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COOK
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my LITTLE PONY™

Friendship
is Magic



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Our story so far...

Our Ponies, intent on saving the Cutie Mark Crusaders from the nefarious Queen Chrysalis, have made it to the gates of the Changeling Kingdom! Who knows what danger lurks beyond!

Special thanks to Erin Comella, Robert Fewkes, Heather Hopkins, Valerie Juries, Ed Lane, Brian Lenard, Marissa Mansollilo, Donna Tobin, Michael Vogel, Mark Wiesenbahn, and Michael Kelly for their invaluable assistance.

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THE Return of Queen Chrysalis

Part IV

WE NEED
TO HURRY. THE
SECRETARIAT COMET
WILL BE FLYING
OVERHEAD SOON...

AND THAT'S
WHEN THE MAGICAL
SURGE HAPPENS?





YES, THE COMET PASSING THROUGH THE HORSEHEAD NEBULA IS THE MOST INTENSE SERIES OF CELESTIAL EVENTS IN CENTURIES! *MILLENNIA!* THE MAGIC DISRUPTION IS GOING TO BE FELT ACROSS EQUESTRIA!

THEN LET'S STOP TALKIN' AND START WALKIN'. MY SISTER AND HER FRIENDS ARE TRAPPED INSIDE THAT CASTLE WITH THAT EVIL DOIN', CRAZY CHEESE GRATER.



HERE'S THE PLAN. WE GO IN, STORM THE CASTLE, GRAB APPLE BLOOM, SCOOTALOO, AND SWEETIE BELLE... THEN WE WIN THE DAY AND GO HOME.

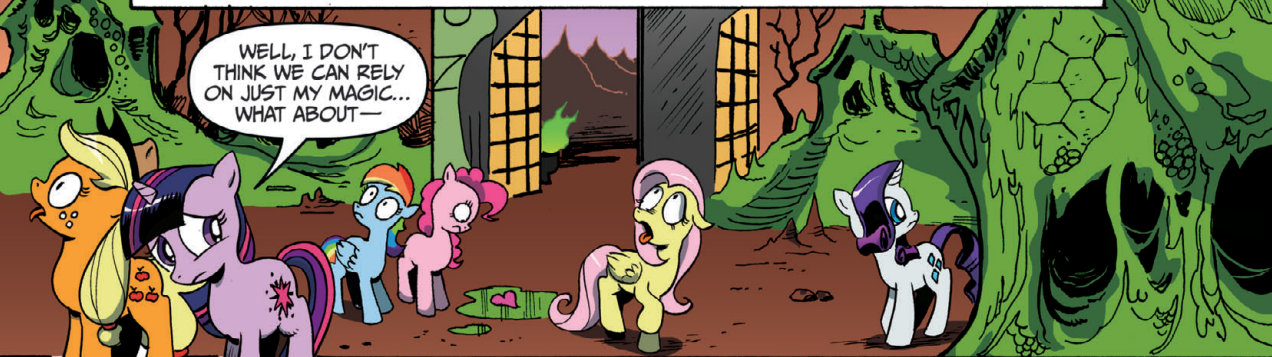
OH! THAT SOUNDS EASY!



RAINBOW DASH! THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE THAT EASY... WE NEED TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR ANYTHING. THE CHANGELING QUEEN IS A MAGICAL BEING, SHE COULD HAVE ANYTHING IN STORE FOR US!

BUT WE HAVE *YOU*, TWILIGHT! WITH YOUR MAGIC, WE CAN GET THROUGH ANYTHING.

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH



WELL, I DON'T THINK WE CAN RELY ON JUST MY MAGIC... WHAT ABOUT—



YEAH! WITH TWILIGHT AROUND... WE CAN WHOOP CHANGELING FLANK AND SHE CAN DO HER THING! BING, BANG... WE'LL BE HOME IN TIME FOR DINNER.

ERK! BUT...!



AW SHUCKS, TWILIGHT... COME ON. YOU'RE AMAZING AND WE ALL KNOW IT. LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT AND MOVE ON TO FIND THOSE FILLIES!

I REALLY DO HOPE THOSE LITTLE FILLIES ARE ALL RIGHT... I'M SO WORRIED. SWEETIE BELLE IS SUCH A FRAGILE LITTLE THING.



WOO! MY SISTER IS HERE! YOU'RE GOING DOWN!

YEAH. HER SISTER IS HERE! YOU'RE GOING DOWN!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTER, SWEETIE BELLE?

ERR.... YEAH. UM. RAINBOW DASH IS HERE! YOU'RE GOING DOWN!



YOU THREE... I MAY JUST BANISH TO THE ENDS OF EQUESTRIA INSTEAD OF FEEDING YOU TO MY MINIONS. THE THOUGHT OF ANY PART OF YOUR ESSENCE STILL AROUND ME AFTER TODAY IS... TERRIFYING.



LITTLE TWILIGHT... YOU'RE ALMOST HERE. YOUR FRIEND'S EMOTIONS WILL MAKE A FINE FEAST FOR MY SUBJECTS... BUT YOU, YOU'RE FOR ME.

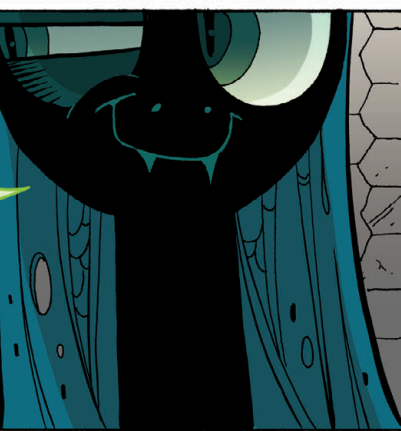


THEY'LL DEFEAT YOU *BEFORE* YOU CAN DRAIN THEM OF THEIR LOVE! THEIR FRIENDSHIP IS STRONGER THAN YOU!

AND YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TAKE AWAY TWILIGHT'S MAGIC, SHE'S A BAJILLION TIMES THE... MAGICAL.... PONY... THING... YOU ARE!

YOU THREE HAVE SPENT ALMOST THREE DAYS WITH ME AND YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW POWERFUL I AM? I'M HURT. REALLY.

HEY! OUR SARCASM RUBBED OFF ON HER!



YOU KNOW... I JUST REALIZED THAT THERE REALLY IS NO NEED FOR ME TO KEEP YOU AROUND ANYMORE. MAYBE IT'S TIME TO PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY.

UH... BY LETTING US GO?

NO.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT... URP!



THE WHOLE CITY LOOKS ABANDONED... MAYBE THEY ALL LEFT?

I CALLED THIS BACK BEFORE WE LEFT PONYVILLE... A TRAP!



DOESN'T SHE HAVE A WHOLE ARMY? WHERE IS EVERYPONY?

THEY HAVE TO BE INSIDE THE CASTLE... THERE'S JUST NO WAY SHE WOULD BRING US HERE AND BE GONE!

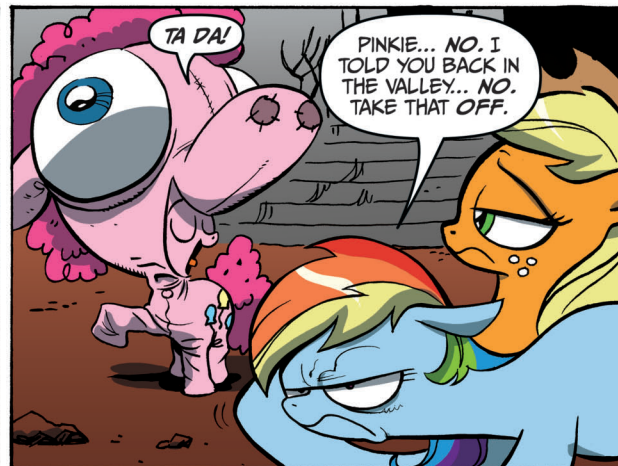
OH! OH! I BET THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR US RIGHT BEHIND THE FRONT DOOR! THOUSANDS OF CHANGELINGS, READY AND WAITING... POISED TO STRIKE!



GEE... I WONDER WHY THAT MAKES ME WANT TO OPEN THE DOOR LESS.

NO WORRIES... I STILL HAVE THIS!

THOUSANDS?



TA DA!

PINKIE... NO. I TOLD YOU BACK IN THE VALLEY... NO. TAKE THAT OFF.



BUT I BROUGHT IT ALL THE WAY FROM PONYVILLE! I KNOW IT'LL HELP! JUST YOU WAIT!

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE HORSIN' AROUND! WE'VE GOT TO GET INTO THAT CASTLE AND...



OREEEEAAAKKK



WOW... UNDER
ATTACK BY STAIRS.
SCARY.



SLAM

EEK!



OPEN THE DOORS,
LITTLE PONIES. BEHIND
ONE YOU WILL FIND ME! THE
OTHERS ALL HAVE A VAST
ARRAY OF SURPRISES
FOR YOU!



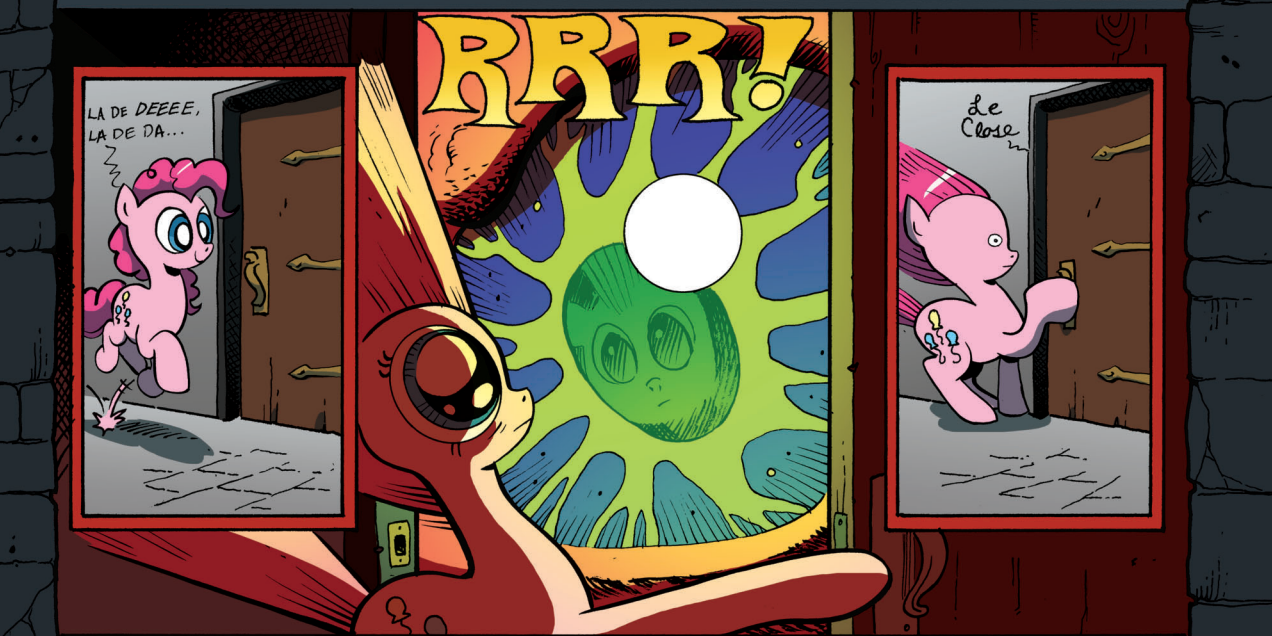
CAN WE AT LEAST GET A HINT? THIS IS BOGUS!

BOOMING VOICE? CAN WE PLEASE HAVE A HINT?

I LOVE SURPRISES!



SPLIT UP AND START OPENING DOORS! IF YOU FIND THE RIGHT ONE, CALL OUT AND WE'LL MEET YOU THERE! LET'S GO! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!



THAT WAS A TERRIBLE SURPRISE!



Yali Ma!

WHOA THERE, PARTNER!

HEY GEORGIE!

EEP!

AW! WHY DIDN'T I GET THAT DOOR?

BORING!

I'LL SWALLOW YOUR SOUL!

COME, MY ANGEL!

IMAGINE, DATING A MUSICIAN THAT LIVES IN A BASEMENT. UGH.

HERE GOES...

WHAT THE...

EW!

CRREEEEEEAAAKKK

SLAM

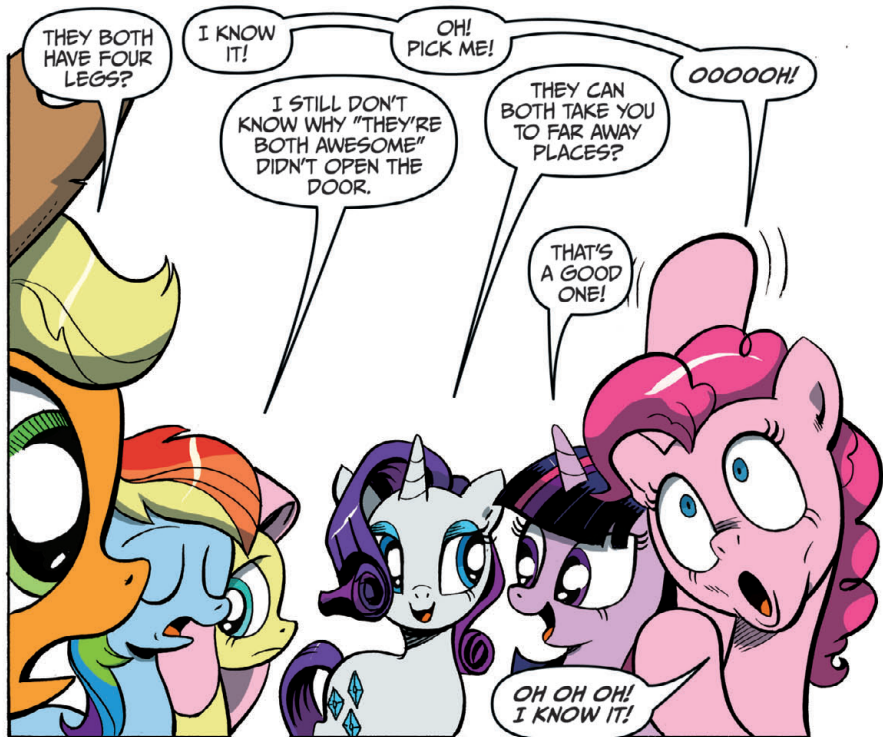
SLAM

SLAM

SLAM

YOU FOUND ME,
LITTLE TWILIGHT. I
WILL UNLOCK FOR
YOU IF YOU ANSWER
ME THIS RIDDLE...

...HOW IS A
PEGASUS LIKE
A WRITING DESK...
CAN YOU ANSWER
THIS RIDDLE?





STOP
COPYING
ME.

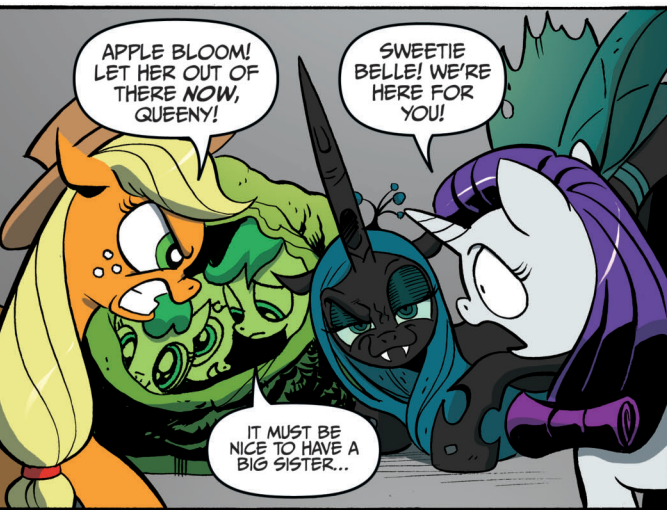
I'M
WARNING
YOU!

GUARDS!
THROW THESE
MISCREANTS IN
THE DUNGEON...
NOW.

STOP
COPYING
ME!

I'M
WARNING
YOU!

GUARDS!
THROW THESE...
MISSY-CRATES IN
THE... WAIT.
WHAT?



APPLE BLOOM!
LET HER OUT OF
THERE NOW,
QUEENY!

SWEETIE
BELLE! WE'RE
HERE FOR
YOU!

IT MUST BE
NICE TO HAVE A
BIG SISTER...



OKAY CHRYSALIS,
WE'RE HERE. WE MADE IT IN
TIME FOR YOUR DEADLINE...
HOOF THEM OVER.

OH... LITTLE
TWILIGHT... I'M
SO GLAD YOU
CAME...



YOU'RE SO MUCH
TROUBLE FOR SUCH A
TINY THING. HRM. YOU DON'T
AMOUNT TO MUCH UP
CLOSE, DO YOU?

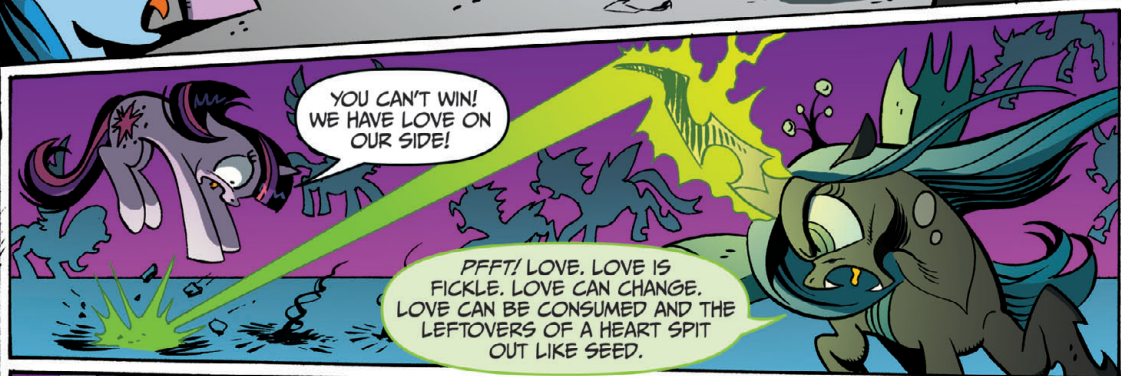
TWILIGHT IS
TWICE THE PONY
YOU ARE!

YEP LET'S
GO! YOU, BIG
GUY, COME
AT ME!

WELL, WE
EXPECTED THIS,
COME ON!



YOU HEARD
HER, MINIONS. GO
GET THEM.



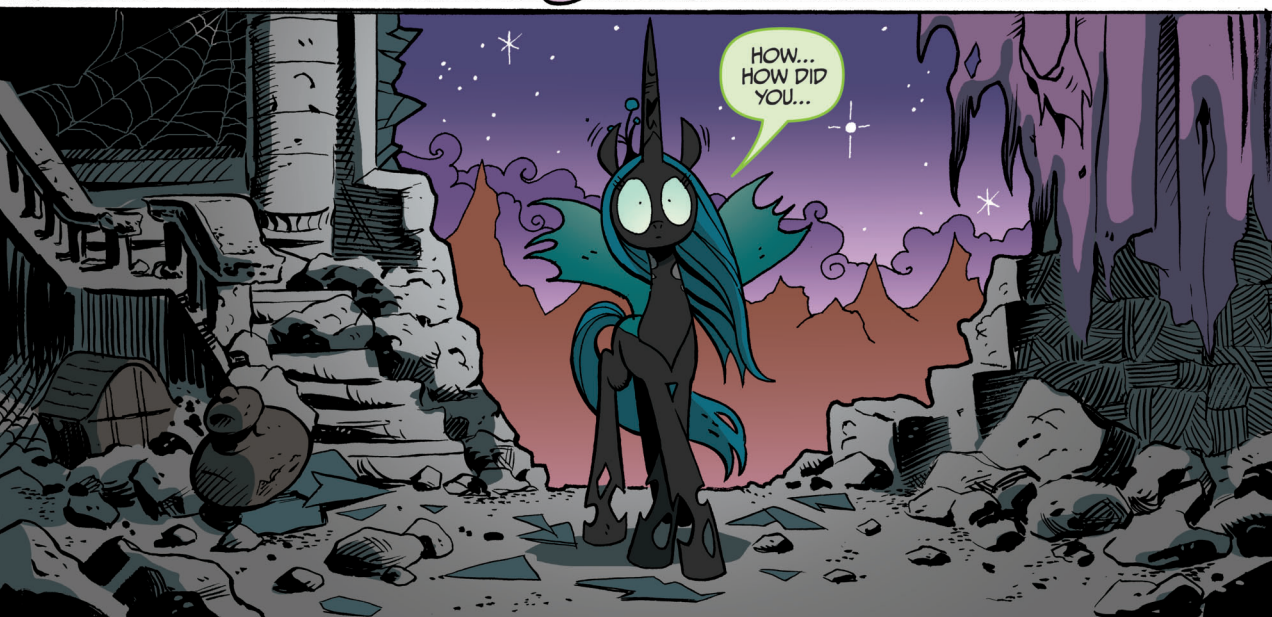
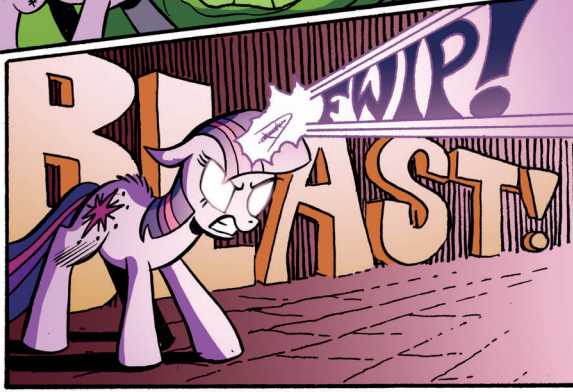


THAT'S BETTER.

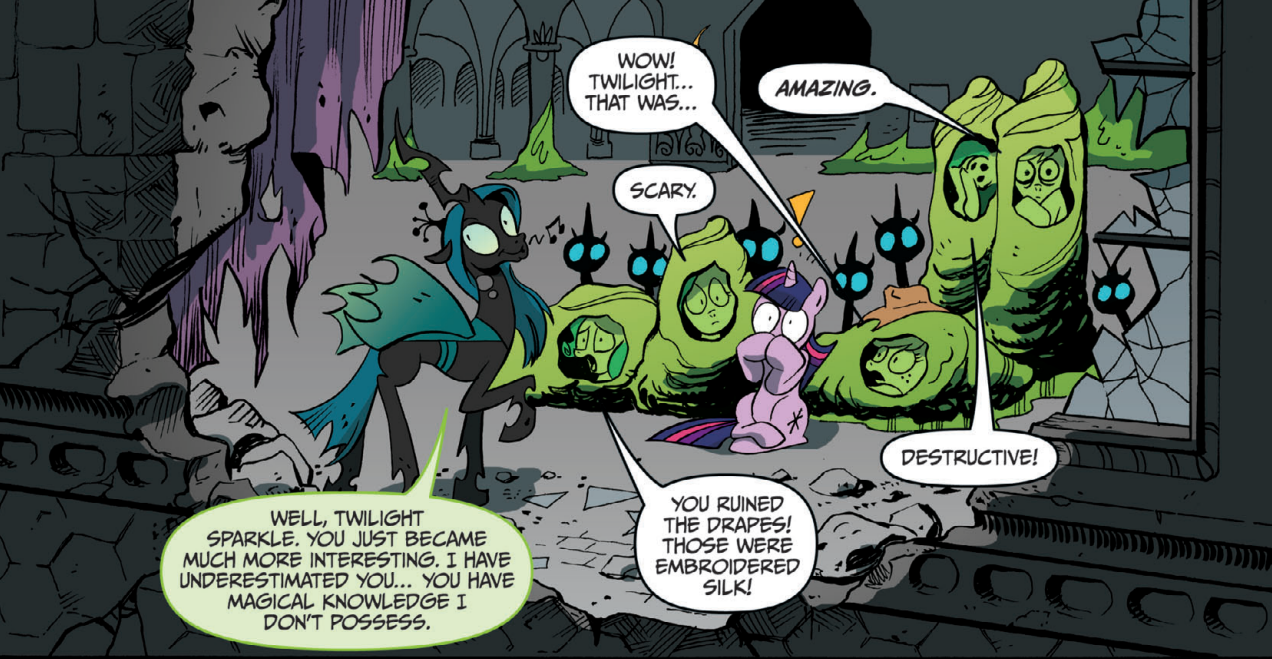
I WILL NOT LET YOU HURT MY FRIENDS.



YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO MAGIC HERE... OOF!



HOW... HOW DID YOU...



WOW!
TWILIGHT...
THAT WAS...

AMAZING.

SCARY.

DESTRUCTIVE!

WELL, TWILIGHT
SPARKLE. YOU JUST BECAME
MUCH MORE INTERESTING. I HAVE
UNDERESTIMATED YOU... YOU HAVE
MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE I
DON'T POSSESS.

YOU RUINED
THE DRAPES!
THOSE WERE
EMBROIDERED
SILK!



I CAN DRAIN
EMOTION... THE
ESSENCE OF A BEING.
I CAN TAKE A NEW
FORM, BUT THIS...
DEVASTATION? I
WANT IT.



I BROUGHT
YOU HERE TODAY TO
DRAIN YOUR MAGIC... TO
DEVOUR YOUR POWER...
PERHAPS...

NO! YOU CAN'T ACHIEVE
MY KIND OF MAGIC THROUGH
JUST RAW ABILITY, IT'S FOCUSED
STUDY. YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO
DO WHAT I JUST DID BECAUSE
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW.

KNEW IT
WAS A TRAP! I
CALLED IT!



I HAVE A PROPOSITION
FOR YOU, LITTLE PONY. YOUR
DESTRUCTIVE ABILITIES ARE WASTED
ON THE GOODY-TWO-SHOES LIFESTYLE
OF CELESTIA. YOU COULD BE GREAT.
YOU COULD BE... TERRIFYING.

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



YOU. YOU WILL
BECOME MY PUPIL. MY
PEER. THE THINGS WE COULD
LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AS
WE RULE THIS LAND AND THE
NEXT. KINGDOMS WILL FALL
AT OUR HOOVES...

NO! I'D RATHER
BECOME A DRAINED
HUNK OF MYSELF... I'LL
NEVER JOIN YOU! I'LL
NEVER TEACH YOU
ANYTHING!



HOW ABOUT *THIS*, LITTLE TWILIGHT... YOU AGREE TO STAY WITH ME AND TEACH ME THE DESTRUCTIVE PROPERTIES OF MAGIC AND I WILL NOT HARM YOUR COMPANIONS...

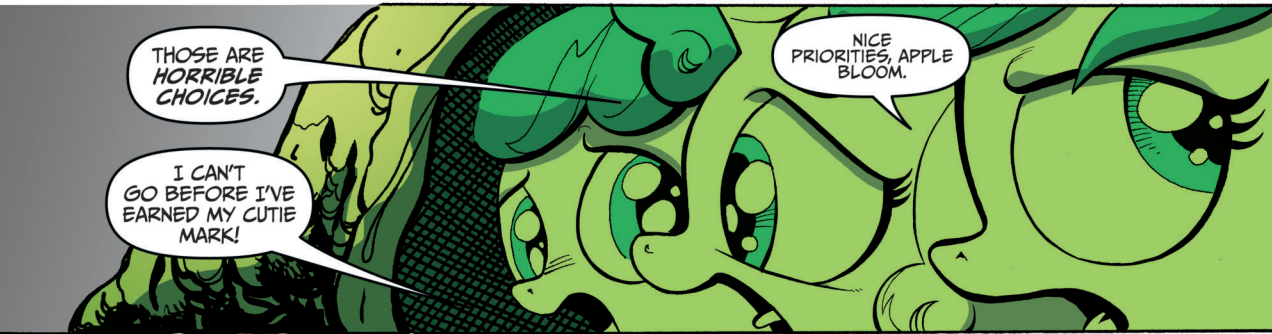
NO!



TWILIGHT! NO! IT'S A TRICK!

A TRAP. COME ON.

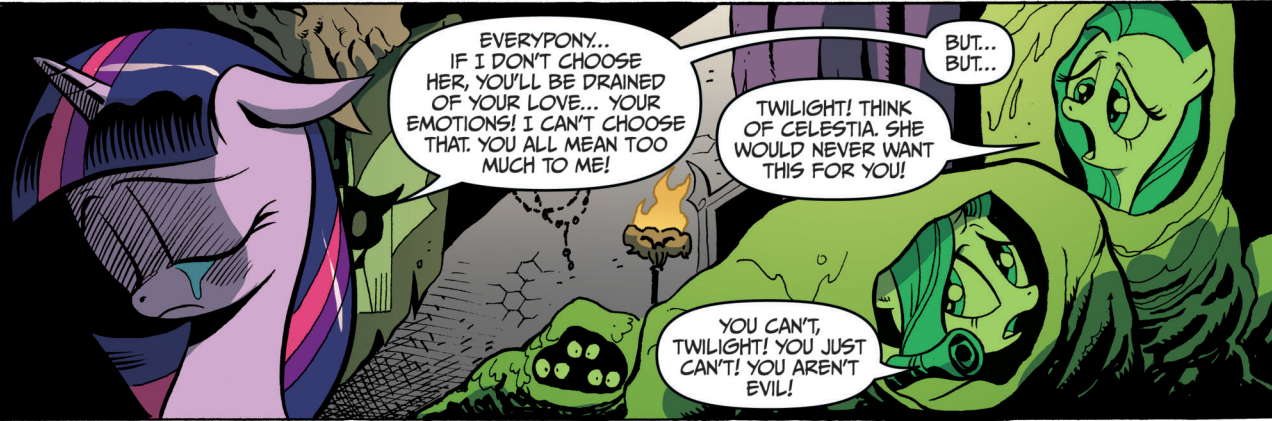
WHAT'S "C"? I HOPE IT'S NOT "ALL OF THE ABOVE." I WAS ALWAYS TERRIBLE WITH MULTIPLE CHOICE TESTS!



THOSE ARE HORRIBLE CHOICES.

I CAN'T GO BEFORE I'VE EARNED MY CUTIE MARK!

NICE PRIORITIES, APPLE BLOOM.

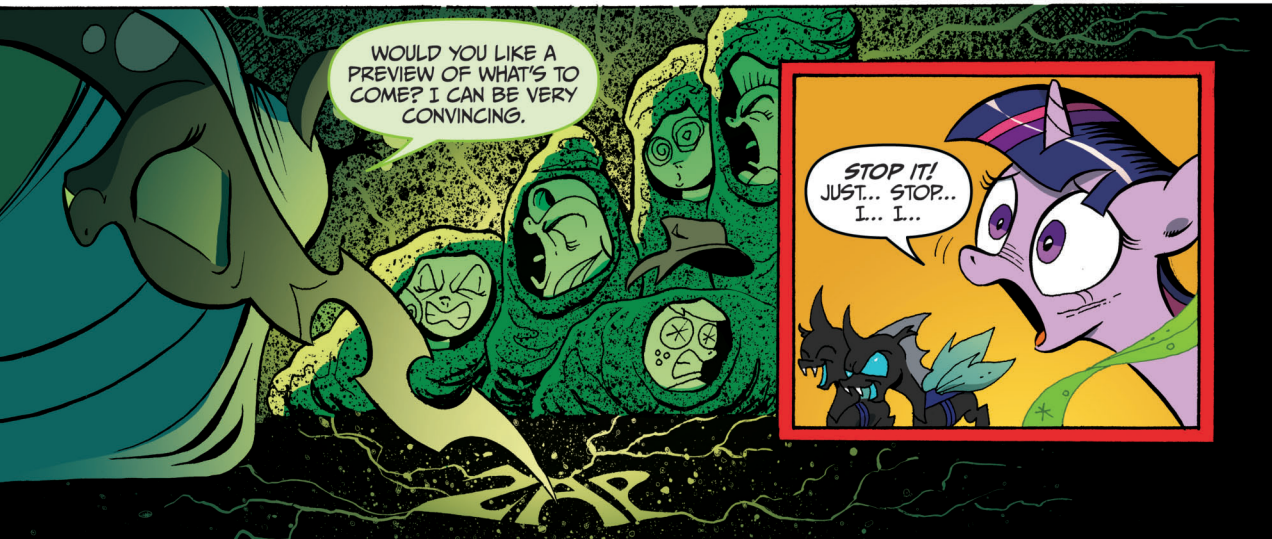


EVERYPONY... IF I DON'T CHOOSE HER, YOU'LL BE DRAINED OF YOUR LOVE... YOUR EMOTIONS! I CAN'T CHOOSE THAT. YOU ALL MEAN TOO MUCH TO ME!

BUT... BUT...

TWILIGHT! THINK OF CELESTIA. SHE WOULD NEVER WANT THIS FOR YOU!

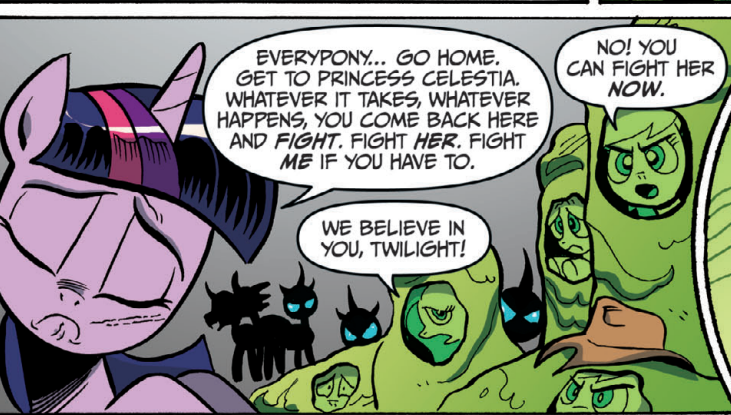
YOU CAN'T, TWILIGHT! YOU JUST CAN'T! YOU AREN'T EVIL!

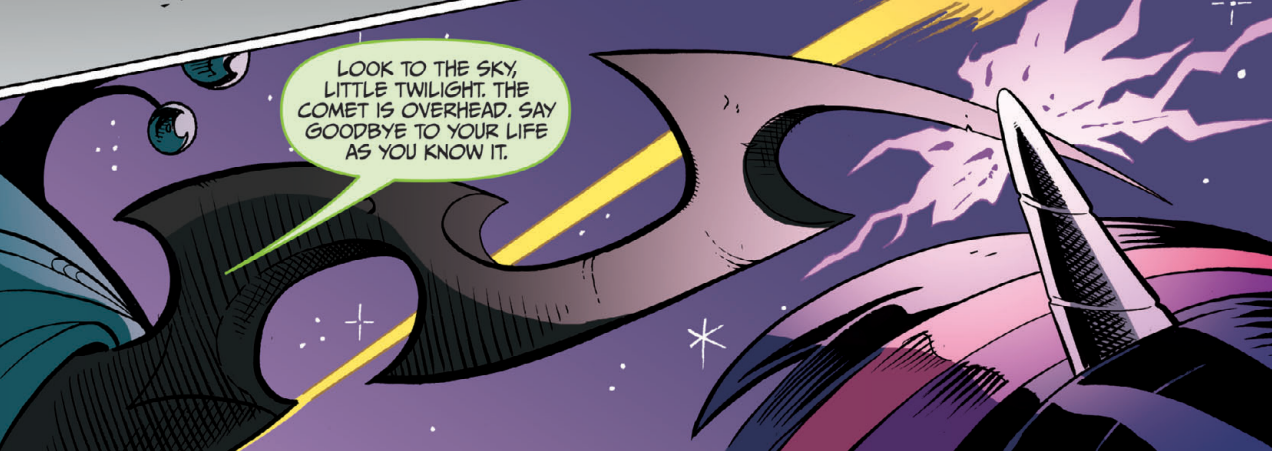
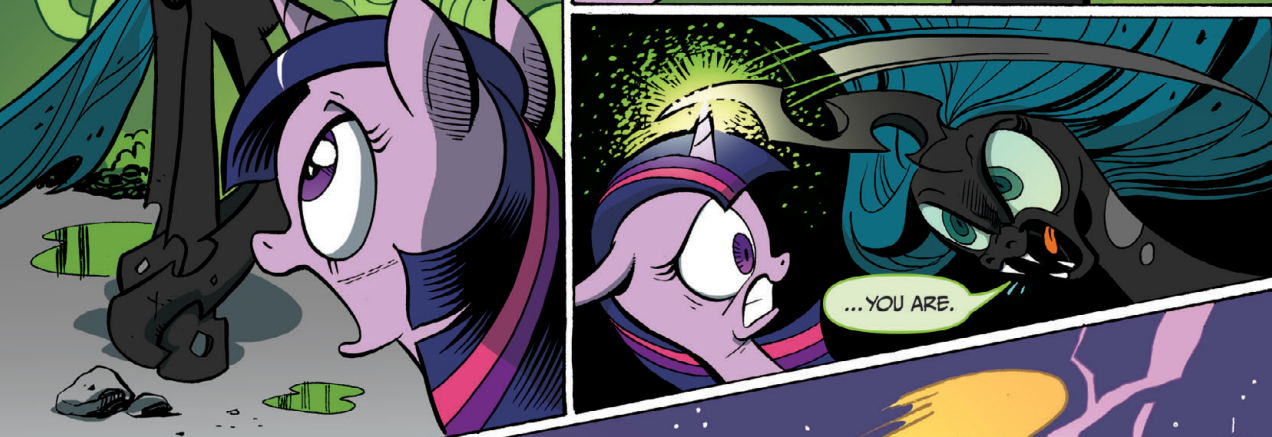


WOULD YOU LIKE A PREVIEW OF WHAT'S TO COME? I CAN BE VERY CONVINCING.



STOP IT! JUST... STOP... I... I...

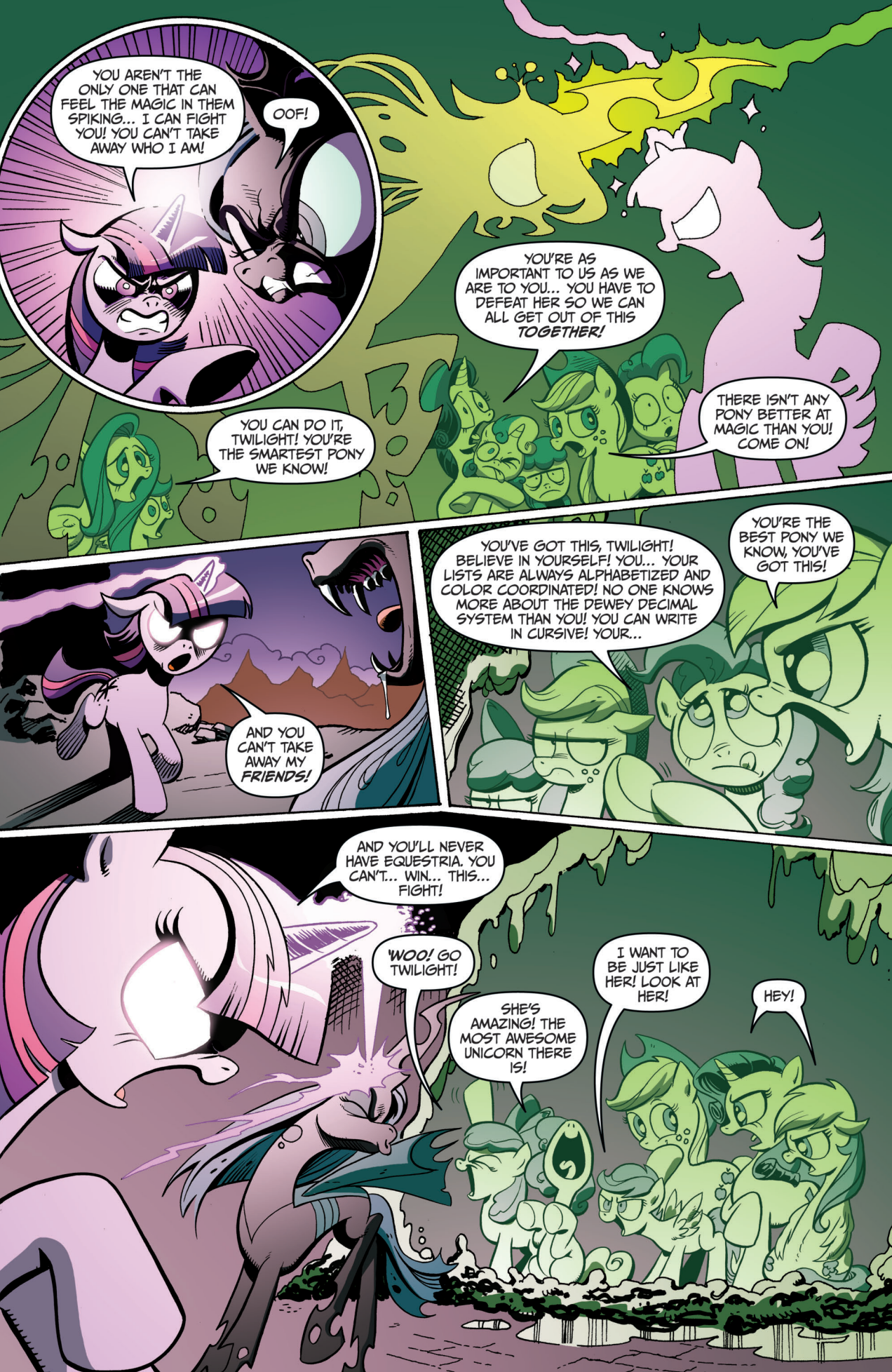






NO! I
WON'T... SAY...
GOODBYE...

A. Price '13



YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN FEEL THE MAGIC IN THEM SPIKING... I CAN FIGHT YOU! YOU CAN'T TAKE AWAY WHO I AM!

OOF!

YOU CAN DO IT, TWILIGHT! YOU'RE THE SMARTEST PONY WE KNOW!

YOU'RE AS IMPORTANT TO US AS WE ARE TO YOU... YOU HAVE TO DEFEAT HER SO WE CAN ALL GET OUT OF THIS TOGETHER!

THERE ISN'T ANY PONY BETTER AT MAGIC THAN YOU! COME ON!

AND YOU CAN'T TAKE AWAY MY FRIENDS!

YOU'VE GOT THIS, TWILIGHT! BELIEVE IN YOURSELF! YOU... YOUR LISTS ARE ALWAYS ALPHABETIZED AND COLOR COORDINATED! NO ONE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM THAN YOU! YOU CAN WRITE IN CURSIVE! YOUR...

YOU'RE THE BEST PONY WE KNOW, YOU'VE GOT THIS!

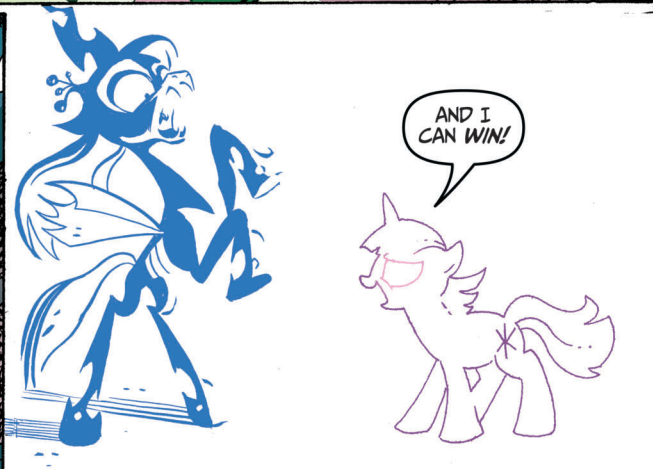
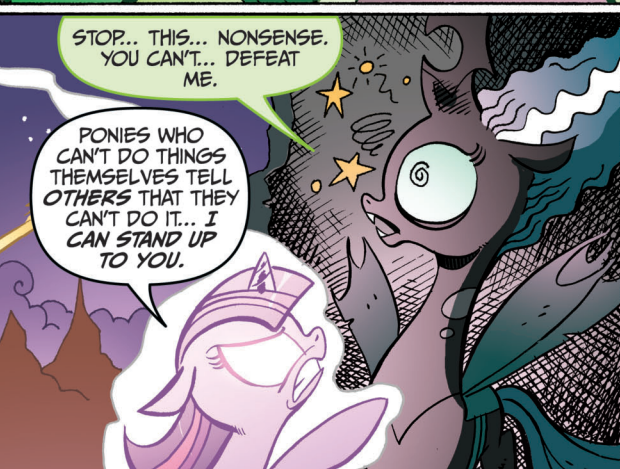
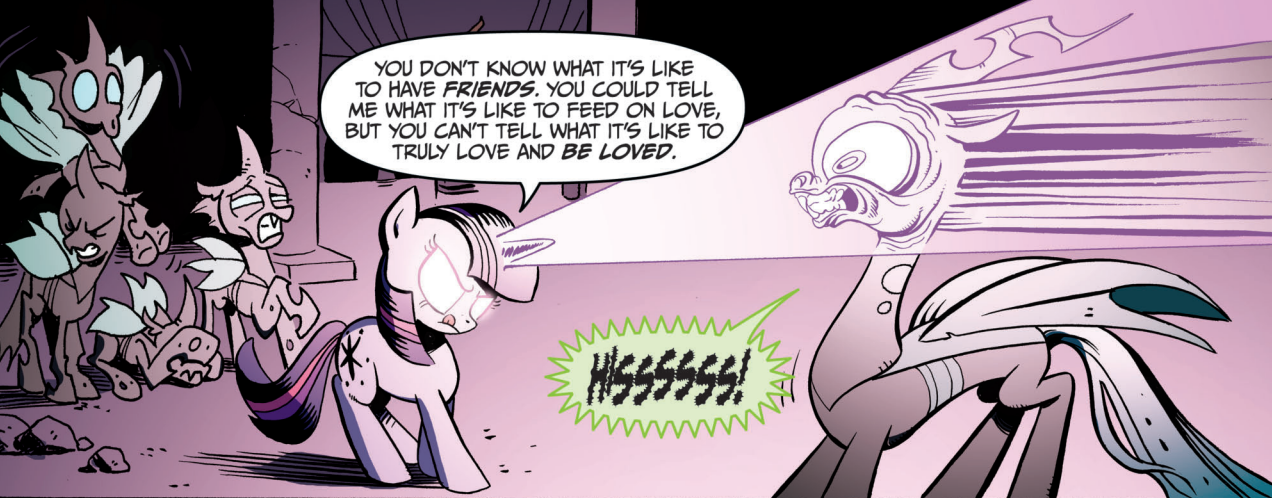
AND YOU'LL NEVER HAVE EQUESTRIA. YOU CAN'T... WIN... THIS... FIGHT!

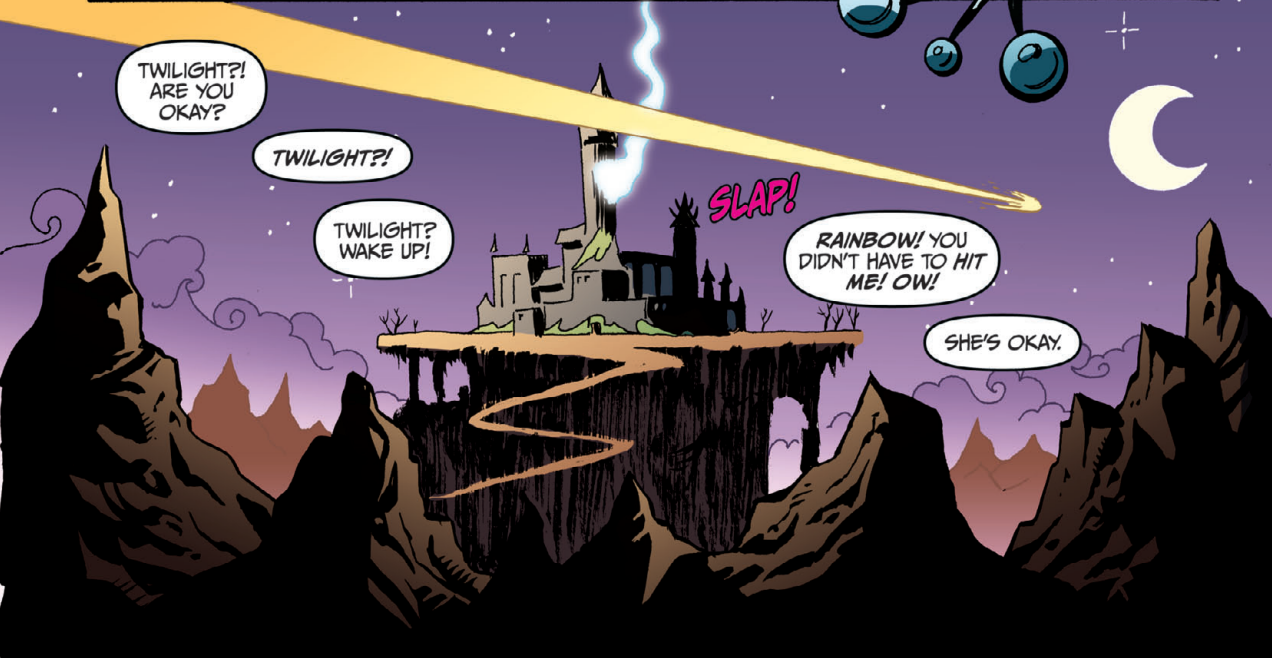
WOO! GO TWILIGHT!

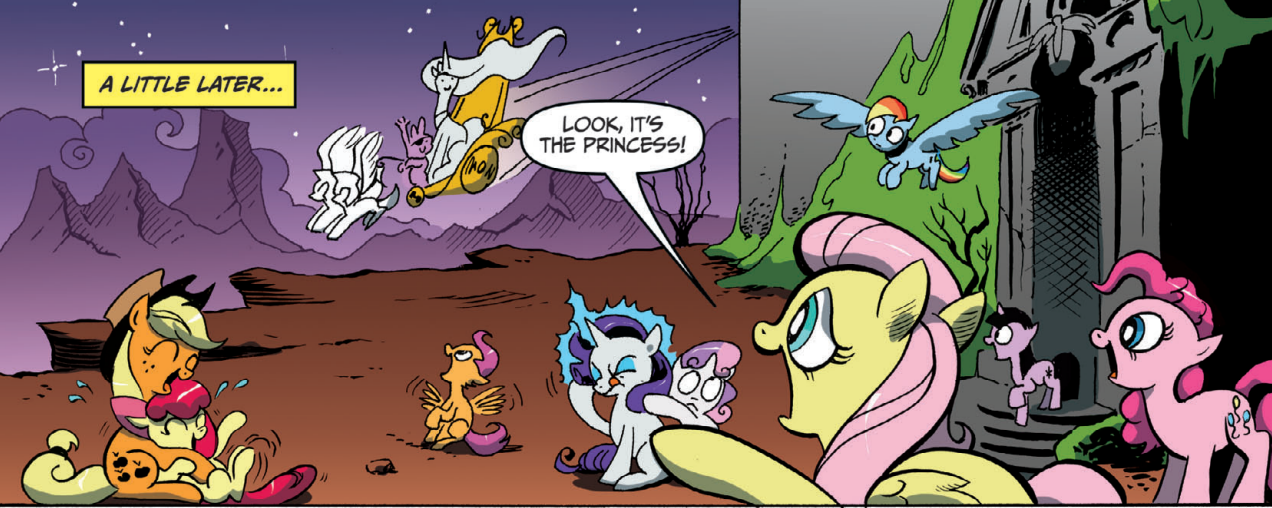
SHE'S AMAZING! THE MOST AWESOME UNICORN THERE IS!

I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE HER! LOOK AT HER!

HEY!

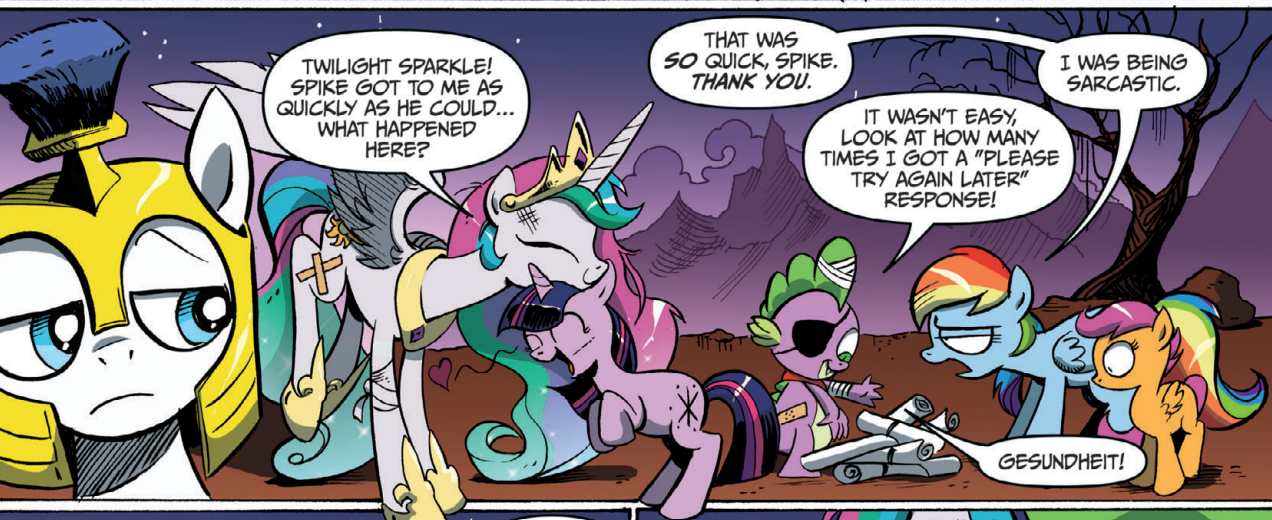






A LITTLE LATER...

LOOK, IT'S THE PRINCESS!



TWILIGHT SPARKLE! SPIKE GOT TO ME AS QUICKLY AS HE COULD... WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

THAT WAS SO QUICK, SPIKE. THANK YOU.

I WAS BEING SARCASTIC.

IT WASN'T EASY, LOOK AT HOW MANY TIMES I GOT A "PLEASE TRY AGAIN LATER" RESPONSE!

GESUNDHEIT!



ER... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? ARE YOU TWO ALL RIGHT?

OH, A HORDE OF GIANT, MAGICAL COCKATRICE ATTACKED CANTERLOT DURING THE COMET.

I RODE ONE INTO THE CENTER OF TOWN AND SAVED THE CITY! IT WAS AWESOME. I HAD A TRIDENT!



HE WAS VERY BRAVE!

THAT'S... ER... YOU DID WHAT?

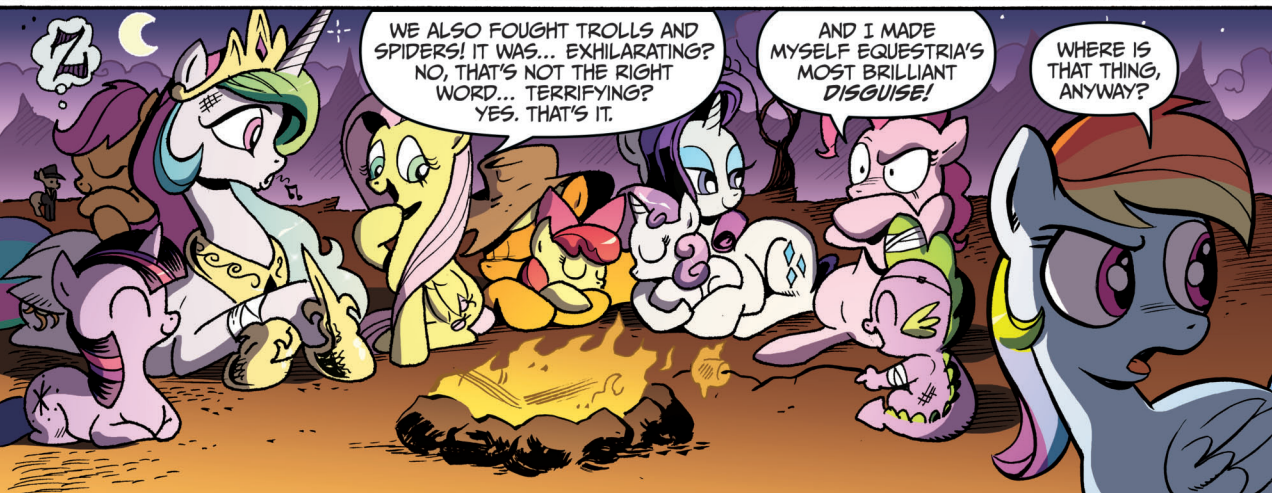
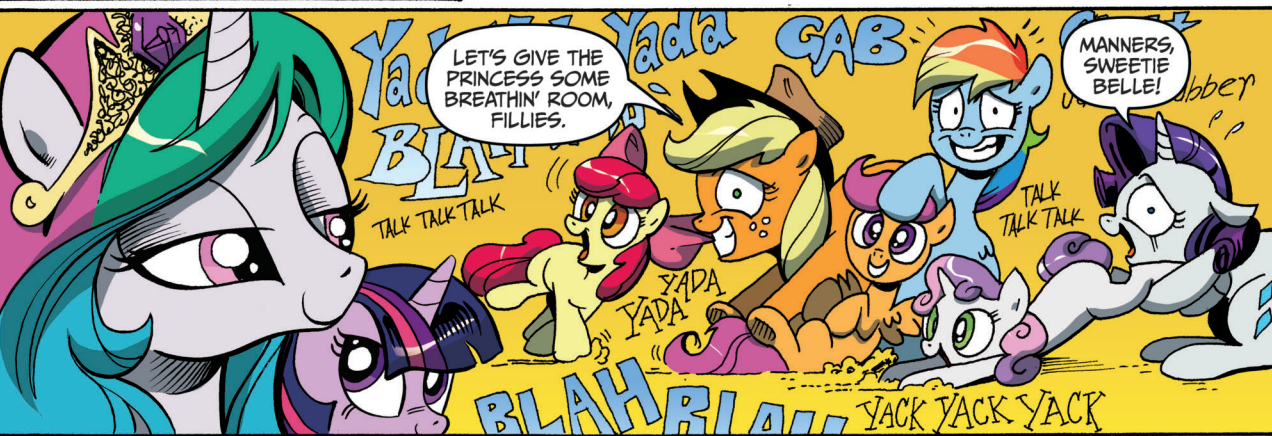
MAYOR MARE GAVE ME A MEDAL!

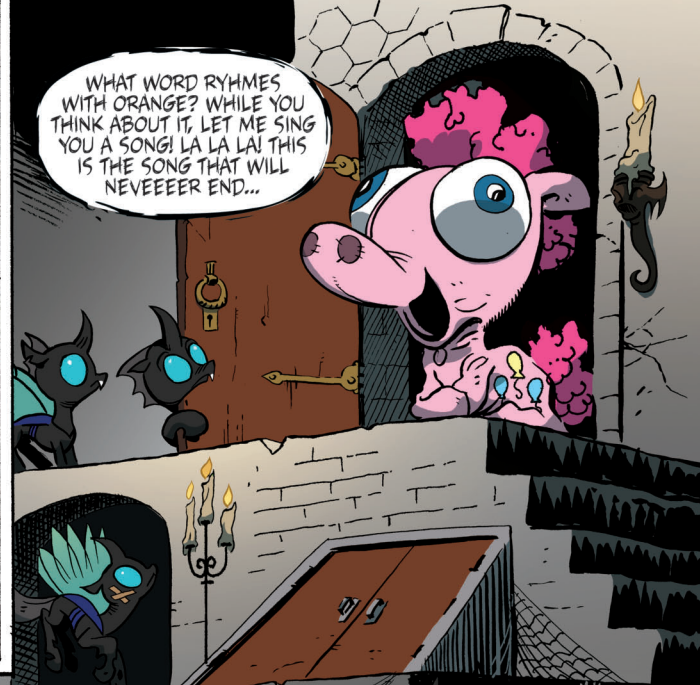


WAY TO GO, SPIKE!

YEAH!

POOF BUMP





THE END



NEXT MONTH:
ISSUE #5

my LITTLE
PONY
Friendship
is Magic



"IN THE INTERIM..." by Katie Cook

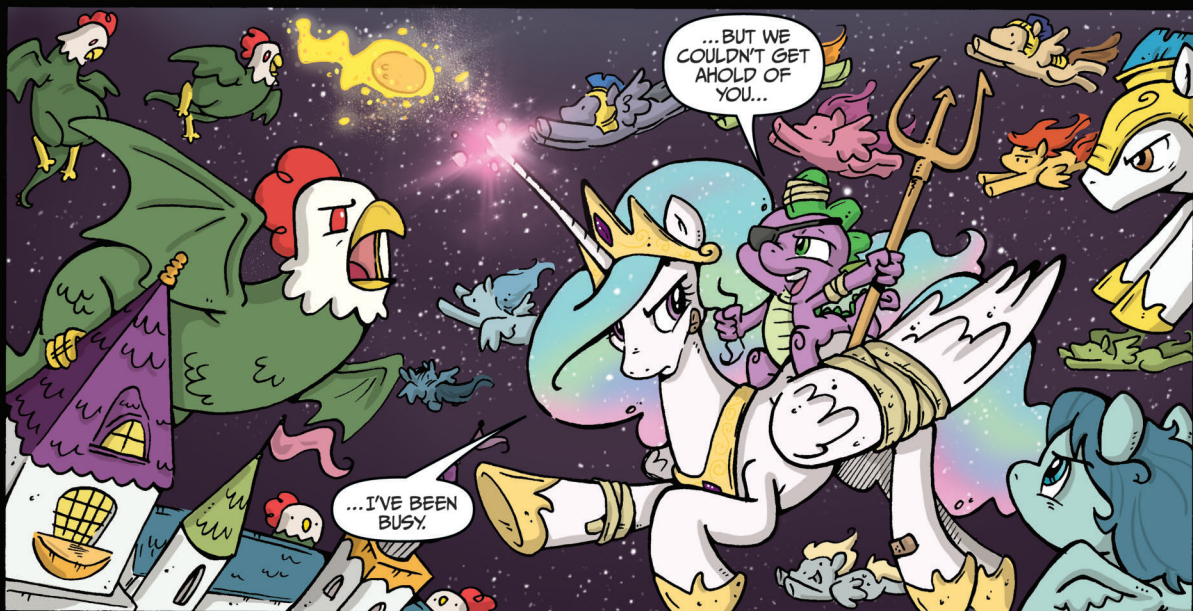




...AND THEN WE FOUND ALL OF PONYVILLE TRAPPED IN PODS!



...AND THEN THE QUEEN OF THE CHANGELINGS CHALLENGED THEM TO FIND HER IN THREE DAYS...



...BUT WE COULDN'T GET AHEAD OF YOU...

...I'VE BEEN BUSY.



...AND WE OWE THIS VICTORY TO YOUNG SPIKE! TAKE A BOW, SPIKE.



THE SIDEKICK FINALLY GETS HIS MEDAL! ->SNIFF!<-

NOW, LET'S GO GET TWILIGHT AND HER FRIENDS.

JUST A SECOND... I WANT TO ENJOY THIS MOMENT.

katicow