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COOK
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my LITTLE PONY™

Friendship
is Magic



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Friendship
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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 Jurries, Ed Lane, Brian Lenard, Marissa Mansollilo, Donna Tobin, Michael Vogel, Mark Wiesenhahn, 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

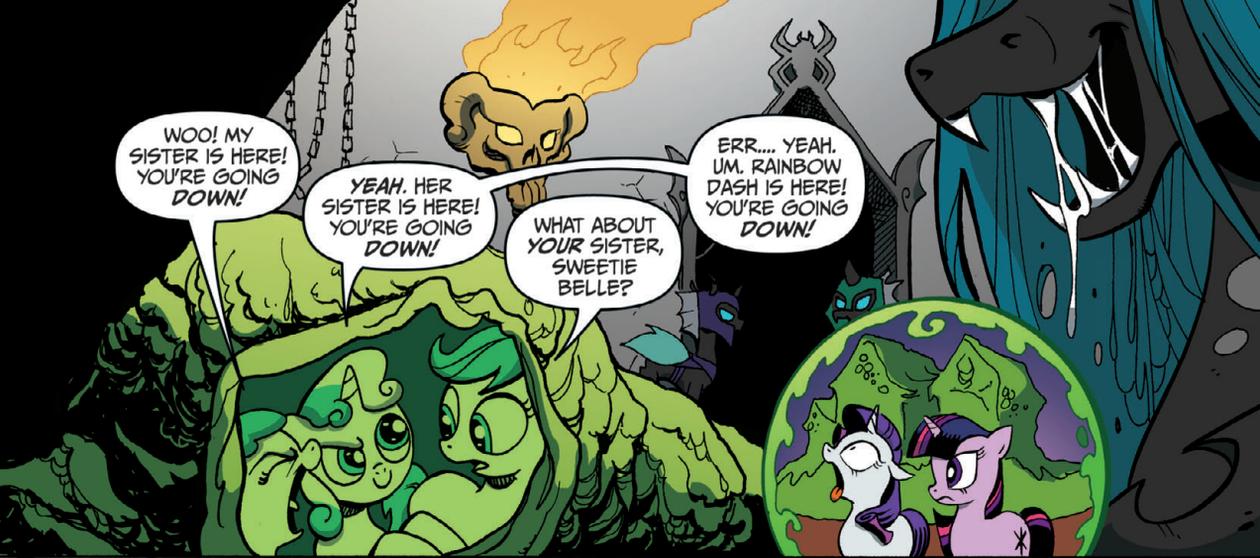
WELL, I DON'T THINK WE CAN RELY ON JUST MY MAGIC... WHAT ABOUT—

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!

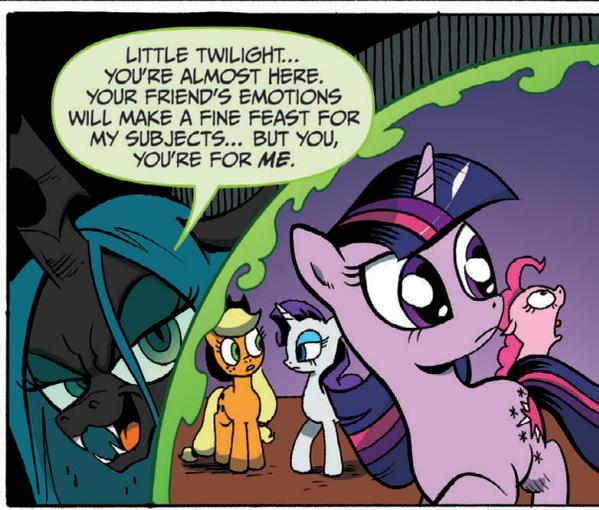
YEAH. HER SISTER IS HERE! YOU'RE GOING DOWN!

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?

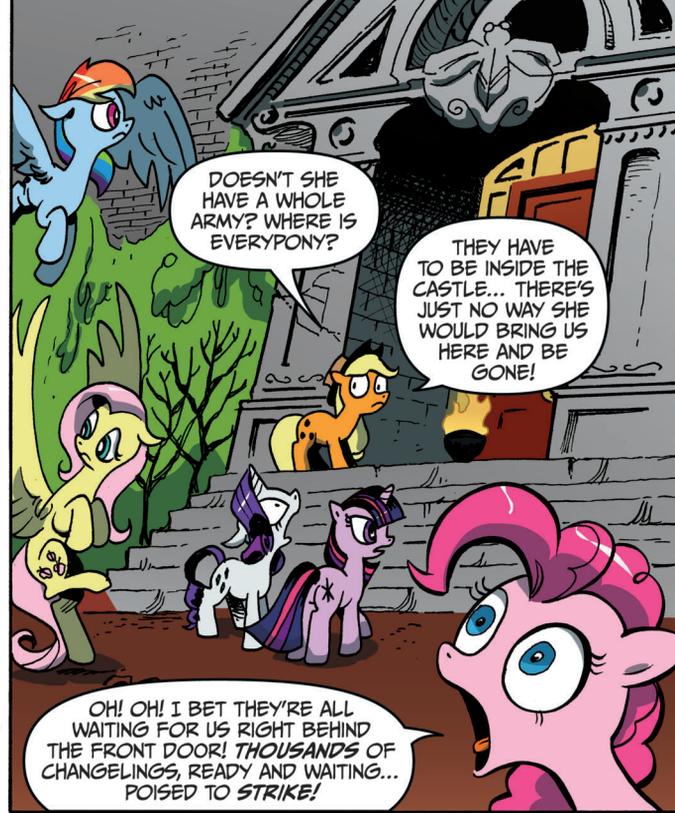
NO.

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...

CRASH



OREEEEAAAKK



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!



LA DE DEEEE,
LA DE DA...



RRR!



Le Close

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!

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

COME, MY ANGEL!

EW!

HERE GOES...

WHAT THE...

237

DO NOT DISTURB

SLAM

SLAM

SLAM

CRREEEEEEAAAKKK

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.

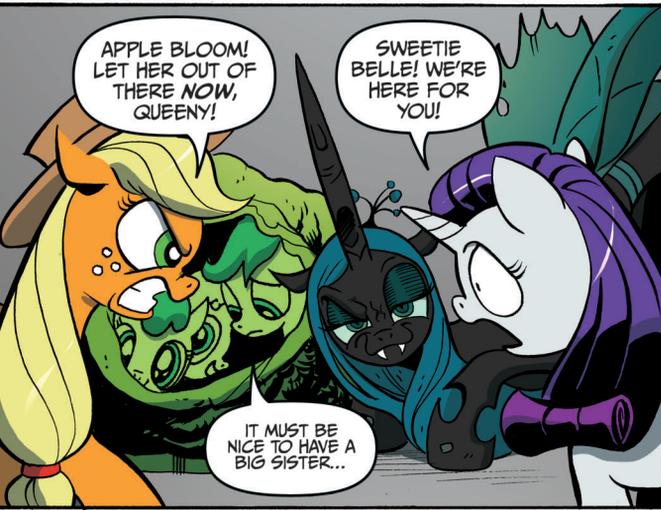
I'M WARNING YOU!

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.



DETAIN THE REST,
LEAVE TWILIGHT
SPARKLE FOR
ME.

EEK!

YEAH. LET'S
DO THIS!



YOU CAN'T WIN!
WE HAVE LOVE ON
OUR SIDE!

PFFT! LOVE. LOVE IS
FICKLE. LOVE CAN CHANGE.
LOVE CAN BE CONSUMED AND THE
LEFTOVERS OF A HEART SPIT
OUT LIKE SEED.



NO...
LOVE IS...
OW!

AND, ABOVE
ALL, LOVE WILL
NOT SAVE YOU
TODAY.



THE
COMET IS
APPROACHING.
I CAN FEEL MY
MAGIC GETTING
STRONGER...



IT IS AWFULLY
DIFFICULT TO
MONOLOGUE WHEN
YOU PEONS ARE
BEING SO LOUD.

WHAT'S A
PEON?

I THINK
IT WAS AN
INSULT.

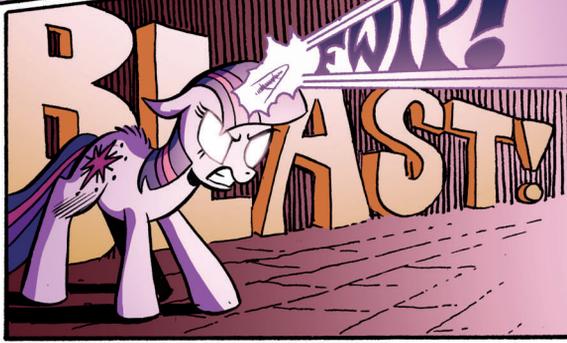


THAT'S BETTER.

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?



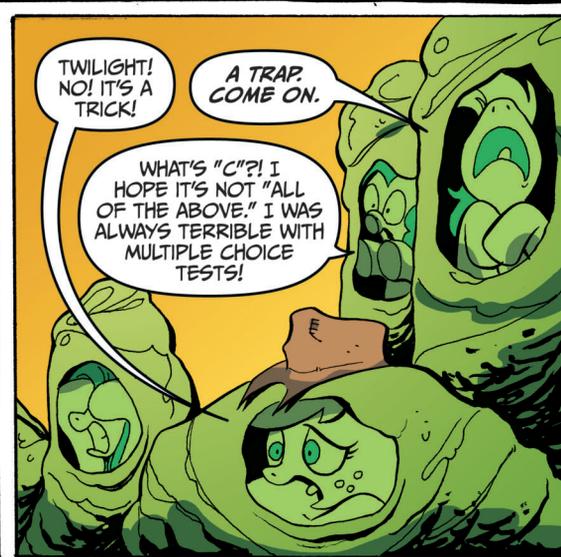
YOU. YOU WILL BECOME MY PUPIL. MY PEER. THE THINGS WE COULD LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AS WE RULE THIS LAND AND THE NEXT KINGDOMS WILL FALL AT OUR HOVES...

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.

NICE PRIORITIES, APPLE BLOOM.

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



EVERYBODY... 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...



THESE PONIES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PONIES IN THE WORLD TO ME. I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO SAVE THEM. ANYTHING.

NO!



RELEASE THEM. I'LL STAY.

EXCELLENT!

TWILIGHT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GOODY! GOODY! GOODY!



EVERYPONY... GO HOME. GET TO PRINCESS CELESTIA. WHATEVER IT TAKES, WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU COME BACK HERE AND FIGHT. FIGHT HER. FIGHT ME IF YOU HAVE TO.

NO! YOU CAN FIGHT HER NOW.

WE BELIEVE IN YOU, TWILIGHT!



THAT BLAST EARLIER WAS THE STRONGEST MY MAGIC HAS EVER BEEN AND SHE WITHSTOOD IT... I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE. I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU, AND I CAN SAVE ALL OF YOU NOW.



I CHOSE YOU. LET THEM GO HOME.

OH... IT'S ALL SO TOUCHING. I'M TORN, REALLY.

REALLY?!

NO.



I'M GOING TO MISS THAT GREEN, GLOBBY THING.

NOT ME, YOU HAVEN'T HAD A BATH IN THREE DAYS.

DINKLE DINKLE-DINK!

NO WAY WE'RE LEAVING! COME ON, LET'S HELP TWILIGHT!



TWILIGHT!

WHAT...

WHOOSH

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS OUT... THEY PULL ME BACK IN!



SAVING YOUR FRIENDS IS A NICE SENTIMENT... REALLY... BUT, I'LL STILL DRAIN YOU OF YOUR LOVE, JUST NOT YOUR MAGIC. YOU'LL BE MUCH MORE COMPLIANT WITH A BLACK HEART.

WAIT, YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT...



AND AFTER YOU'RE AS COLD AS ME, YOU'LL DRAIN YOUR EX-FRIENDS YOURSELF.

NO! YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T HURT THEM!

I'M NOT...



...YOU ARE.



LOOK TO THE SKY, LITTLE TWILIGHT. THE COMET IS OVERHEAD. SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR LIFE AS YOU KNOW IT.



NO! I
WONT... SAY...
GOODBYE...

Adrian
Hill '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'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!

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



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!



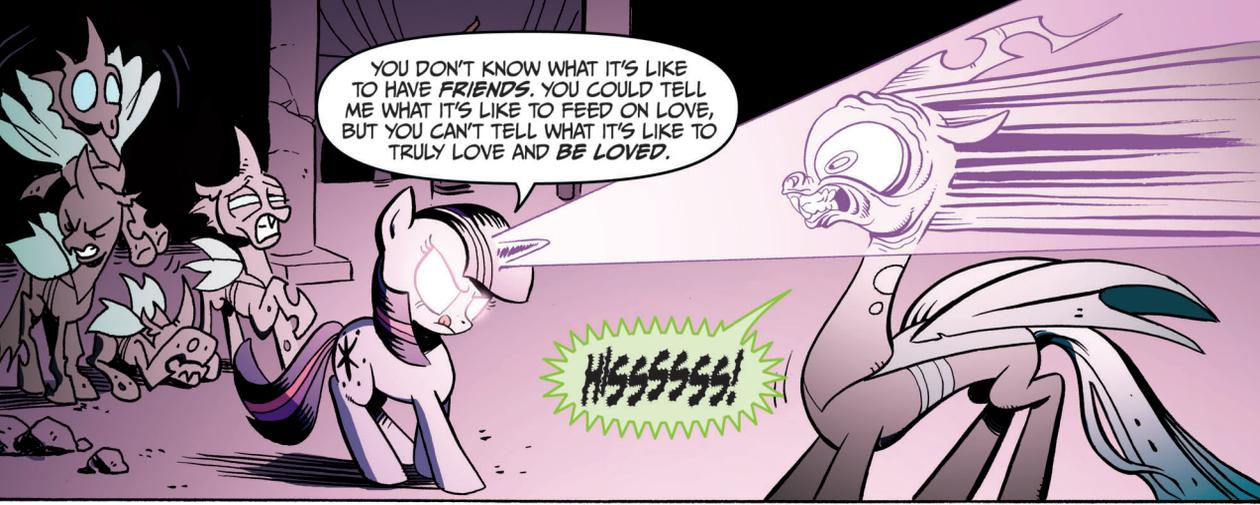
AND YOU'LL NEVER HAVE EQUESTRIA. YOU CAN'T... WIN... THIS... FIGHT!

WOO! GO TWILIGHT!

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

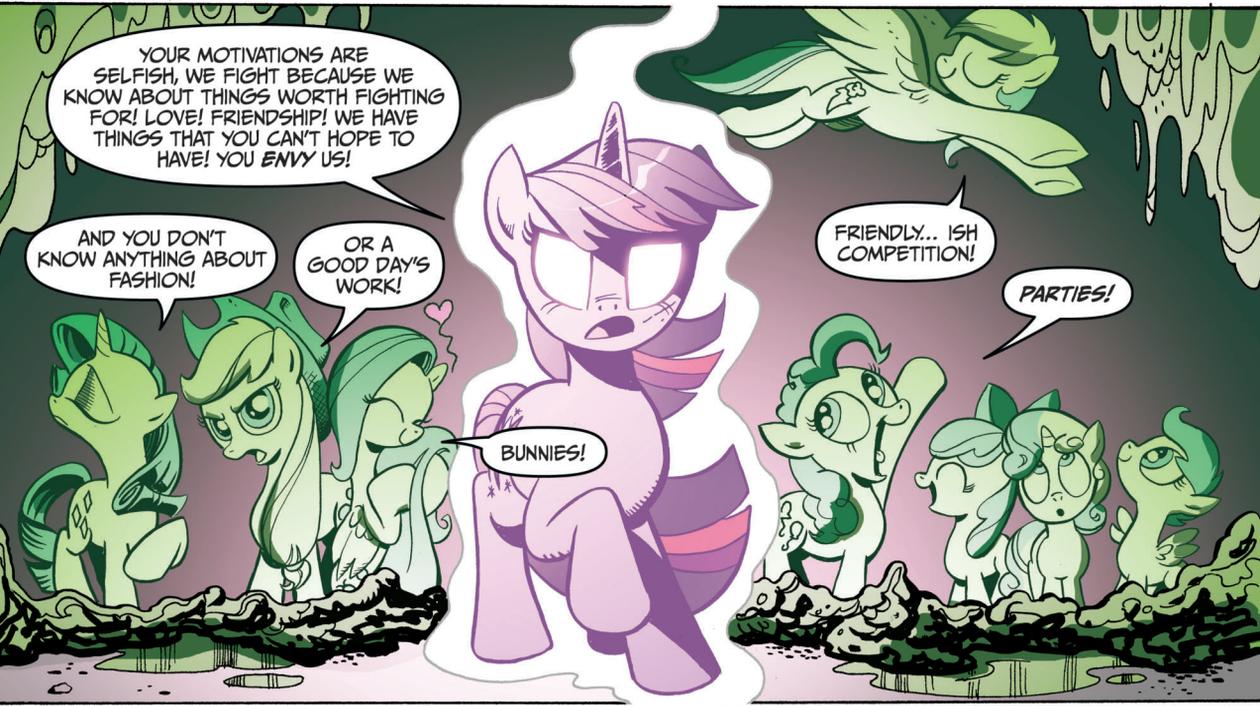
I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE HER! LOOK AT HER!

HEY!



YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE FRIENDS. YOU COULD TELL ME WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEED ON LOVE, BUT YOU CAN'T TELL WHAT IT'S LIKE TO TRULY LOVE AND BE LOVED.

HISSSSSS!



YOUR MOTIVATIONS ARE SELFISH, WE FIGHT BECAUSE WE KNOW ABOUT THINGS WORTH FIGHTING FOR! LOVE! FRIENDSHIP! WE HAVE THINGS THAT YOU CAN'T HOPE TO HAVE! YOU ENVY US!

AND YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FASHION!

OR A GOOD DAY'S WORK!

BUNNIES!

FRIENDLY... ISH COMPETITION!

PARTIES!



SISTERHOOD!

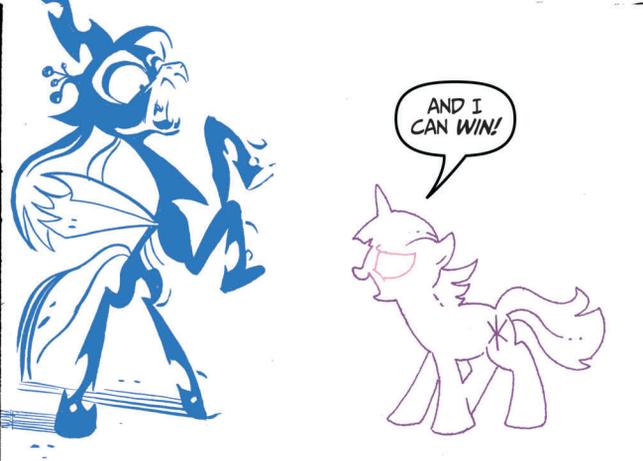
AND YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT LOVE!

TWILIGHT ALREADY SAID THAT... YEESH.



STOP... THIS... NONSENSE. YOU CAN'T... DEFEAT ME.

PONIES WHO CAN'T DO THINGS THEMSELVES TELL OTHERS THAT THEY CAN'T DO IT... I CAN STAND UP TO YOU.



AND I CAN WIN!



EVERYPONY DUCK!

WHO A!

THERE ARE DUCKS HERE?! OH NO! PROTECT THEM!

CRACK!



TWILIGHT?! ARE YOU OKAY?

TWILIGHT?!

TWILIGHT? WAKE UP!

SLAP!

RAINBOW! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT ME! OW!

SHE'S OKAY.

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.

HE WAS VERY BRAVE!

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

MAYOR MARE GAVE ME A MEDAL!



I RODE ONE INTO THE CENTER OF TOWN AND SAVED THE CITY!

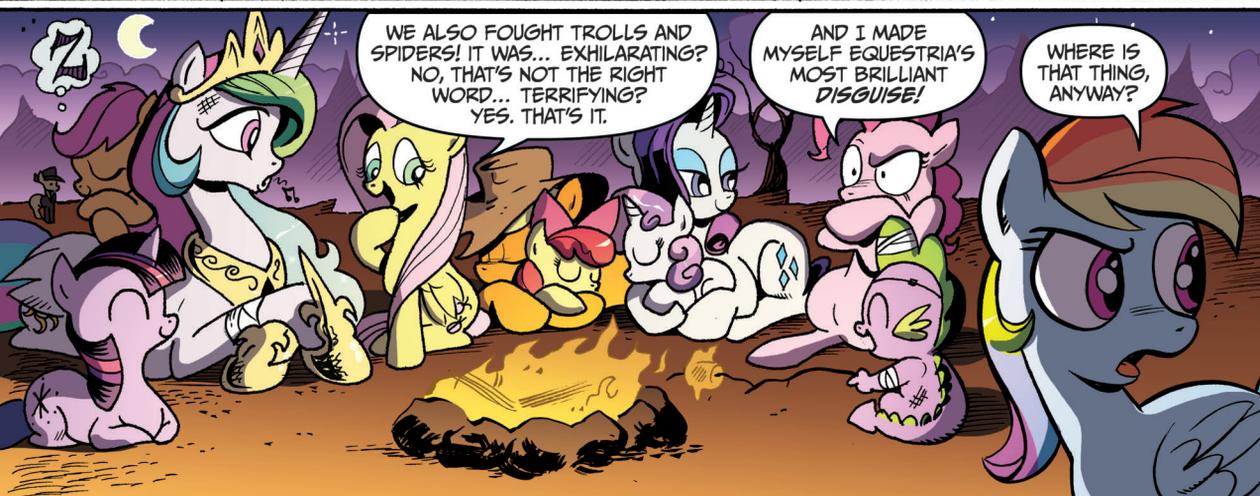
IT WAS AWESOME. I HAD A TRIDENT!



WAY TO GO, SPIKE!

YEAH!







IT SOUNDS LIKE QUITE THE ADVENTURE... I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT IT FROM YOU. BUT, PLEASE TELL ME, WHERE IS THE CHANGELING QUEEN NOW?

OH... SHE'S SOMEWHERE SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO BREAK OUT OF FOR A WHILE...

I HELPED!



WHAT WORD RHYMES WITH ORANGE? WHILE YOU THINK ABOUT IT, LET ME SING YOU A SONG! LA LA LA! THIS IS THE SONG THAT WILL NEVEEEER END...



DOOR TINGE?

CORE TINGE?

SHUT UP, ALL OF YOU. JUST SHUT UP.

THE END

I AM SOOO LOST.



Katze Cook
CJ Puet
Heather Braddy

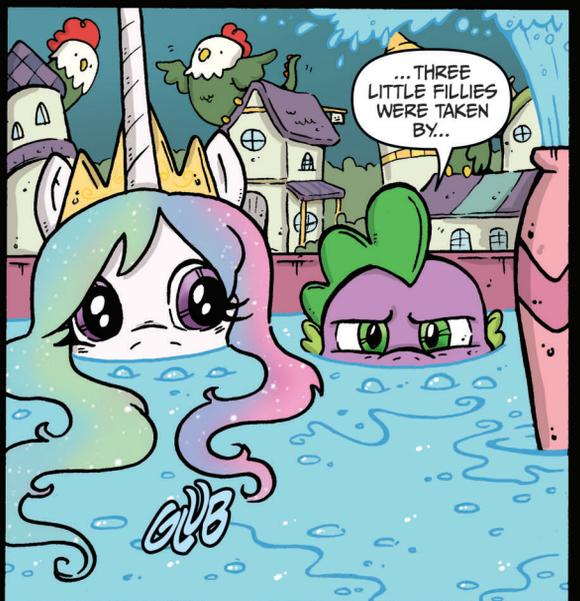
NEXT MONTH:
ISSUE #5

my LITTLE
PONY™
Friendship
is Magic



A
2012

"IN THE INTERIM..." by Katie Cook



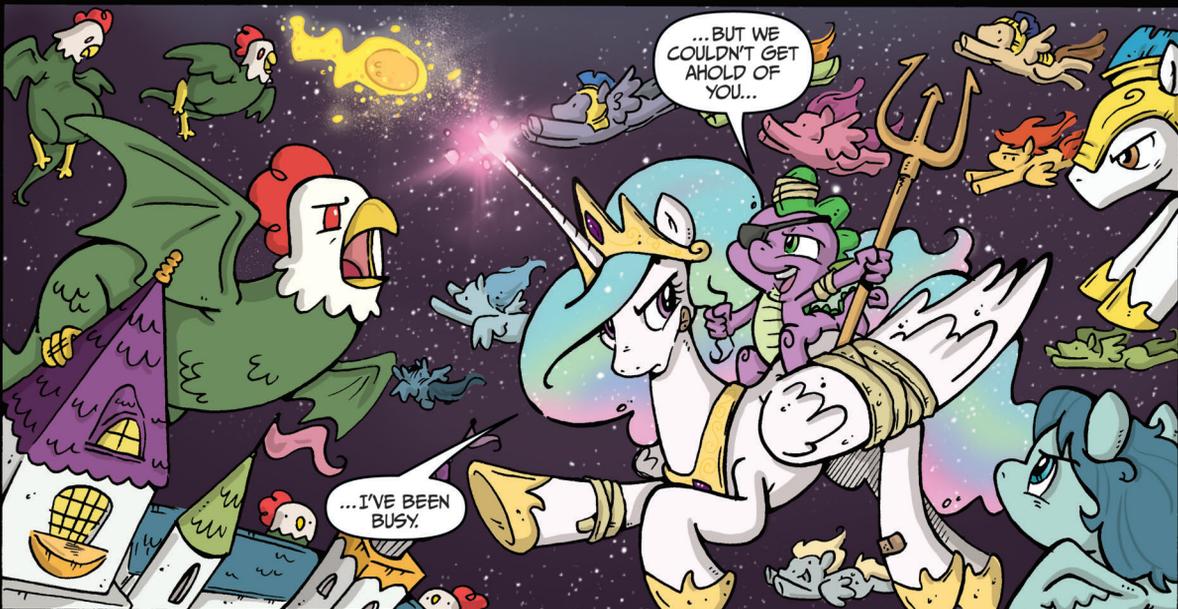


SCREECH!

...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