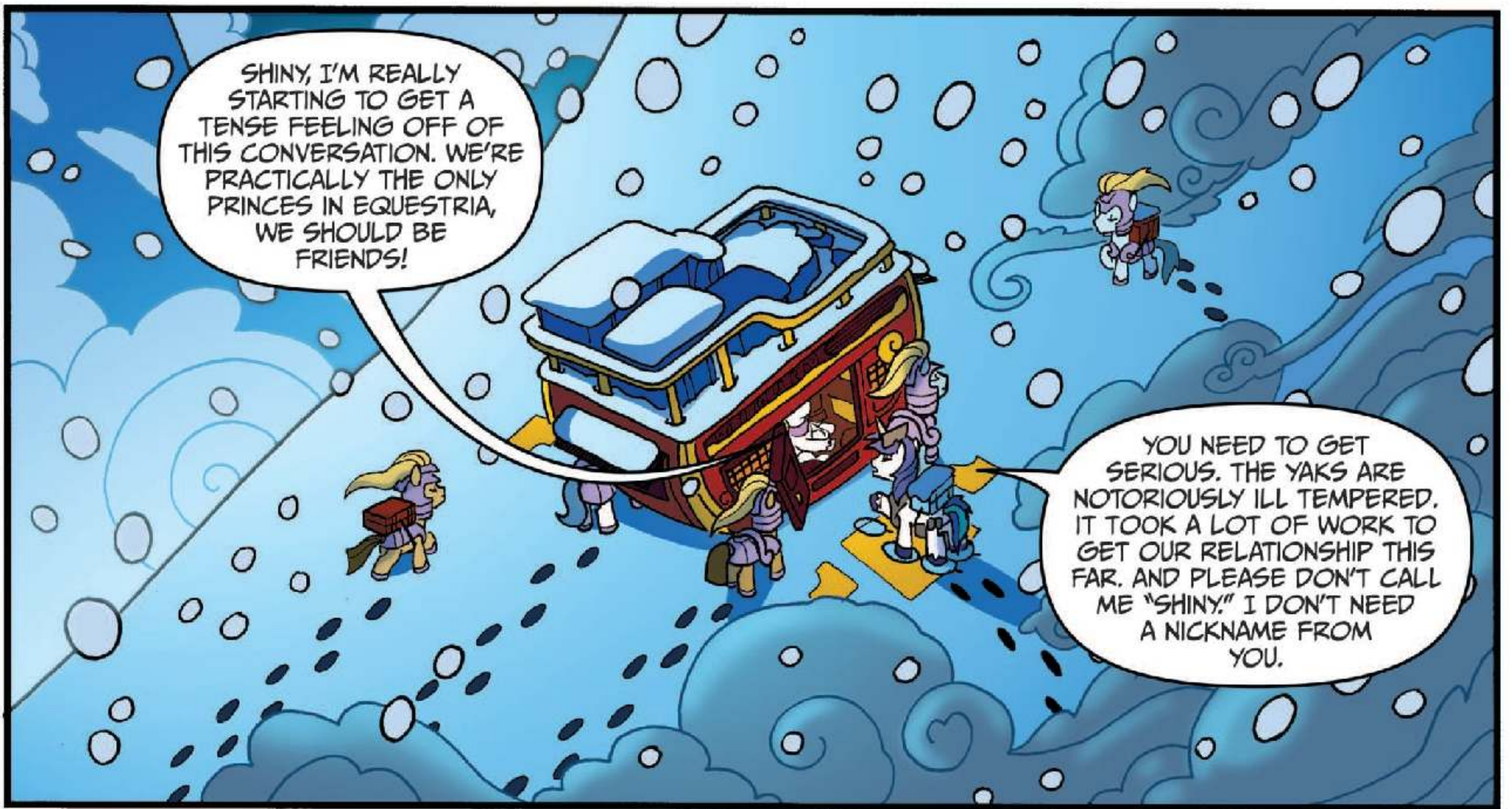
I CAN DO IT ON MY OWN.

OF COURSE YOU CAN! I LEARNED TO WALK AS A FOAL TOO. BUT THERE'S NO SHAME IN ENJOYING WHAT YOU HAVE NOW.



ANYWAY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT. THIS BOOK YOU GAVE ME IS ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING! REALLY INTERESTING STUFF!

GLAD YOU'RE HAVING A GOOD READ DURING OUR HAZARDOUS TREK.



YAKYAKISTAN.
THE YAK KINGDOM.



HELLO...
WHEW... SORRY, I'M
OUT OF BREATH. THIS
IS... REALLY FAR
OUT THERE.

FAR OUT
WHERE?

WHY, I BET
YOU CAN SEE
FOREVER FROM UP
HERE ON A CLEAR
DAY, EH? MUST
BE LOVELY.

YAKS NO
HAVE CLEAR
DAYS.

WELL,
WE NEVER
GET SNOW
IN CANTERLOT
SO MAYBE WE
COULD TRADE
A FEW DAYS
EACH YEAR,
EH?

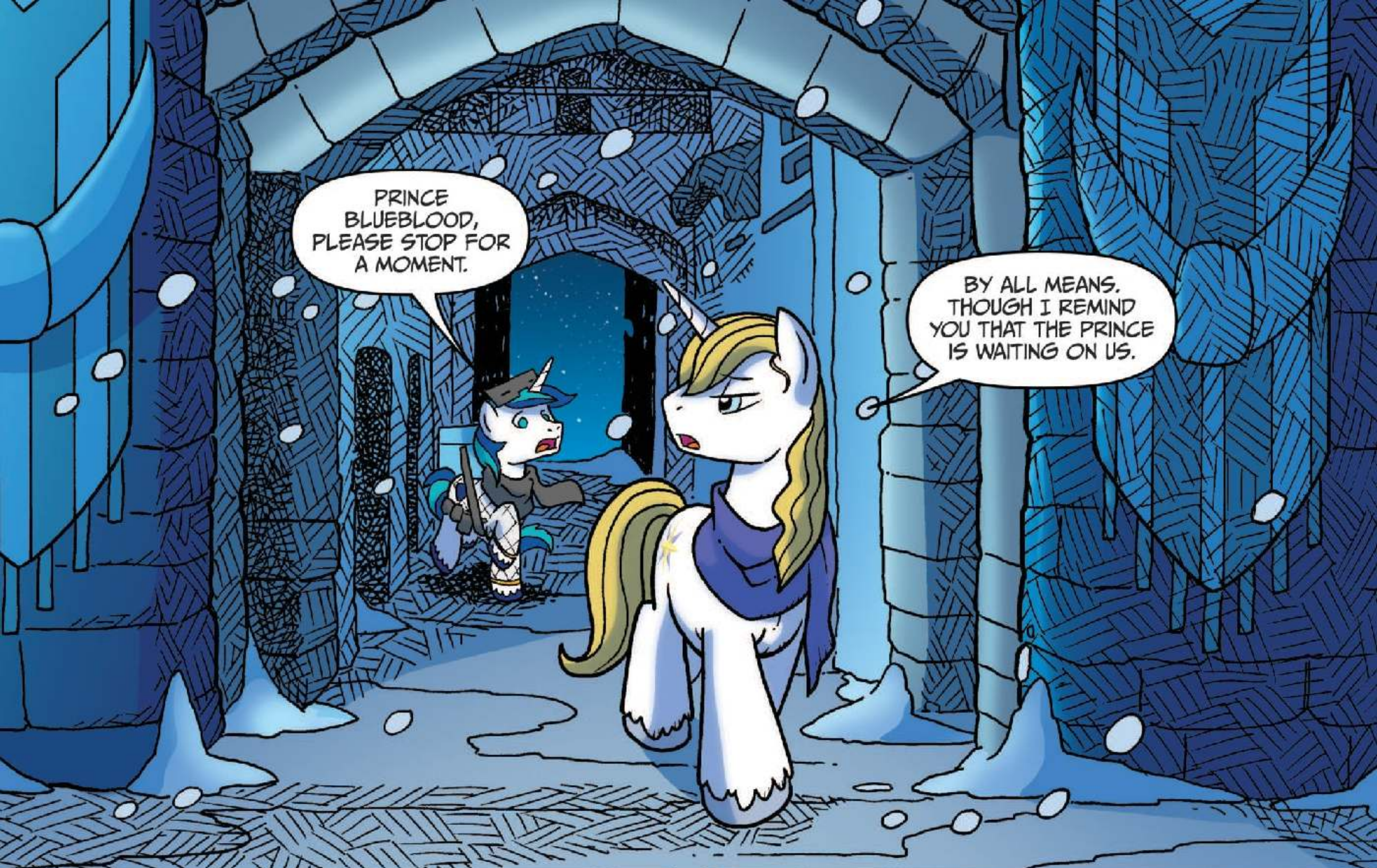
WHAT THE
PRINCE MEANS TO
SAY IS YOU ALL HAVE
A LOVELY SECLUDED
HOME UP HERE ON
THE MOUNTAIN.

NOW, THESE STALLIONS
ARE MY PERSONAL FRIENDS
AND OUR ENTOURAGE. WHILE
WE GO TO SEE PRINCE
RUTHERFORD, WOULD YOU MIND
SHOWING THEM TO THE BEST
QUARTERS YAKYAKISTAN
HAS TO OFFER?

YOU
HAVE YAKS'
WORD.

THE PRINCE
WILL BE GLAD TO
HEAR IT. LET'S GO,
PRINCE SHINING
ARMOR.





PRINCE BLUEBLOOD, PLEASE STOP FOR A MOMENT.

BY ALL MEANS. THOUGH I REMIND YOU THAT THE PRINCE IS WAITING ON US.



THAT'S ACTUALLY WHAT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT. I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU LET ME DO THE TALKING WHEN WE MEET THE PRINCE.

IT IS. BUT I'M AFRAID THAT YOUR... UH... PERSONALITY MIGHT RUB HIM THE WRONG WAY.

OH? I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHY I CAME ALONG, THOUGH?



I SEE. WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT TO SET US OFF ON THE WRONG HOOF. I MEAN, IF YOU THINK I'D BE A BURDEN TO YOU.

I... THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. IT'S JUST THAT THEY'RE PLAIN AND HARDWORKING FOLK. MAYBE YOU COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR MINERAL BATHS!

WELL, IF YOU HAVE IT WELL IN HOOF, I'LL BE SURE TO ENJOY MYSELF WHILE YOU DO THE HEAVY LIFTING.



GREAT! I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. OH AND YOU READ THE THING ABOUT STOMPING AND DECLARING YOUR TRIBE, RIGHT?

I DID.

OKAY, GOOD. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY.



I AM SHINING ARMOR OF THE TRIBE OF NIGHT LIGHT!

CLACK!
CLACK!



PONY, YOU DO TRADITIONAL YAK GREETING?

YES, SIR.

ERRR...



YAKS NOT KNOW PONIES HAVE TRIBES. ALL PONIES HAVE TRIBES?



WELL, NO. NIGHT LIGHT IS MY FATHER'S NAME AND I THOUGHT...





OKAY, THAT DIDN'T GO WELL.

NOPE.

I HAVE TO DO BETTER. WHEN THEY COME BACK I HAVE TO SHOW THEM HOW MUCH I LOVE YAK CULTURE! MAYBE I'LL MAKE MY OWN HEADRESS.

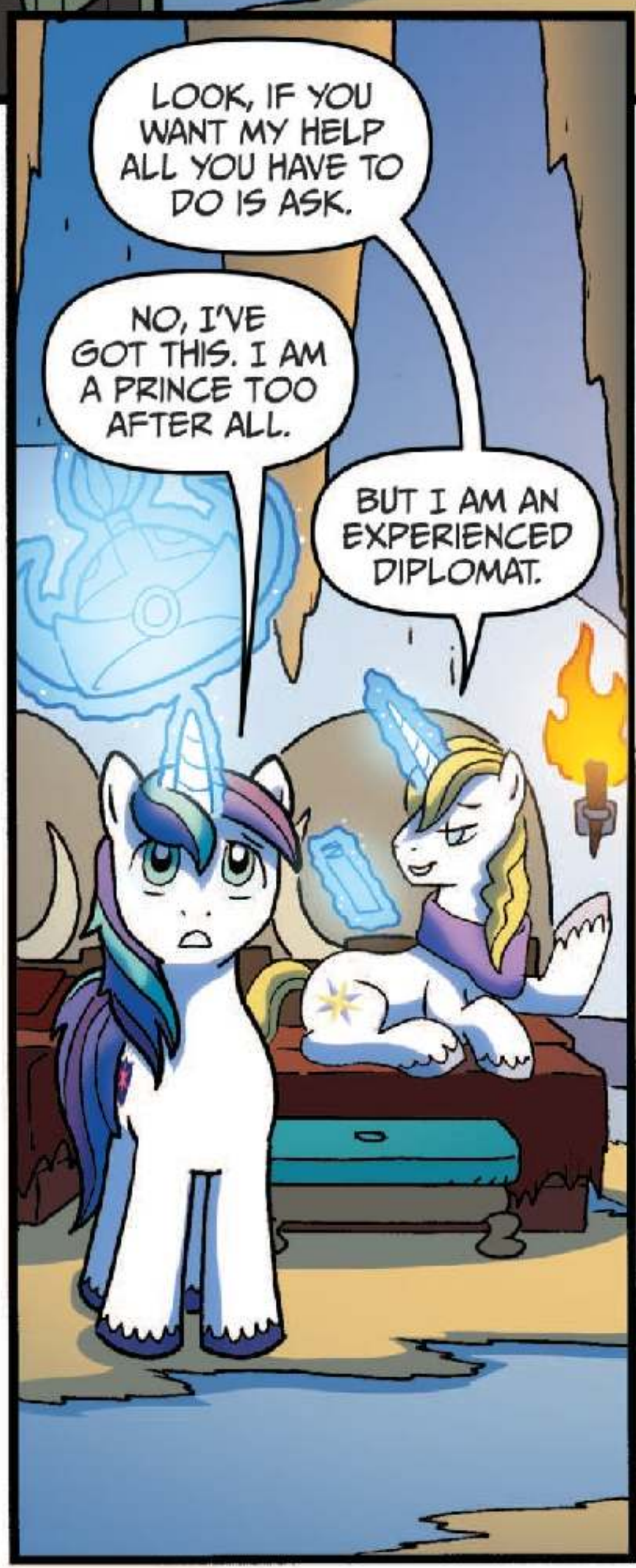
BAD IDEA.



NO? NO. MAYBE? I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO SHOW THEM. MAYBE TRADITIONAL YAK GAMES?

DIDN'T YOUR SISTER TRY THAT WHEN THEY CAME TO PONYVILLE?

YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WAS TERRIBLE. THIS IS GOING TO BE TERRIBLE.



LOOK, IF YOU WANT MY HELP ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK.

NO, I'VE GOT THIS. I AM A PRINCE TOO AFTER ALL.

BUT I AM AN EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT.



KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

OH NO, THEY'RE HERE!



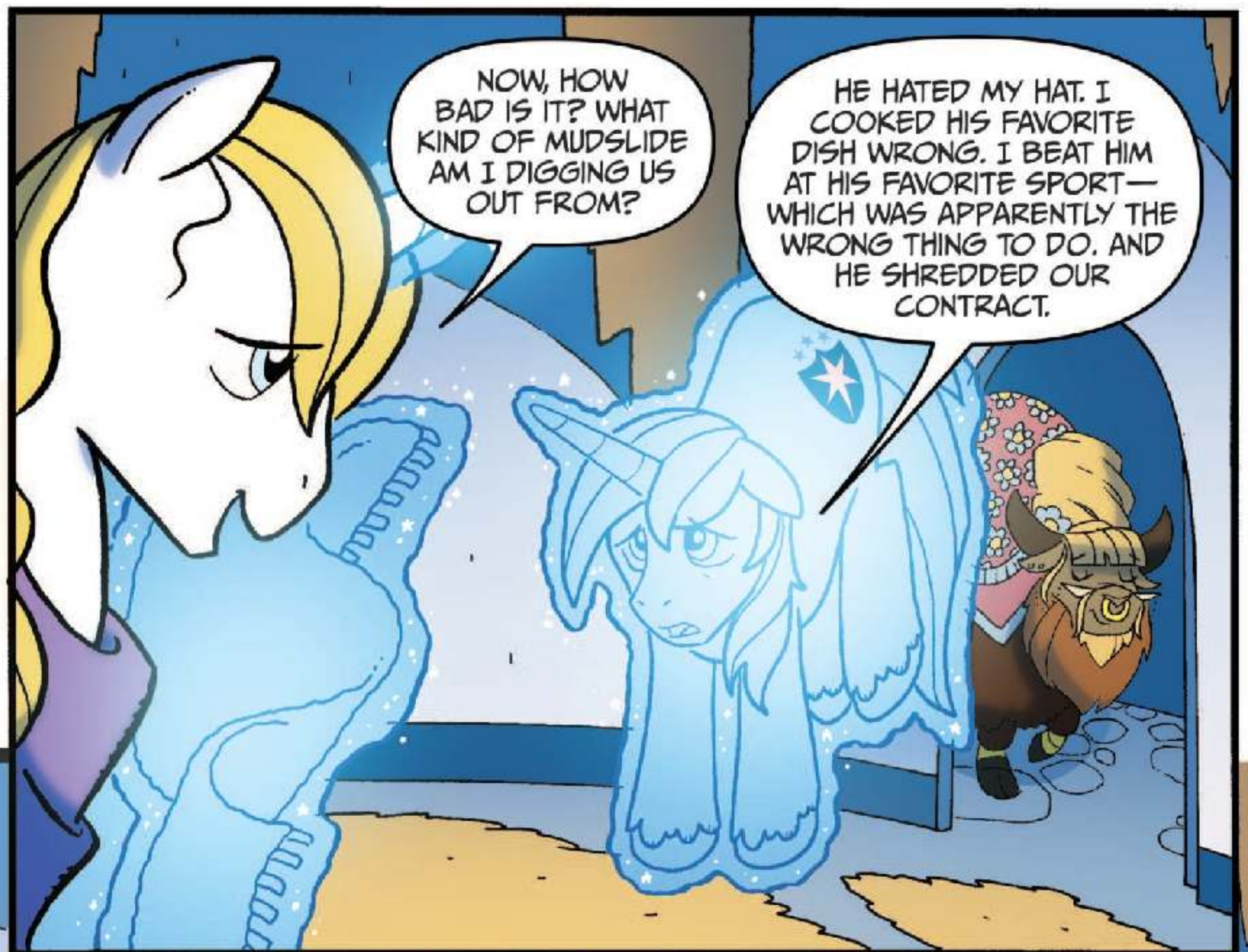
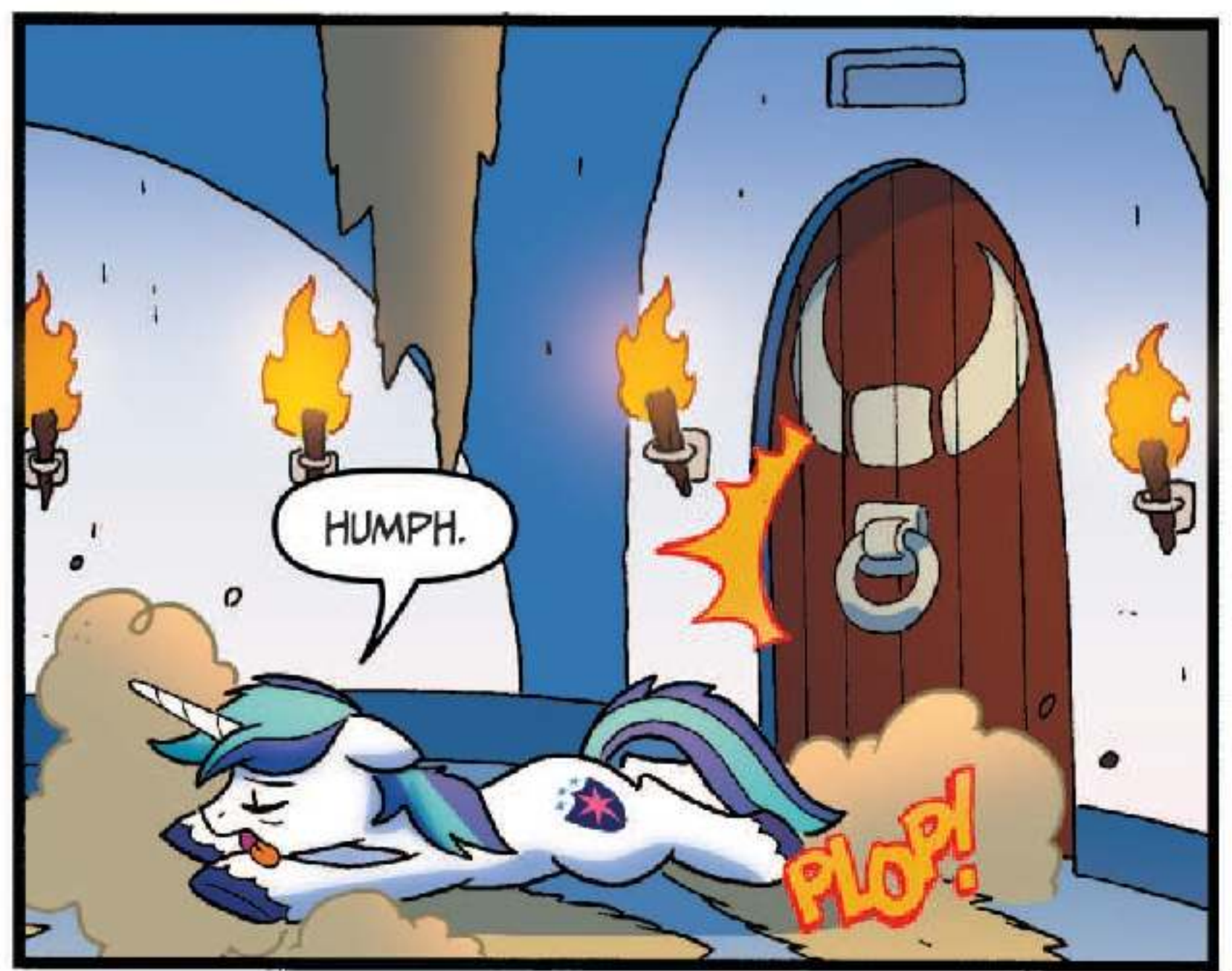
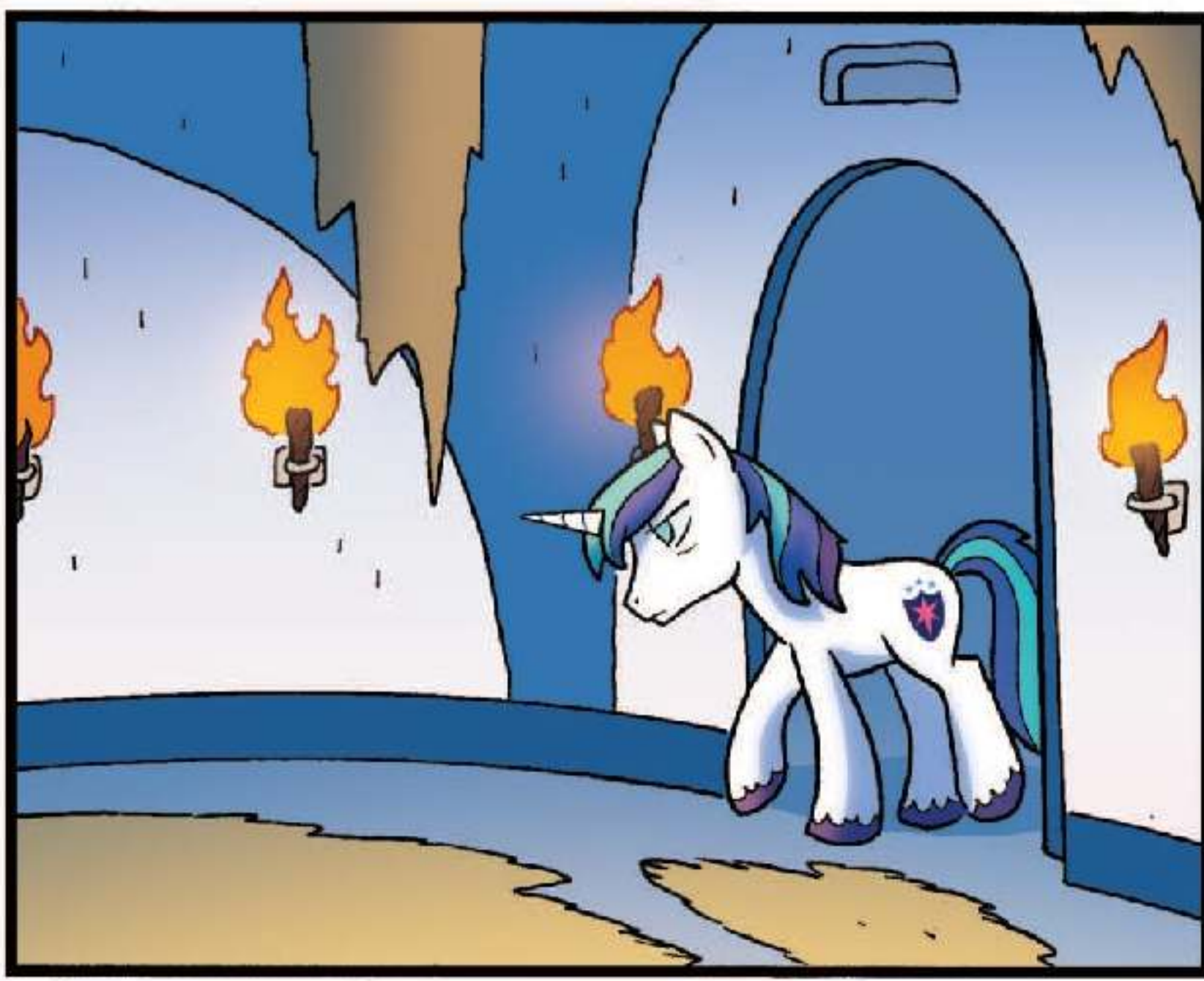
JUST SAY THE WORD.

NO, I'VE GOT THIS. YOU GO ENJOY YOUR SNOW MASSAGE.

THAT'S NOT A THING.

I'VE GOT THIS.





THAT BAD, WAS IT?

THERE IS NO GETTING THROUGH TO THAT YAK! NO MATTER WHAT I DID HE HATED IT. HE SMASHED IT!

PLOP!

OH DEAR. YAKMINA DARLING, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CUT THIS HOOFIGURE A BIT SHORT. HERE'S A FEW EXTRA BITS FOR YOUR TIME.

OH, PRINCE BLUEBLOOD, YAKMINA CAN'T—

I WON'T HEAR IT. GET THOSE LITTLE GRANDYAKS OF YOURS SOMETHING NICE, OKAY?

THANK YOU!

NOW, HOW BAD IS IT? WHAT KIND OF MUDSLIDE AM I DIGGING US OUT FROM?

HE HATED MY HAT. I COOKED HIS FAVORITE DISH WRONG. I BEAT HIM AT HIS FAVORITE SPORT— WHICH WAS APPARENTLY THE WRONG THING TO DO. AND HE SHREDDED OUR CONTRACT.

OKAY, SO RIGHT NOW, WHERE ARE WE WITH THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS?

YOU POOR FOAL. YOU GET SOME REST AND I'LL GET TO WORK.

WE'RE GIVING THEM A HUNDRED POUNDS OF CRYSTAL CORN JUST SO THEY DON'T DECLARE WAR ON US.



DING!

IT'S FOALPROOF!

PRINCE BLUEBLOOD'S

GUIDE TO DIPLOMACY



PINKIE TOLD ME YOU LOVED PARTY CANNONS. HOW ABOUT YOUR OWN MINI-PARTY CANNONS?

COOL!

Get to know their friends.

Winning over a diplomats friends means they're hearing good things about you when you're not around.

Bring food.

But don't bring their food and don't claim it's the best. Make it something they'll be curious about.



GRIFFON SCONES! I ORDERED THESE ALL THE WAY FROM THE GRIFFON KINGDOM! ONLY ONES IN YAKYAKISTAN.



THIS FOOD TERRIBLE!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? THEY'RE HALF BIRD! WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ATE SOMETHING A BIRD BAKED?

HA HA HA HA!

That way if they hate them, nobody has to be insulted. You can bond over how terrible they are.

Remember everypony's name all the time.

It shows ponies that you care (even if you don't.)



YAKMINA! I WAS JUST TELLING PRINCE RUTHERFORD, YAKATAR, AND LEROY HERE WHAT AN EXCELLENT SPA SERVICE YOU RUN! JUST! THE! BEST!

NOT AT ALL! RUTHERFORD, YOU NEED TO RELAX MORE. YOU SHOULD GO SEE HER!

PRINCE BLUEBLOOD SO KIND.



I SHOULD GO CHECK ON HIM. HE'S BEEN GONE A WHILE.

WELL, HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY MESS THINGS UP WORSE THAN I DID.



OH NO! HE'S STILL GONE! WE'RE PROBABLY ALREADY AT WAR! I HAVE TO GO FIND HIM.



OH NO!

YAKS SMASH!

SEE AND THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM. ALL YOU EVER DO IS SMASH.



THAT'S WHY YOUR HOOVES ARE SUCH A MESS. YOU GET SPLINTERS AND MUCK IN THERE. NOBODY LIKES THAT.

BLUEBLOOD RIGHT. RUTHERFORD NEED TO TAKE MORE TIME TO HIMSELF.

And always wait until you have them somewhere where they can't move (or smash) to talk business.

WELL THEN, THE SOONER WE GET THIS TRADE DEAL WORKED OUT, THE SOONER RUTHERFORD CAN START ENJOYING HIMSELF, YES?

RUTHERFORD LIKE BLUEBLOOD. WHAT BLUEBLOOD PROPOSE?



WELL, I THINK THE IDEA OF SOME CRYSTAL CORN AS A GIFT IS FANTASTIC AND ONE THAT OBVIOUSLY YAKYAKISTAN WOULD WANT TO REPAY IN KIND. THEN EVERYONE WOULD KNOW HOW GENEROUS YOU ARE.

OF COURSE. YAKS VERY GENEROUS.

HUH.



NOW, I HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT YOUR SOUR POTATOES ARE SECOND TO NONE, BUT MOST PONIES HAVE NEVER EVEN TRIED SOUR POTATOES.

THAT TERRIBLE SHAME! WE MAKE HUGE GIFT OF SOUR POTATOES TO PONIES!



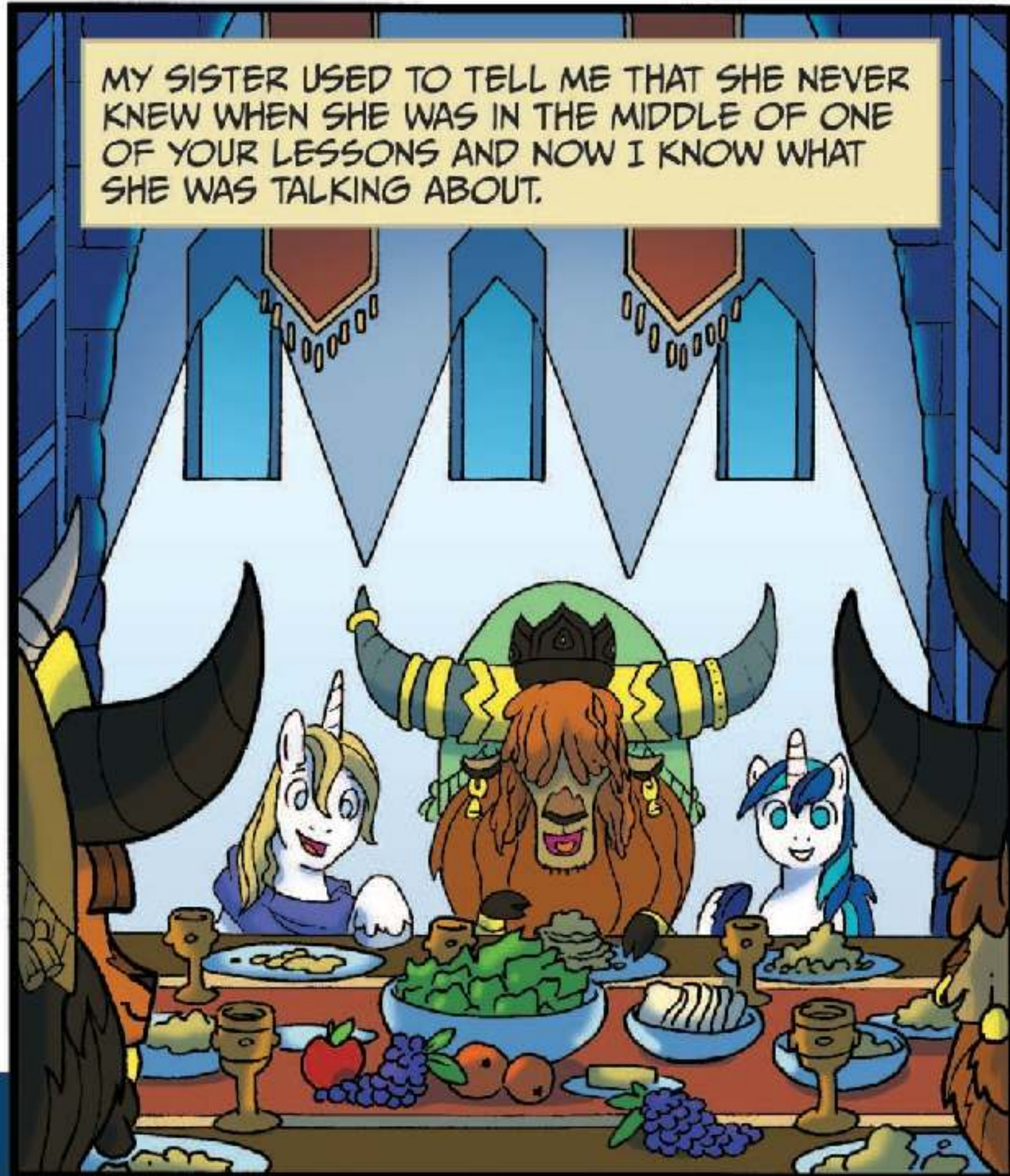


WAKEY WAKEY, FIGS AND CAKEY!

WHAT? I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE.

THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS NEVER TRUE. BUT RIGHT NOW THERE IS A BREAKFAST OF FIGS AND CAKE WAITING FOR US.

DEAR PRINCESS CELESTIA,



MY SISTER USED TO TELL ME THAT SHE NEVER KNEW WHEN SHE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF ONE OF YOUR LESSONS AND NOW I KNOW WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.



WHEN YOU SENT BLUEBLOOD WITH ME, I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE USELESS. HE SEEMED CONCEITED AND SELF-ABSORBED.

PRINCE BLUEBLOOD BE SURE TO COME VISIT AGAIN SOON.

OF COURSE I WILL. AND YOU REMEMBER TO SMASH A BIT LESS, EH? YAKMINA PUT A LOT OF WORK INTO THOSE HOOVES.

OH HO HO HO HO!

AND HE WAS...



BUT WHAT I DIDN'T REALIZE IS THAT EVERY PONY HAS DIFFERENT SKILLS. AND WHILE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A HARD WORKER, BLUEBLOOD HAS SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE AS A PRINCE.

YOU'RE NOT RIDING THIS TIME?

AFRAID I CAN'T, SHINY. MY PALANQUIN IS FULL OF YAK GIFTS. MOST OF THEM FOR YOUR WIFE.

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THE HARD WORK?

OH, IT'S ALL DOWNHILL THIS TIME.



AND WHILE YOU MAY NOT SEE EYE TO EYE WITH EVERY PONY,

HEY, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TEACH ME HOW TO BE AN AMBASSADOR?

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE THE HARD WORK?

HA HA HA.

YOU CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM EVERY PONY YOU MEET.

THE END!

IDW[®]

#1

**GALE
BARBER
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SCHODDNER
SCHODNER**

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Story by **Bob Gale** • Script by **Erik Burnham** • Art by **Dan Schoening** • Colors by **Luis Antonio Delgado**

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GREAT SCOTT...

...POINT OH FOUR JIGAWATTS.

THAT'S IT... THAT'S—



—AN EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING OUTCOME...

EMMETT?

EH?



RELAX, EMMETT. IT'S JUST US.

DA!



OF COURSE—

—MY MIND WAS MERELY FULLY IMMERSSED IN THE PROBLEM AT HAND!

YOUR NEVER-ENDING ATTEMPTS TO RETURN TO THE FUTURE.



FUTURE?

I'D'VE SAID "GO BACK TO," BUT ESSENTIALLY YOUR MOTHER IS CORRECT, VERNE.

YOU SEE THERE...



...OUT THERE LIES THE FUTURE, SON.

OR ANYWAY, IT DID LIE THERE. OR I SHOULD SAY, IT WILL—

EMMETT...

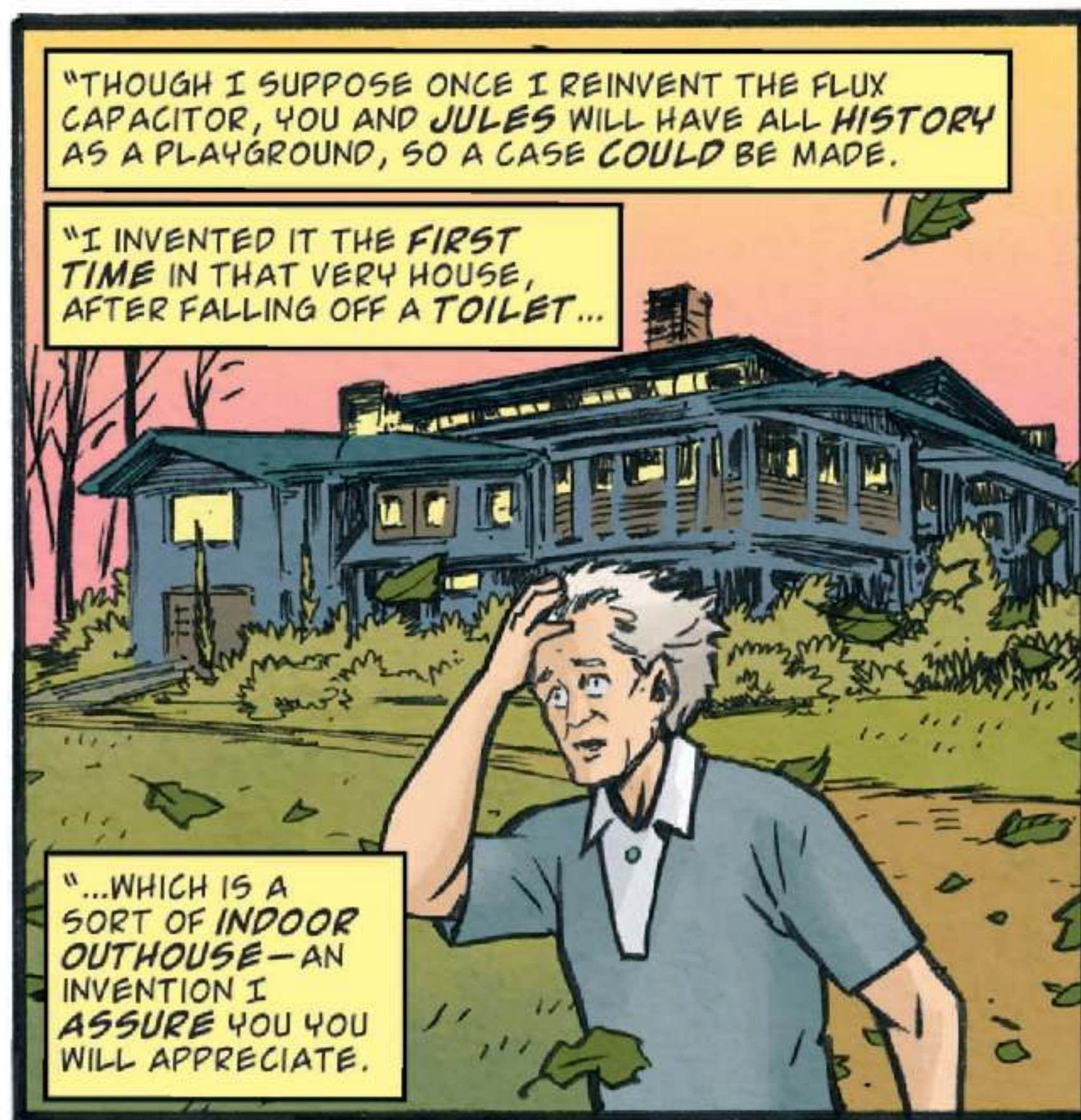
YOU'RE RIGHT, CLARA. IT IS TIME THE BOYS LEARN ABOUT THEIR FATHER.



"IT MAY BE UNIMPRESSIONS NOW, BUT IN 1915, THAT BARREN PATCH OF LAND WILL BE OWNED BY OUR FAMILY—THE BROWNS.

"FORMERLY THE VON BRAUNS, BUT THAT IS AN ENTIRELY OTHER TALE FOR ANOTHER TIME.

"A BOY COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER PLAYGROUND THAN 1640 RIVERSIDE DRIVE!"



"THOUGH I SUPPOSE ONCE I REINVENT THE FLUX CAPACITOR, YOU AND JULES WILL HAVE ALL HISTORY AS A PLAYGROUND, SO A CASE COULD BE MADE.

"I INVENTED IT THE FIRST TIME IN THAT VERY HOUSE, AFTER FALLING OFF A TOILET..."

"...WHICH IS A SORT OF INDOOR OUTHOUSE—AN INVENTION I ASSURE YOU YOU WILL APPRECIATE.



"BUT I DIGRESS!"

"WE HAD A FORTUNE, AND I HAD... CERTAIN INTERESTS OF AN INVENTOLOGICAL BENT.

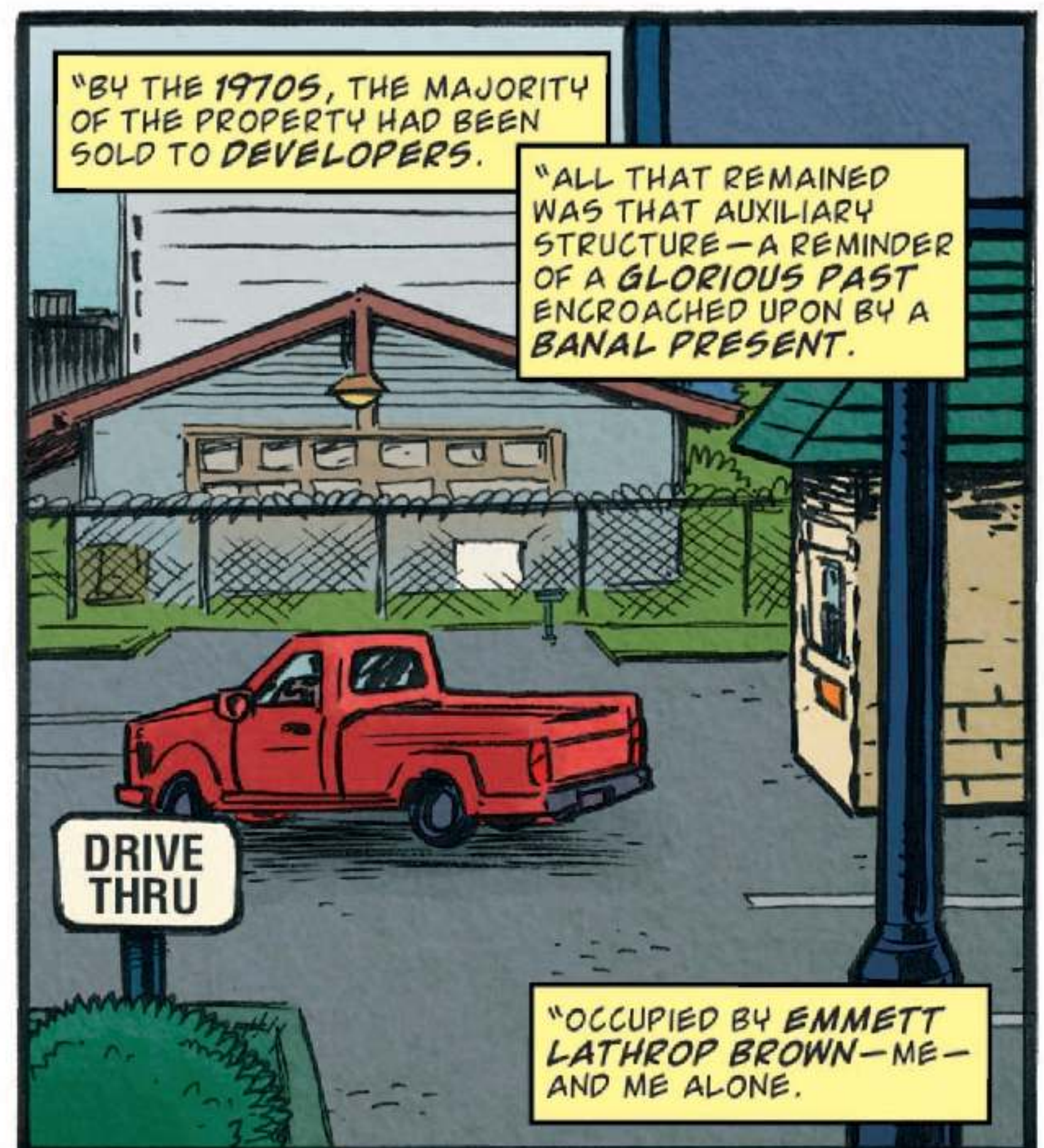
"LONG STORY SHORT, THE HOUSE BURNS TO THE GROUND IN 1962.



"SOME SAY IT'S AN ACCIDENT. OTHERS SAY ARSON. OFFICIAL CAUSE: UNDETERMINED.

"HEY. AT LEAST NO ONE GETS INJURED.

"MOREOVER, THE AUXILIARY STRUCTURE IS UNTOUCHED. UH... LUCKILY.



"BY THE 1970S, THE MAJORITY OF THE PROPERTY HAD BEEN SOLD TO DEVELOPERS.

"ALL THAT REMAINED WAS THAT AUXILIARY STRUCTURE—A REMINDER OF A GLORIOUS PAST ENCRONCHED UPON BY A BANAL PRESENT.

"OCCUPIED BY EMMETT LATHROP BROWN—ME—AND ME ALONE.

"UNTIL ONE DAY, WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED..."

OCT 2 1982 13:16





