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COOK
PRICE
BRECKEL

my LITTLE PONY™

Friendship is Magic



BEHOLD
THE SECRETS
OF
STAR
SWIRL
THE BEARDED

FOR SPOOKY
CITY PRICE 15

IDW[®]

#17 • CVR B

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TM

PONY

Friendship
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Magic



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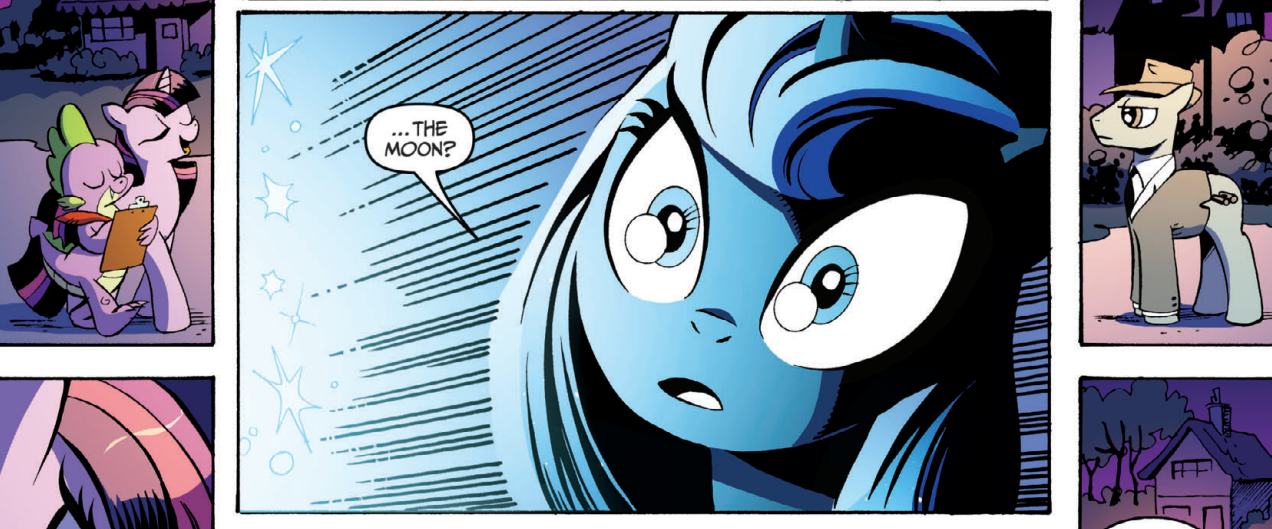
AH, WHAT A LOVELY EVE! THE MOON IS A "WAXING CRESCENT"...



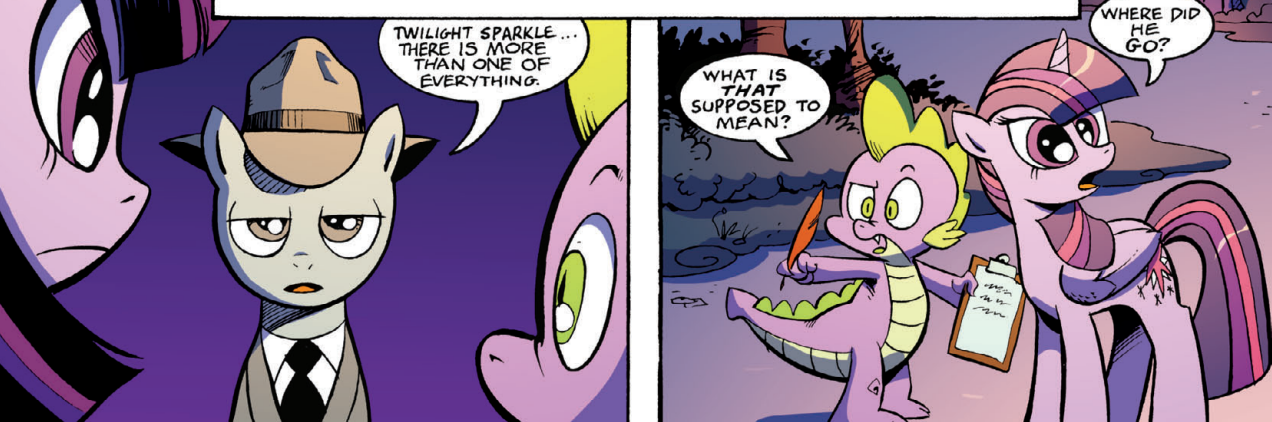
...OR IS THAT A "WANING GIBBONS"?



WHATEVER IT IS, 'TIS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT TO NOT BE BANISHED TO...



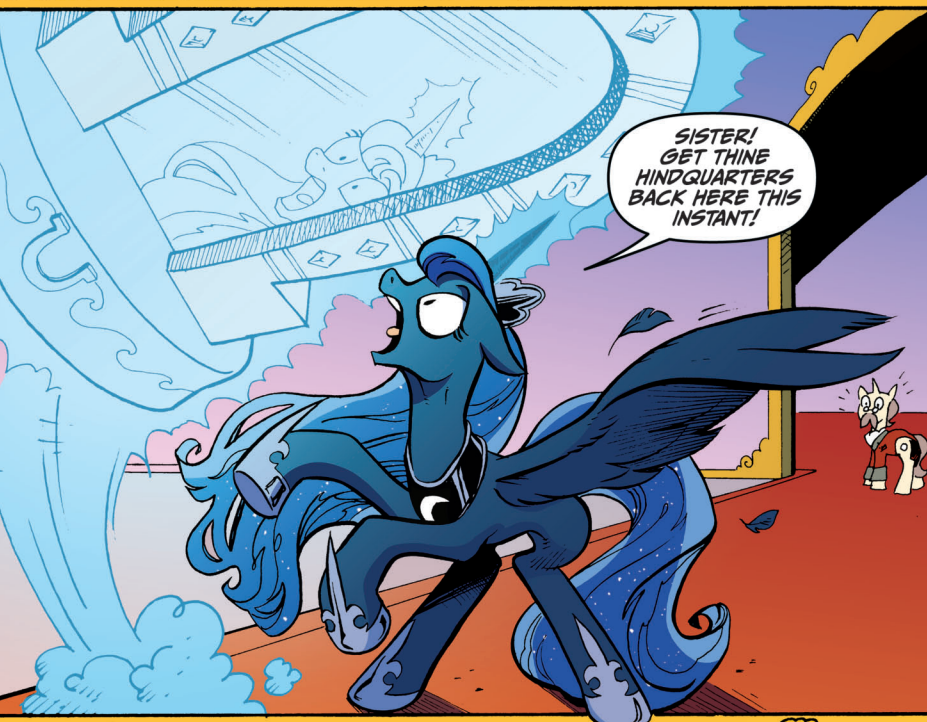
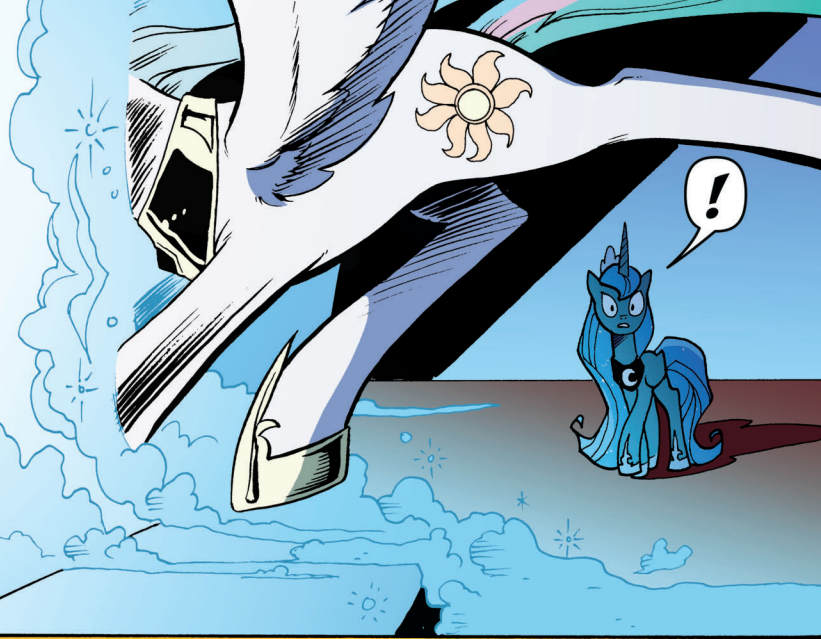
...THE MOON?



TWILIGHT SPARKLE... THERE IS MORE THAN ONE OF EVERYTHING.

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHERE DID HE GO?



REFLECTIONS Part 1

REFLECTIONS 1

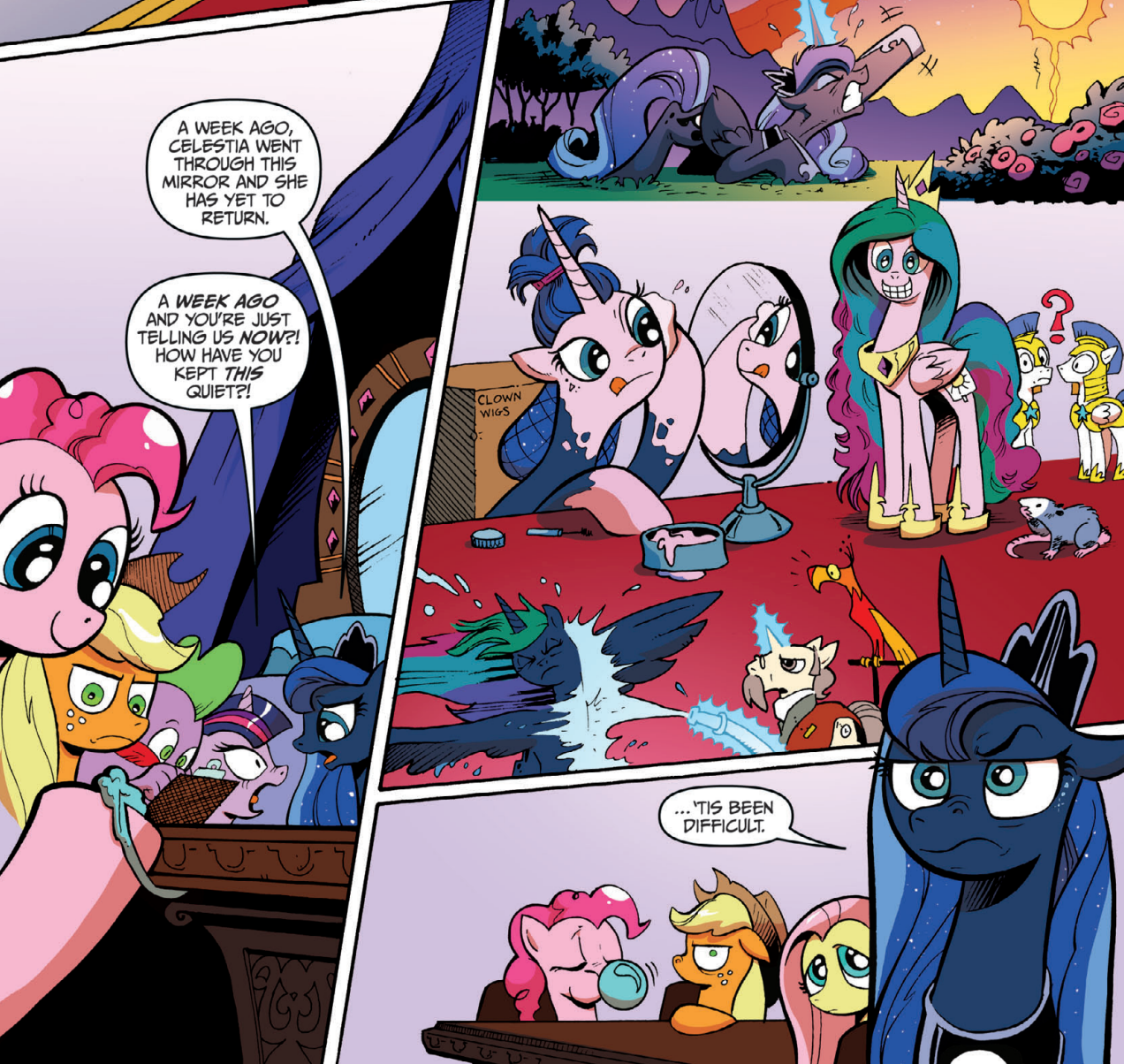


I'VE CALLED YOU SIX HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE...

...SEVEN HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE I AM MOST DISTRESSED AND MY SISTER TENDS TO CALL UPON YOU WHEN SHE IS SUCH.

SEVEN! DON'T FORGET ME!

PRINCESS LUNA, WHAT'S GOING ON?



A WEEK AGO, CELESTIA WENT THROUGH THIS MIRROR AND SHE HAS YET TO RETURN.

A WEEK AGO AND YOU'RE JUST TELLING US NOW?! HOW HAVE YOU KEPT THIS QUIET?!

...TIS BEEN DIFFICULT.







PRINCESS CELESTIA COMPARES ME TO... STAR SWIRL? THAT'S... THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE.

PERSONALLY, I THINK YOU'RE MORE LIKE CELESTIA WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER... STAR SWIRL WAS MORE LIKE THAT ONE.



NOW, BE OFF. FIND WHAT YOU CAN. WE **NEED** TO LOCATE MY SISTER... I FEEL AN UNKNOWN DARKNESS ALREADY PRESSING UPON THE KINGDOM WITHOUT HER PRESENCE.

PRINCESS, AREN'T YOU COMING WITH US?

I CANNOT. I MUST STAY HERE TO SEE TO **BOTH** OUR ROYAL DUTIES, THOUGH I FEAR I CANNOT KEEP HER DISAPPEARANCE A SECRET FOR MUCH LONGER.



SPIKE, I WANT YOU TO STAY BEHIND WITH PRINCESS LUNA. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT, YOU CAN COME GET WORD TO US. OKAY?

SIGH... MISSING OUT ON THE ADVENTURE... AGAIN...



NONSENSE, DRAGON YOUNGLING... YOU MAY BE MY ADORING COMPANION AS WE AWAIT THEIR RETURN! COME, YOU MAY START BY FETCHING ME A REFRESHMENT OF HOT COCOA WITH MARSHMALLOW BITS.



BEST OF LUCK! I HAVE FAITH YOU WILL TRIUMPH!

BRING ME BACK SOMETHING NICE!

WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN, PRINCESS!

I HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY MONSTERS IN HERE.

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT? THAT IS INVITING THAT KIND OF STUFF TO HAPPEN!



HOW EXCITING!
A QUEST FROM THE
PRINCESS AND THE
PERSONAL LIBRARY OF
**STAR SWIRL THE
BEARDED?** IF CELESTIA
HADN'T GONE MISSING,
THIS WOULD BE A
PERFECT DAY!

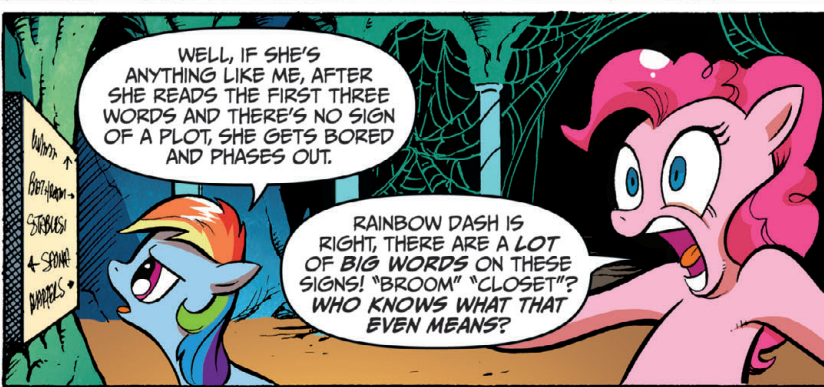
I COULD
SEE HOW **THAT**
WOULD BE A
DAMPER ON
THE FUN.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHY
PRINCESS LUNA
THOUGHT FINDING
THINGS DOWN HERE
WAS COMPLICATED,
EVERYTHING IS SO
WELL LABELED!
IT'S LIKE...

...LIKE YOU
BUILT IT?

WELL,
YES!



WELL, IF SHE'S
ANYTHING LIKE ME, AFTER
SHE READS THE FIRST THREE
WORDS AND THERE'S NO SIGN
OF A PLOT, SHE GETS BORED
AND PHASES OUT.

RAINBOW DASH IS
RIGHT, THERE ARE A LOT
OF **BIG WORDS** ON THESE
SIGNS! "BROOM" "CLOSET"?
WHO KNOWS WHAT THAT
EVEN MEANS?

YOU'RE
MAKING FUN
OF ME, AREN'T
YOU?



STAR SWIRL USED
TO WALK THESE VERY
HALLS... WE'RE STEPPING
ON THE **SAME DIRT** THAT
HE STEPPED ON!

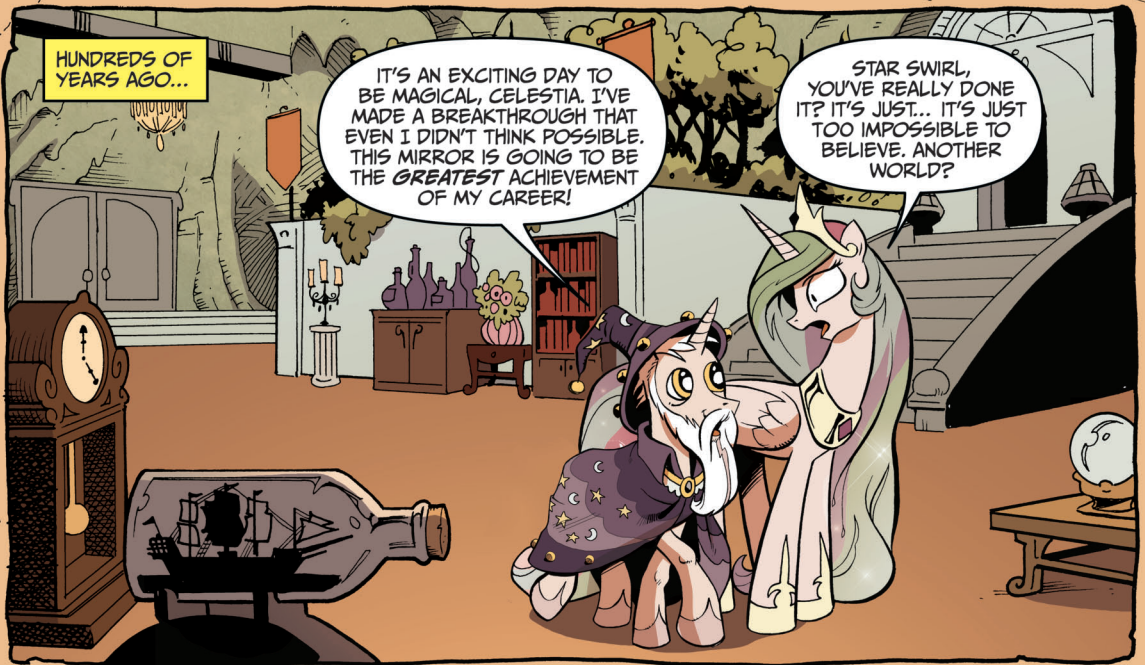
WOULDN'T
HAVE HURT TO
PUT HARDWOOD
FLOORS DOWN
HERE, WOULD
IT?

CAN YOU JUST
IMAGINE WHAT IT
WAS LIKE TO BE
HERE **HUNDREDS OF
YEARS** AGO?

HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO...

IT'S AN EXCITING DAY TO BE MAGICAL, CELESTIA. I'VE MADE A BREAKTHROUGH THAT EVEN I DIDN'T THINK POSSIBLE. THIS MIRROR IS GOING TO BE THE **GREATEST** ACHIEVEMENT OF MY CAREER!

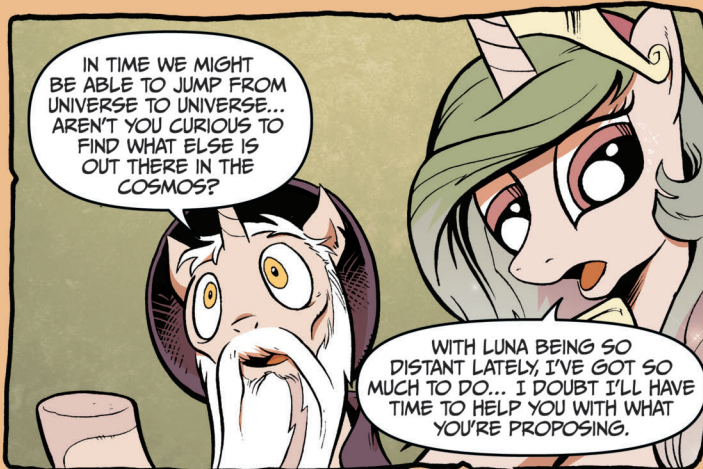
STAR SWIRL, YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT? IT'S JUST... IT'S JUST TOO IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE. ANOTHER WORLD?



IN TIME WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO JUMP FROM UNIVERSE TO UNIVERSE... AREN'T YOU CURIOUS TO FIND WHAT ELSE IS OUT THERE IN THE COSMOS?

WITH LUNA BEING SO DISTANT LATELY, I'VE GOT SO MUCH TO DO... I DOUBT I'LL HAVE TIME TO HELP YOU WITH WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING.

NOW CELESTIA, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN CONCERNED SINCE YOUR SISTER STARTED TO ACT A BIT... DARK. I'M SURE WE'LL GET HER TURNED AROUND BEFORE ANYTHING SERIOUS HAPPENS.



OH, STAR SWIRL, THANK YOU. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I NEEDED TO HEAR THAT. I'VE HAD SO MANY DOUBTS LATELY...

NEVER DOUBT YOURSELF... YOU'LL DO GREAT THINGS FOR YOUR SUBJECTS. WE ALL KNOW THAT.

NOW, ON TO OTHER MATTERS... IF THE SECRETS OF CROSS-DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL ARE GOING TO BE KEPT DOWN HERE, DO YOU THINK I SHOULD PUT UP SOME PROTECTIONS? MAYBE A TRAINED SUPERNATURAL BEAST?

MAYBE A HYDRA?

OOOOOOOH! I LIKE THAT IDEA!



BACK IN THE CAVERNS...

I LIKE IT DOWN HERE!
IT'S GOT A SPOOKY, RUSTIC
CHARM... LIKE SOMETHING
OUT OF A SCARY STORY! I
BET THERE'S A BOOGIE-PONY
BEHIND THAT CREEPY
PILE OF THINGS!

WOULD YOU
STOP SAYING
THINGS LIKE
THAT?

SEE! IF YOU HAD
SAID THAT AND WE
WERE WALKIN' BY HERE
HUNDREDS OF YEARS
AGO, THIS COULD HAVE
TOTALLY BEEN
AN ISSUE!

WELL, IT'S
PINING FOR THE
FJORDS, SO IT'S
NOT AN ISSUE.

POOR
THING!

ICK!

ALL THESE SIGNS AND
WE STILL HAVEN'T SEEN ONE
THAT MARKS THE WAY TO
STAR SWIRL'S LIBRARY?
THAT'S ODD.

OOOH!
NEVERMIND! WE
FOUND IT!

ATHENAEUM? I
THOUGHT WE WERE
LOOKING FOR A
LIBRARY?

AN ATHENAEUM IS A
LIBRARY. DIDN'T I GIVE
YOU A THESAURUS FOR
YOUR BIRTHDAY? YOU
HAVEN'T READ IT?

ATHENAEUM
and
SUNDRIES

OF COURSE I
HAVEN'T READ IT! WHO
READS A THESAURUS
FOR FUN?

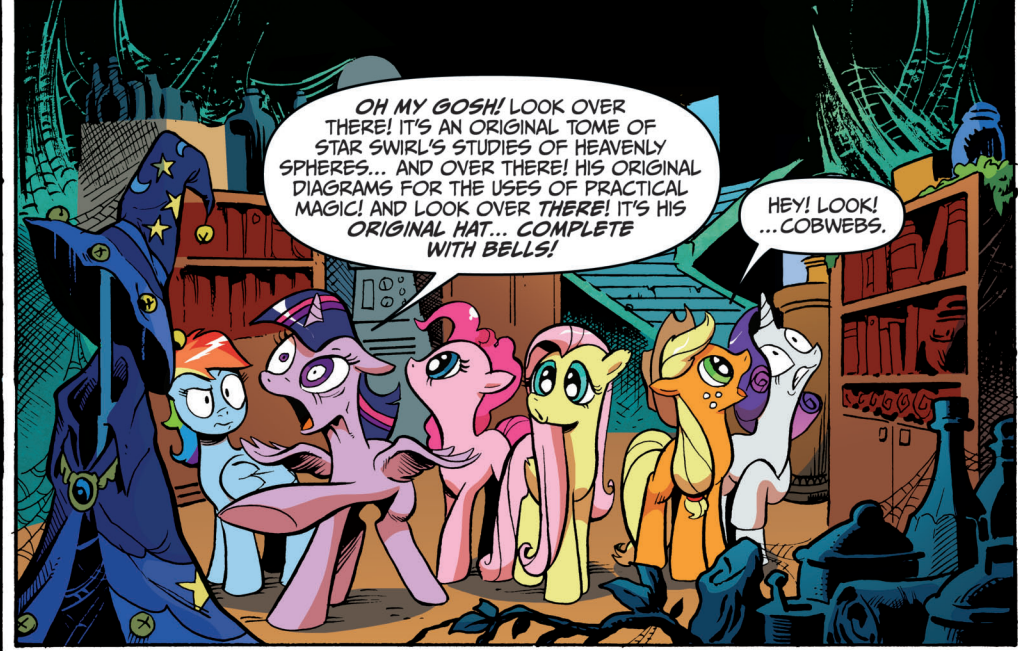
I DO! IT MAKES
THE VERNACULAR
ABOUND WITH
CONVIVIAL
PLEASantry!

OOOH! TONGUE
TWISTERS! CAN YOU
SAY "CELESTIA SELLS
SEASHELLS BY THE
SEA SHORE"?

ATHENAEUM

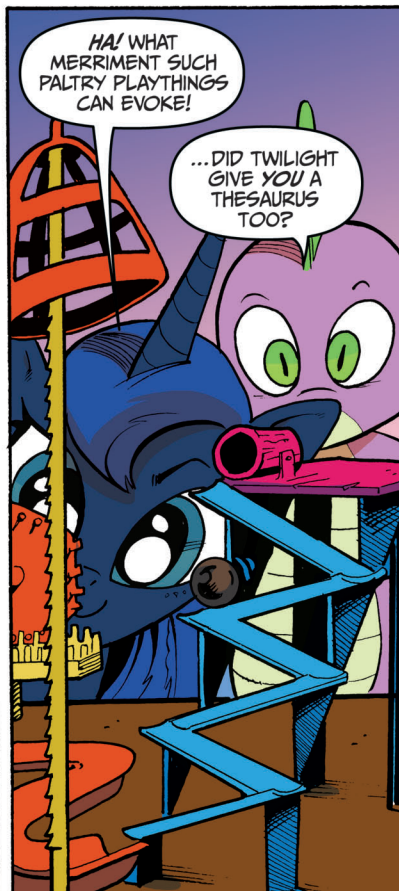
"ATHENAEUM"?
WHAT IN EQUESTRIA IS
THAT... AND WHY DO I
GET THE FEELING I'VE
SEEN THAT WORD ON A
DUSTY, GOLD PLAQUE
ON A DOOR?

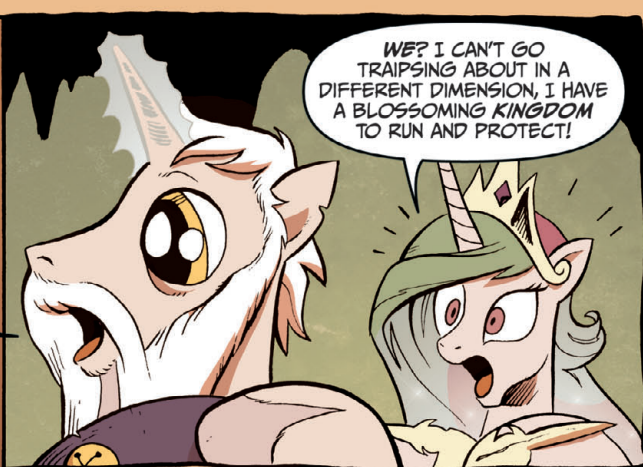
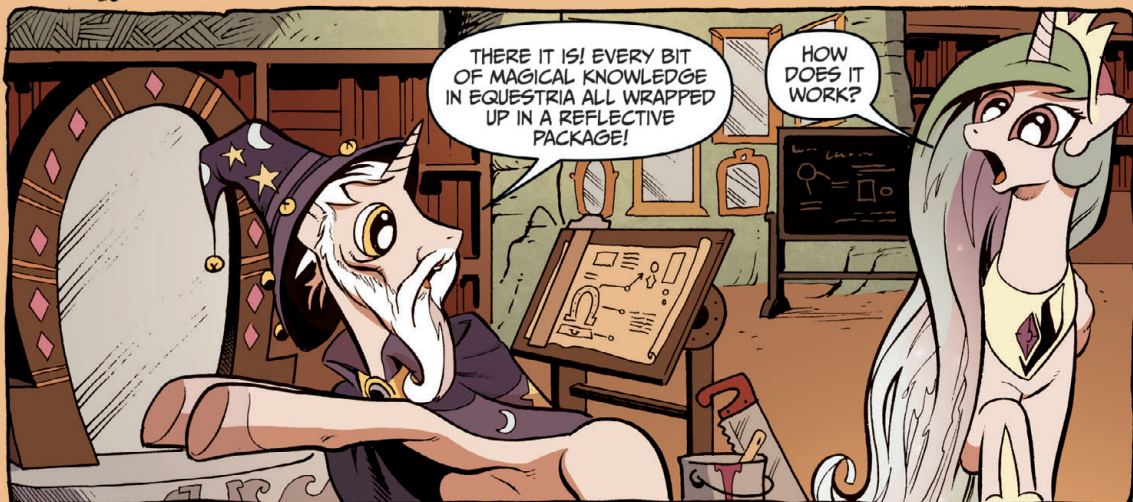
SOMETHING TO DO
WITH BOOKS. IT'S IN THE
THESAURUS TWILIGHT
MAKES ME READ. OOO!
TRIPLE WORD
SCORE!

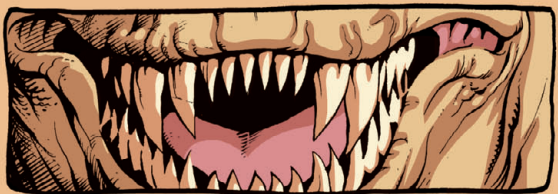
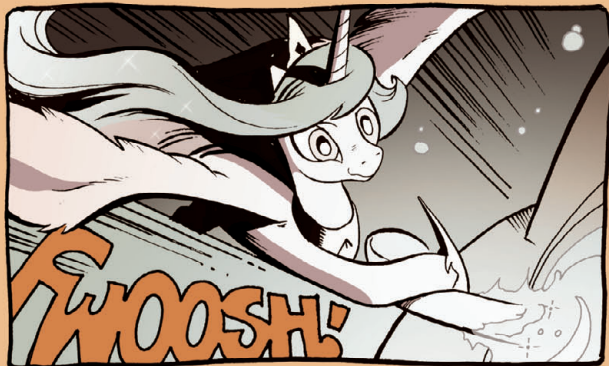












HEH! MAYBE I
PRONOUNCED THAT
FIFTH WORD WRONG?
PRONUNCIATION
IS KEY!

IS THIS
PURSUIT
OF MAGICAL
KNOWLEDGE OR
A CRAZY PONY'S
ADVENTURE LUST?
WE COULD HAVE
BEEN EATEN BY
GIANT LIZARD
BEASTS!

BUT WE
WEREN'T!

...LET'S
TRY IT
AGAIN.

AND SO IT CONTINUED
FOR DECADES.

TRY
IT...

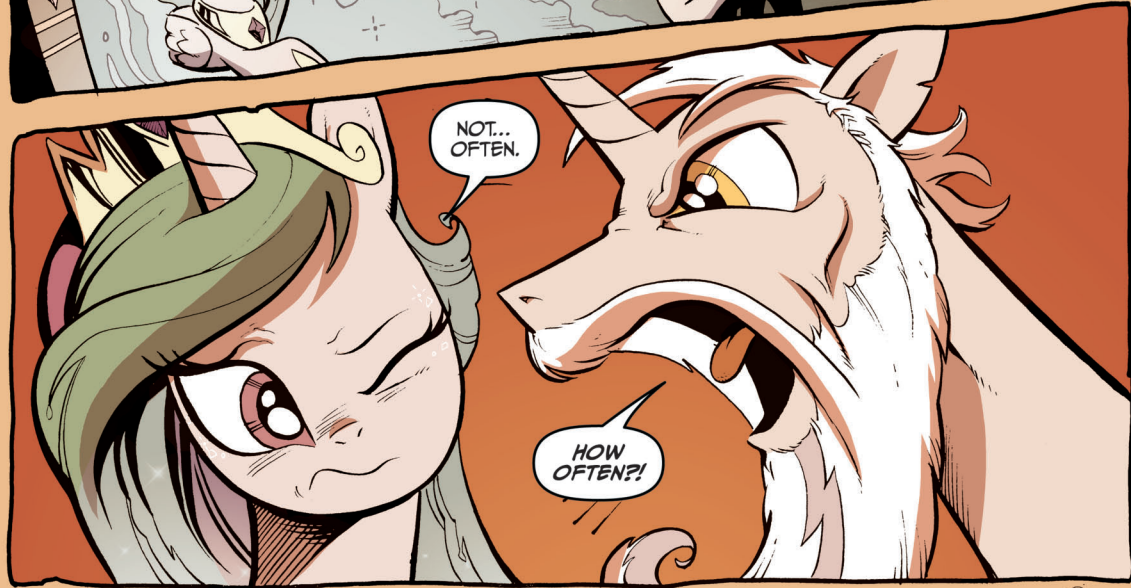
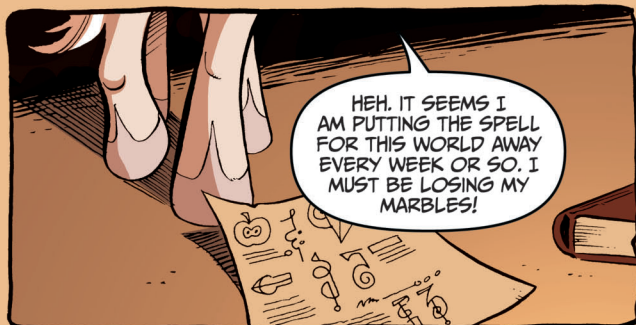
...CAN'T
HURT.

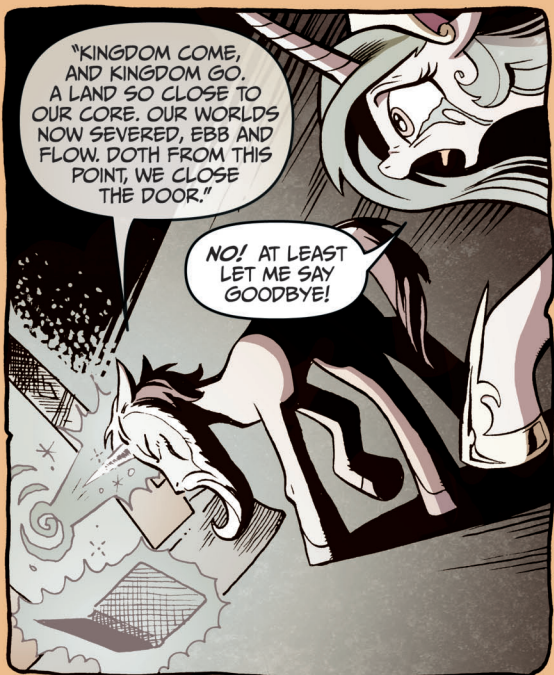
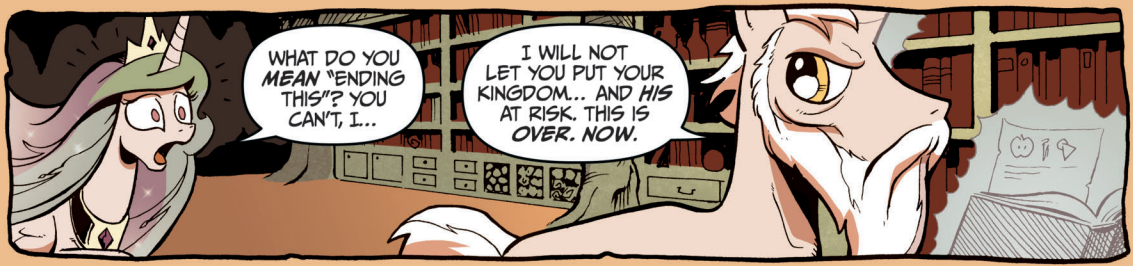
CELESTIA'S!
CHOCOLATE

HEAR THE MIRACLE
OF THE RECORDED
WORD

SCIENCE
EXPOSITION
AND FUNNEL CAKE
COOK-OFF

SECRETS
OF THE
OTHER
SIDE
VOL.
148-B







THEY EXPLORED THIS OTHER WORLD FOR YEARS! THAT'S HOW HE WAS SO MAGICALLY ADVANCED! HE LEARNED NEW THINGS FROM OTHER WIZARDS AS THEY EXPLORED AND HE RECORDED EVERYTHING! HE EVEN USED THIS MIRROR AS THE PROTOTYPE FOR THE OTHER MAGICAL MIRROR THAT I WENT THROUGH TO GO AFTER SUNSET SHIMMER!

HOW COULD CELESTIA HAVE NEVER MENTIONED ANY OF THIS? ESPECIALLY NOT TO HER OWN SISTER?



I DON'T KNOW... BUT ALL THE RESEARCH ENDS PRETTY ABRUPTLY. HE JUST MENTIONS THAT THERE WAS AN INCIDENT AND HE SEALED OFF THE PORTAL. HE AND CELESTIA STOPPED THEIR EXPLORATIONS AFTER THAT.

WHAT "INCIDENT"?



NO IDEA. IT JUST SAYS HE FELT TOO OLD TO CONTINUE ON BY HIMSELF. THERE'S SEVERAL MISSING PAGES AFTER THAT. I GUESS CELESTIA STOPPED GOING WITH HIM? WHY WOULD SHE STOP?



LET'S GET THIS ALL BACK TO PRINCESS LUNA!

HEY, EVERYBODY! LOOK WHAT I FOUND!

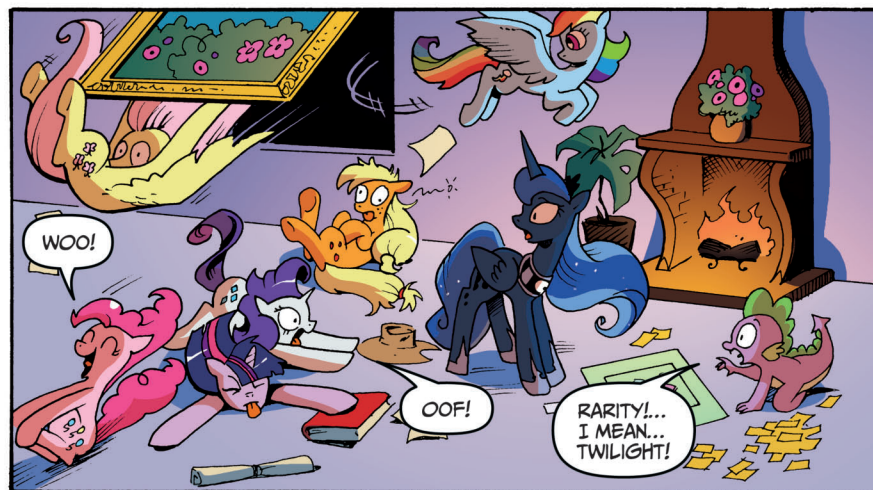


THANK YOU, PINKIE! THAT'S VERY HELPFUL!

WHAT?!



WHOA NELLY!





CASPI!



KING
SOMBRAP?
NO!

SISTER! I
DIDN'T MEAN IT! I
LOVE STRESS!
WAKE UP!

TO BE
CONTINUED...

How Star Swirl Got
His Hat
by katie cook

EW. THIS
IS THE UGLIEST
HAT I'VE EVER MADE!
WHAT WAS I
THINKING?!

