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MY LITTLE PONY



RISE OF CADANCE



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Language: English

File Source: Amazon

Edition: PDF

Lossless: yes

Original version released by: YayPonies.eu

Translated by: NNOPE

Translated version released by: NNOPE

If you translate the comic, feel free to edit this page by replacing "Language", "Translated version released by" and "Translated by" with your own credits/infos.

MY LITTLE PONY

RISE OF CADANCE



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Special thanks to Hasbro's Ed Loe, Tasha Ross, and Linda Lee for their invaluable assistance.

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I LOVE QUIET MORNINGS
IN THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE.

WHEN THERE'S NO SIGN OF
DANGER FROM ANCIENT EVILS.

OR CURRENT FOES.



WHEN THE PONIES OF THIS KINGDOM
CAN GO ABOUT THEIR DAY.

FUELING THE CRYSTAL HEART
WITH THEIR LOVE AND LIGHT.

PROTECTING
OUR EMPIRE.



BUT THESE MORNINGS ARE
ALSO A TIME OF REFLECTION.

A TIME TO THINK ABOUT
HOW I GOT HERE.

SOMETIMES I THINK IT'S
BECAUSE THE HEAVENS
WERE IN ALIGNMENT.



OTHER TIMES, I WONDER
IF MAYBE IT WAS DESTINY.

OR PERHAPS I
EARNED IT?



THERE ARE SO FEW OF US.

THE ALICORNS.



WAS I REALLY MEANT TO BE ONE OF THEM?



WOULD IT SURPRISE YOU TO KNOW THAT SOMETIMES I QUESTION THIS?

THAT I SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE AN IMPOSTER?



I SOMETIMES HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF OF ALL I HAVE BEEN THROUGH TO GET HERE.



ALL THAT I HAVE WORKED FOR.



ALL THAT HAS BEEN GAINED...

...AND LOST.

A comic book panel featuring Princess Cadance, a pink unicorn with a purple mane and wings, standing on a golden balcony with a heart-patterned railing. She is looking upwards with a slight smile. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds and a large, radiant sun. Several speech bubbles are scattered around her, listing her accomplishments. The balcony has two purple diamond-shaped ornaments hanging from it.

I AM PRINCESS MI
AMORE CADENZA!

PRINCESS CADANCE.

I REPELLED THE QUEEN
OF THE CHANGELINGS!

DEFEATED AN ANCIENT
AND EVIL KING SOMBRA!

HELPED REAR THE PRINCESS
OF FRIENDSHIP!

AM RULER OF THE
CRYSTAL EMPIRE!

BUT BEFORE ALL THAT...



LIKE ALL PONIES, I CAN'T REMEMBER THE VERY BEGINNING OF MY NATURAL LIFE.

BUT I AM AWARE OF WHEN THIS LIFE BEGAN.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FOAL!

THIS LIFE. ONE THAT STARTED WITH DESERTION...

NEIGH!
NEIGH!

...AND COULD HAVE BEEN CLOAKED IN BITTERNESS AND DARKNESS...



WEEEEEEENIGHAAAAH!

FOR THE LOVE OF CELESTIA! IT IS A FOAL.

THERE ARE NO PONY VILLAGES ANYWHERE NEAR HERE!

WHOEVER LEFT HER HERE HAD TO HAVE KNOWN WE WOULD FIND HER.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ADDING A NEW PONY TO OUR VILLAGE FAMILY!



...WAS INSTEAD FILLED WITH LOVE AND LIGHT...

...AND ACCEPTANCE.

=GASP=

OR, WE'LL BE ADDING A... PEGASUS TO THE FAMILY!



THEY COULD HAVE TURNED ME AWAY.

BUT THEY DIDN'T.

LOOK HOW SHE DANCES IN THE AIR!

WHY, SHE'S LIKE...A CADENZA IN A SONG!



MI AMORE! MI AMORE CADENZA!

THAT'S WHAT WE'LL CALL HER.

THAT IS WHEN THIS LIFE BEGAN.



AND SO, I BECAME
AN EARTH PONY.



AN EARTH PONY WITH WINGS!



HOORAY
CADANCE!

THANK YOU,
CADANCE!

AND I FELT THE LOVE AND
A SENSE OF BELONGING.



THANK YOU,
CADANCE!



THANK YOU,
CADANCE!

UNTIL ONE DAY, THE LOVE DISAPPEARED.





WHAT
THE—

CADANCE, BE
QUIET! SHE'LL
HEAR YOU!

WHO IS
SHE?!

AND WHAT IS
THE MATTER WITH
EVERYPONY?



SHE IS
PRISMA.

A SORCERESS WHO
LIVES IN THE FOREST,
JUST BEYOND OUR
BORDERS.

WE'VE ALWAYS
LIVED IN FEAR
OF HER.

BUT WE'VE BEEN
ABLE TO REPEL HER
FOR GENERATIONS.



MI AMORE CADENZA--
YOU'VE BROUGHT SO
MUCH LOVE TO THIS
VILLAGE, WHICH I
SUSPECT PRISMA
CAN SENSE.

IT'S MORE
THAN SHE CAN
BEAR!

SHE HAS NOW
HARNESSED A GREAT
EVIL THAT LETS HER DRAIN
PONIES OF THEIR LOVE.

AND FUELS
HER HATE!

THERE MUST
BE SOMETHING WE
CAN DO TO STOP
PRISMA!



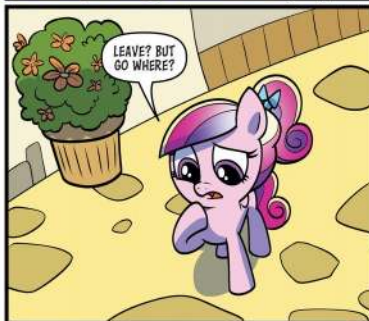
CADANCE, YOU
HAVE SO MUCH
LOVE IN YOU.

I FEAR
PRISMA MAY BE
ABLE TO TURN THAT
AGAINST US.

WHAT?
NO!

I THINK WE
MAY NEED TO LEAVE
THIS VILLAGE TO
PROTECT IT.

AND TO
PROTECT YOU.



LEAVE? BUT
GO WHERE?



HAI LOOKS
LIKE I'VE CAUGHT
ANOTHER ONE
OF YOU!

















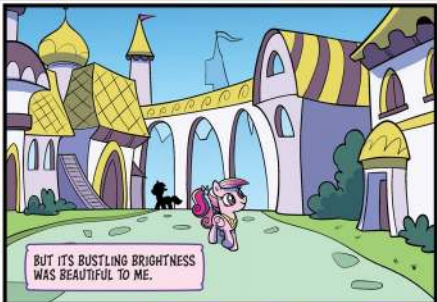


AND A NEW MORE COMPLICATED
LIFE WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN.


AND SO, I FOUND MYSELF WHAT
SEEMED LIKE A WORLD AND
LIFETIME AWAY IN CANTERLOT.



IT WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM
MY LITTLE VILLAGE.



BUT ITS BUSTLING BRIGHTNESS
WAS BEAUTIFUL TO ME.



AND I DID QUICKLY FEEL AT HOME IN THIS
CITY FULL OF EARTH PONIES AND UNICORNS.

AND PEGASI, LIKE ME!

MORNING, CADANCE!
DONUT TO START YOUR
SCHOOL DAY?

YET SO MUCH OF MY TIME IN
CANTERLOT MADE NO SENSE.



WHY WAS I TAKING MAGIC CLASSES
AT THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS
WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE A HORN?



BECAUSE OF ITS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE,
CANTERLOT WAS ALWAYS UNDER THE THREAT
OF INVASION BY ENEMY CREATURES.

SO, THE UNICORNS AT CELESTIA'S
SCHOOL WERE WELL VERSED IN
SPELLS TO PROTECT THE KINGDOM.


BUT...WHAT GOOD WAS
IT FOR ME TO LEARN
THESE SPELLS?




AND WHILE MY CLASSMATES WERE
ALWAYS VERY NICE TO ME...




...I KNOW THEY WONDERED
THE SAME THING.

Cadance, a pink unicorn with a purple and pink mane, is standing on a green field with two Royal Pegasus Guards. The guards are white ponies with yellow and blue wings and armor. They are all looking at each other.


MY TIME WITH THE ROYAL PEGASUS GUARDS MADE MUCH MORE SENSE.

Cadance is flying through the air, looking up at two Royal Pegasus Guards who are flying ahead of her. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.

BECAUSE OF THEM, I HARNESSSED THE FULL POWER OF MY WINGS.

Cadance is shown in a dynamic pose, flying quickly through the air. Her wings are spread wide, and her mane is flowing. The background consists of stylized blue and white clouds.

LEARNED SPEED AND ENDURANCE.

Cadance is flying towards the right, with a pink energy trail behind her. In the background, a Royal Pegasus Guard is performing a circular maneuver. On the right side of the panel, the head of another pony is visible, looking towards the action.

AND MASTERED MANEUVERS THAT MADE ME FEEL CONFIDENT AND USEFUL.

A group of five young ponies are gathered on a green field, cheering and jumping. From left to right: a purple pony, a yellow pony, a brown pony, a blue pony, and a light blue pony. They all have happy expressions.

YAY CADANCE!

BUT THERE WAS ONE ASPECT OF MY TIME AT THE UNICORN SCHOOL THAT I ABSOLUTELY LOVED.



WHY WAS I THE ONLY STUDENT WHO LIVED IN CANTERLOT CASTLE?



AND WHY DID CELESTIA OFTEN HAVE ME JOIN HER ON ROYAL BUSINESS?



LEARNING ROYAL PROTOCOL AND ETIQUETTE?



YOUR HIGHNESS. I PRESENT OUR ROYAL GUARDS IN TRAINING.

AS MUCH AS I LOVED AND VALUED HAVING SUCH PERSONAL TIME WITH PRINCESS CELESTIA...

...IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME.

SHE SEEMED TO HAVE EXPECTATIONS OF ME I WASN'T SURE I COULD LIVE UP TO.



WHEN THE PONY ACROSS HAS BEEN SERVED, YOU MAY BEGIN.

IF I QUESTIONED ANY OF THIS, THE ANSWER WAS USUALLY THE SAME.

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW THESE THINGS.

"WHY" WILL BE REVEALED WHEN YOU ARE READY.









HA!



CELESTIA?
LEAD ME INTO
THIS FIGHT!

CADANCE! THE
YOUNGLINGS HAVE
BEEN GATHERED.

YOU MUST
LEAD THEM OUT
OF THE CITY.





I AM LIEBE,
THE LEADER OF
THIS DRAGON
SWARM.

AND AT LONG
LAST, THE TIME
FOR MY REVENGE
HAS COME!

AND IN THAT MOMENT, I
INDEED THOUGHT THE END
WAS UPON US.

BUT...





DO YOU REALIZE
HOW LONG I HAVE
WAITED FOR THIS
DAY?

HOW LONG IT HAS
TAKEN ME TO BUILD A
DRAGON ARMY STRONG
ENOUGH TO TAKE ON
CANTERLOT?



PLEASE.
PERPETUATING
THIS HATE WILL
SOLVE NOTHING.

AND I
WILL CONVINCE
CELESTIA TO LET
YOU ALL LEAVE
IN PEACE.



LET GO OF THE HATE AND FILL
YOURSELF WITH LOVE. EVEN
IF IT IS THE LOVE OF
A MEMORY.

FOR I TOO
KNOW HOW POWERFUL
MEMORY CAN BE.

SOB

OKAY...I WILL
CALL OFF THE ATTACK.



THANK YOU
FOR DOING SOMETHING
NOPONY BEFORE YOU
HAS DONE.

UNDERSTAND
THE PAIN OF MY
LOSS.

LIEBE!
BACK AWAY
FROM THEM!

IMMEDIATELY!









GOODBYE,
CADANCE!



OH CELESTIA, DO I
REALLY NEED TO STOP
WORKING WITH THE
YOUNGER UNICORNS
EVERY DAY?

I'M AFRAID
SO.



NOW THAT YOU'RE
AN ALICORN, YOU NEED
TO CONCENTRATE ON
HARNESSING THE POWER
OF YOUR HORN.

ALONG WITH A
LOT OF OTHER
THINGS.



BUT I DO
KNOW OF A
YOUNG UNICORN
WHO MIGHT
OCCASIONALLY
NEED A
FOAL-SITTER.



TWILIGHT
SPARKLE, I'D LIKE
TO INTRODUCE YOU
TO CADANCE.

PRINCESS CELESTIA?
INTRODUCING ME TO
THE NEW ALICORN?!

DID I DO
SOMETHING
WRONG?

IS THIS
SOMETHING I
SHOULD HAVE BEEN
STUDYING FOR?

BREATHE, TWILIGHT,
BREATHE!!!!

TWILIGHT,
IT'S OKAY!

AND I'M SO
HAPPY TO MEET
YOU!

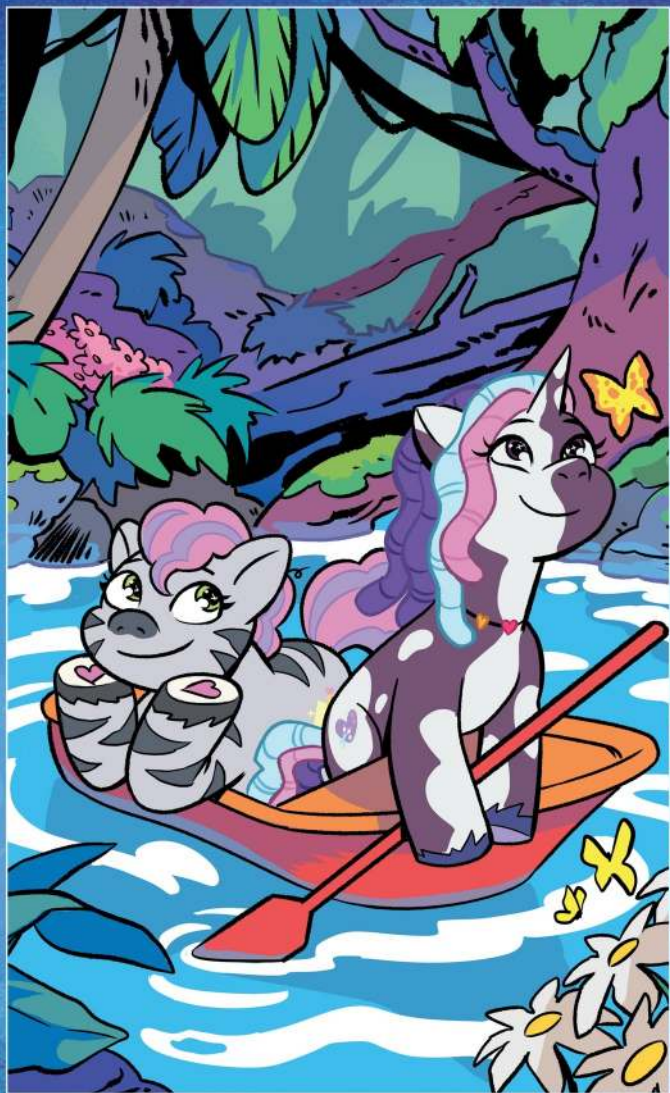


THE FOALS I
USED TO TEACH HAVE A
SPECIAL CHANT TO CALM
THEM DOWN.

WE CAN
HAVE ONE
TOO!

LET'S START IT
WITH "SUNSHINE,
SUNSHINE..."

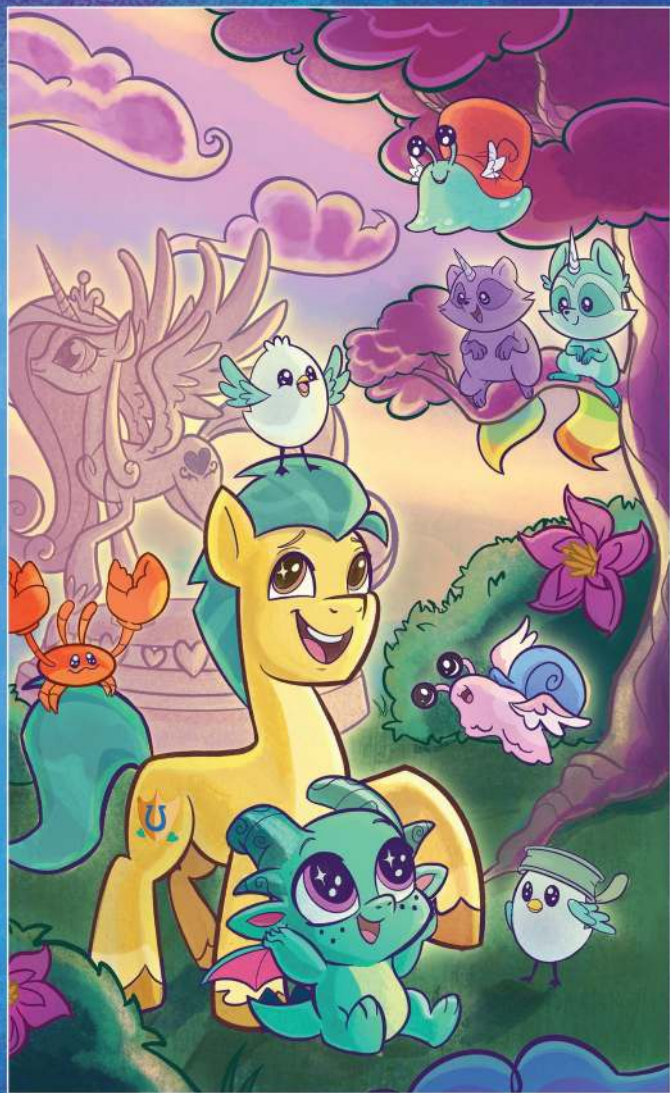
THE END!



COMING UP NEXT MONTH



art by **Natalie Haines**



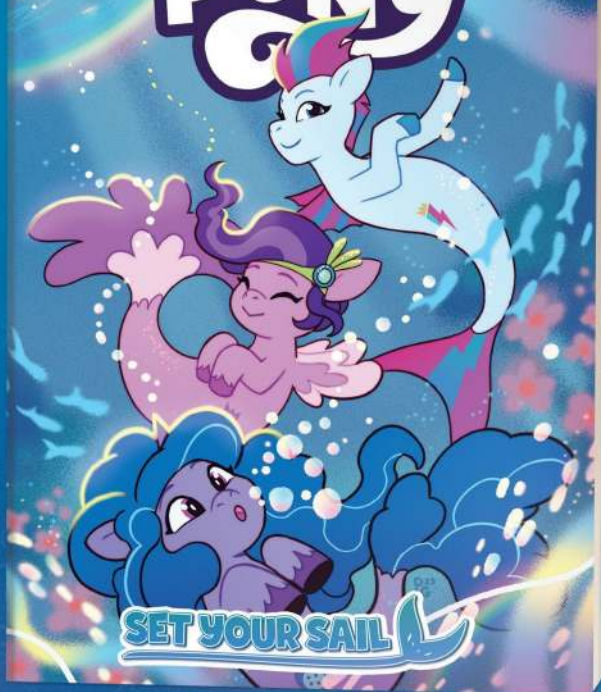
art by **Sophie Scruggs**



**MY LITTLE PONY JUST WENT MARINE!
JOIN THE ALL-NEW SEAPONIES FOR
A HIGH-SEAS ADVENTURE!**

MEGAN BROWN • CASEY GILLY • AMY MEBBERSON

MY LITTLE PONY



SET YOUR SAIL

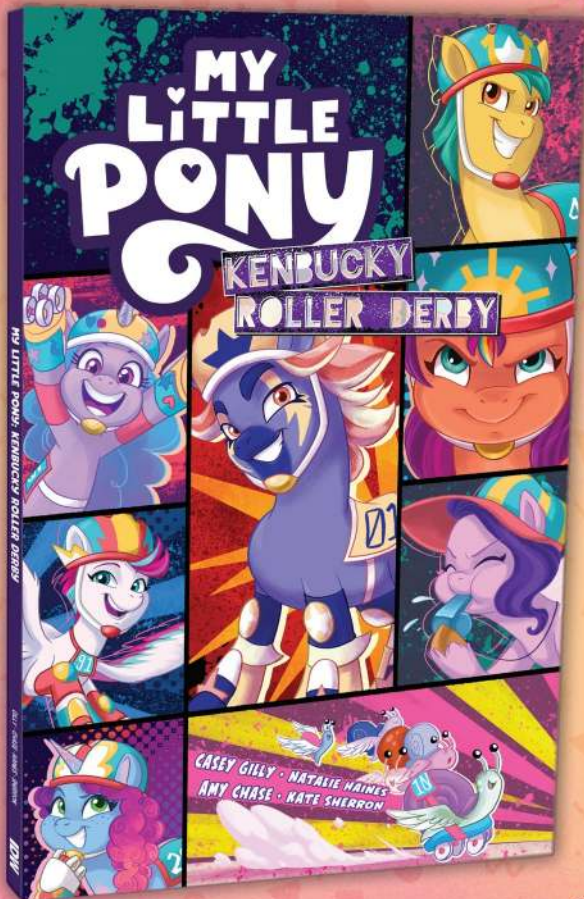


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LACE UP YOUR SKATES, EVERYPONY!



Sunny is out to recruit her own team to compete in the toughest championship in Equestria...the Kenbucky Roller Derby! Join the fun with your favorite ponies! Story by **Casey Gilly & Amy Chase** and art by **Natalie Haines & Kate Sherron**



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VIEW FROM THE BACK PAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR, IDW FAITHFUL,

Hold on to your hot takes, because it's official—we're shaking things up! This isn't your run-of-the-mill slapdash logo; we're ushering in a whole new era with a logo so bold it practically leaps off the page and into your imagination.

We're not just sprucing up a color scheme; we're revamping, reinvigorating, and hitting the refresh button so hard it might just break. This isn't a change of clothes—it's our battle armor as we gear up for the next 25 years. Why? Because at IDW—short for "Idea and Design Works," remember?—we're all about big swings and even bigger ideas.

Our new logo isn't just a fancy set of letters in a font type; it's a unique symbol calling out to every reader to try something different. It declares that IDW isn't only present in the comics industry; we're leading the charge. We're surfing the rogue wave—backward, in sunglasses. Because we can.

So, what's this mean for you, dear reader? Only the most thrilling, genre-bending adventures in comic book storytelling that you've come to expect from us, now branded with a logo that's as forward-thinking as the tales we tell. It's the new face of IDW, but with the same old promise: to keep delivering awe-inspiring stories that defy expectations.

Catch this on all our releases going forward—it's going to be everywhere. Literally. And it's just the start. What's in store? Only the massive year ahead—from Godzilla to TMNT to a brand-new horror imprint and more. We're not just promising big things; we're crafting them. From the drawing boards to the press, everything we create is a step towards something epic.

Still here? Good. It will be a wild ride, and we wouldn't want to journey into the future without you.

Keep turning those pages.
Aub Driver | VP, Marketing



ON SALE JANUARY 29th

