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#36

WHITLEY
PRICE
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my LITTLE PONY

Friendship
Magic



Ad Price 15



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NOOOO!
WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE?!

WE DID IT. WE
BEAT THE TWO
SISTERS!

NOW THERE
IS NOTHING
LEFT TO DO
BUT—

WAIT!



THERE'S ANOTHER
PRINCESS HERE THAT
NEEDS TO BE DEALT
WITH PERMANENTLY.
SHE'LL TRY TO
STOP ME.

SOMBRA, SHE'S
TRAPPED. TELL HIM,
PRINCESS. YOU WON'T
GET IN HIS WAY,
WILL YOU?

NO, I
WON'T.

SEE, SHE
SAID SHE—

I WASN'T
FINISHED.



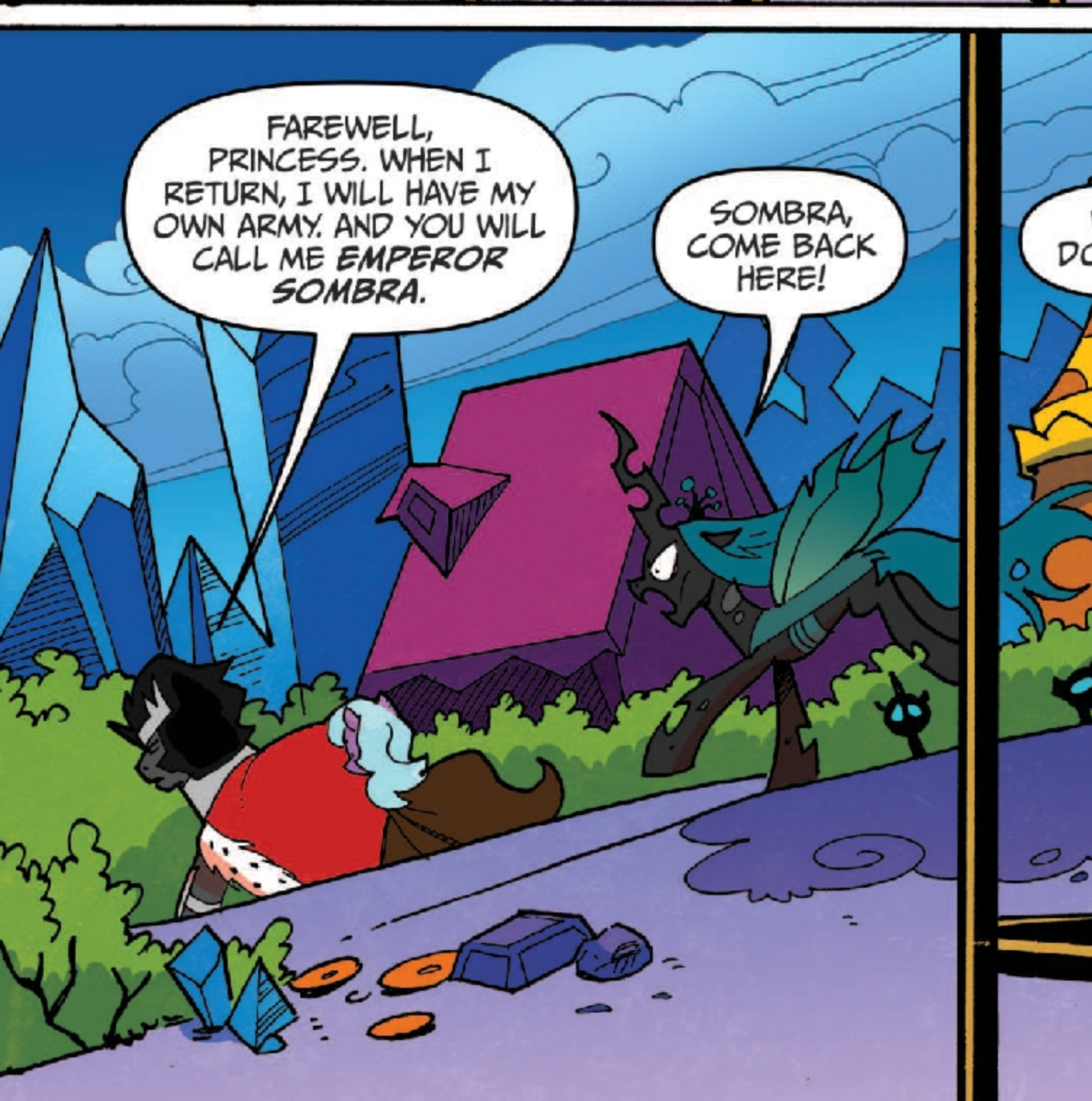
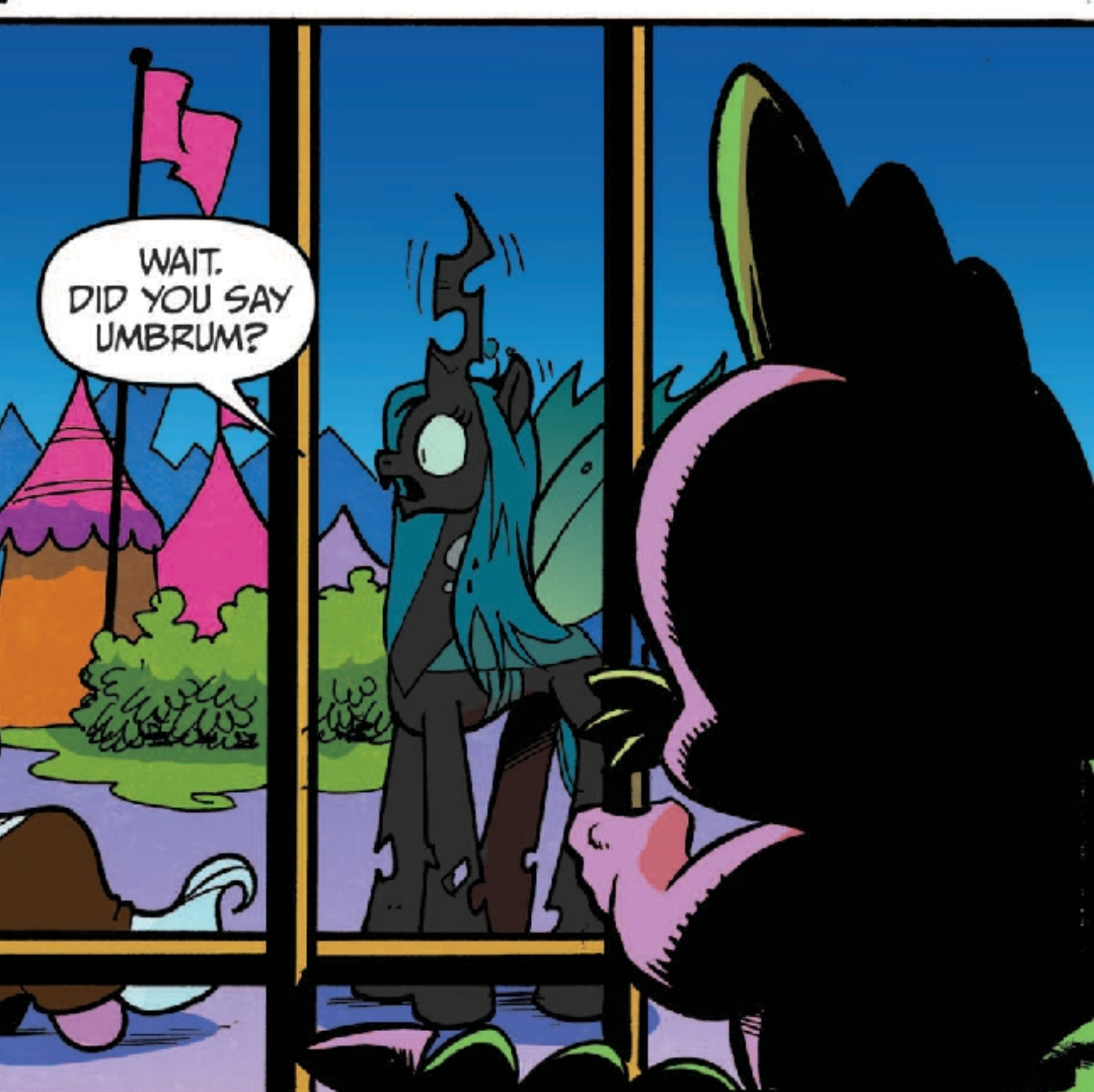
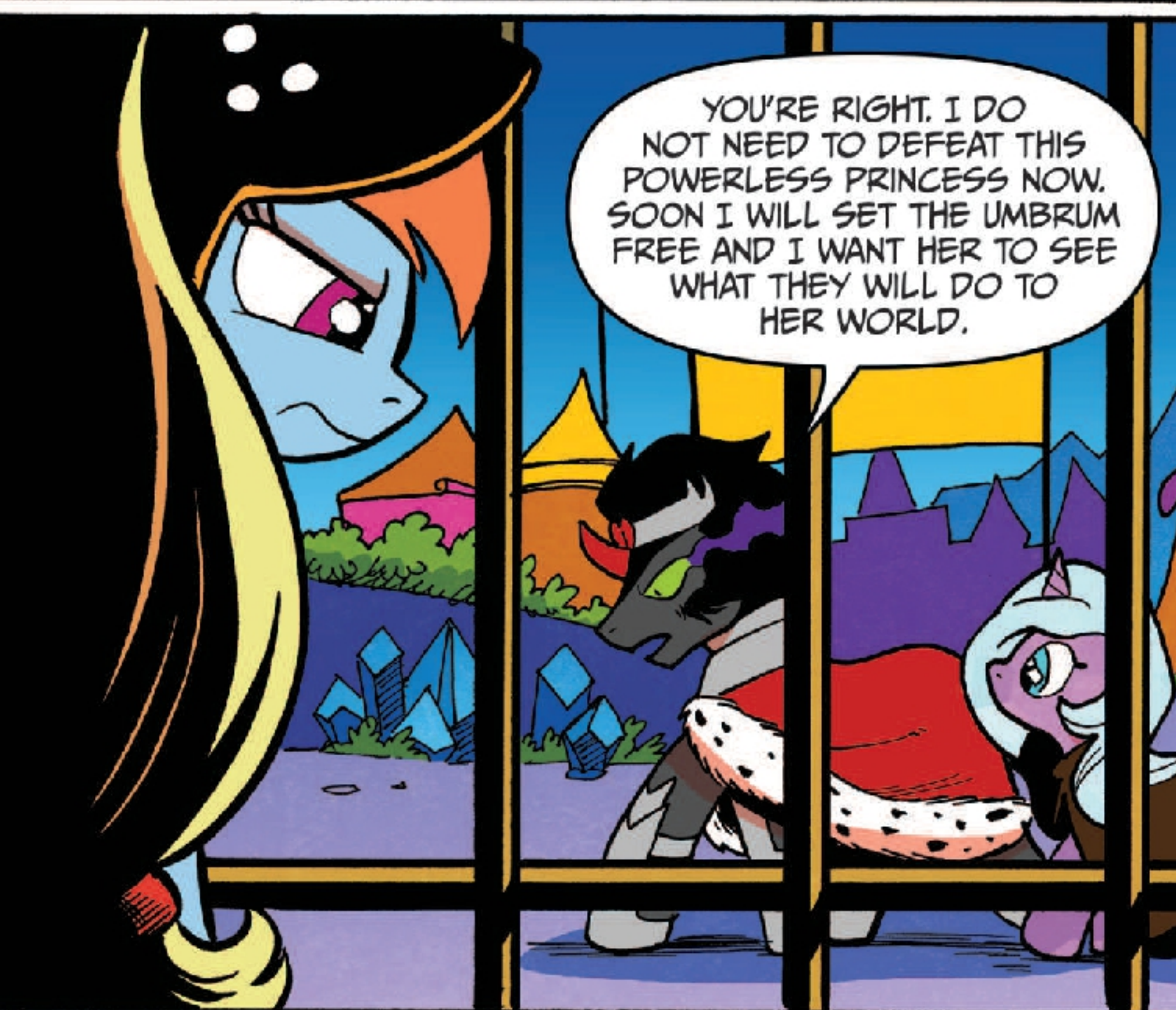
I WON'T STAY OUT OF
HIS WAY. AS LONG AS I STILL
HAVE THE STRENGTH TO STAND,
I WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU ARE
PUNISHED FOR WHAT YOU
DID TO CELESTIA
AND LUNA.

YOU'RE A BRAVE
FOOL, TWILIGHT
SPARKLE.

AND YOU'RE A
VICIOUS COWARD.
I READ YOUR
JOURNAL.



AND NOW YOU'LL
JUST BE ANOTHER
ENTRY IN IT. GOODBYE,
PRINCESS.





DON'T YOU DARE IGNORE ME. **SOMBRA!**

I ALREADY GROW TIRED OF YOU. REMOVE YOURSELF FROM MY PATH.



I AIDED IN YOUR RESCUE! IT IS MY ARMY THAT DEFEATED YOUR FOES! I AM A QUEEN AND YOU WILL SHOW ME THE RESPECT BEFITTING A QUEEN.

THIS SEEMS LIKE THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR A QUEEN OF INSECTS. A QUEEN OF VERMIN.

HOW DARE YOU!

SOMBRA...



SHE IS OUR ALLY. YOU SHOULD HEAR HER OUT.

VERY WELL. SAY YOUR PIECE.

THANK YOU.



WHEN YOUR PONY APPROACHED ME TO AID IN YOUR RETURN, I WAS TOLD IT WAS TO OVERTHROW THESE PRINCESSES.

AND HAVE WE NOT DONE SO?!

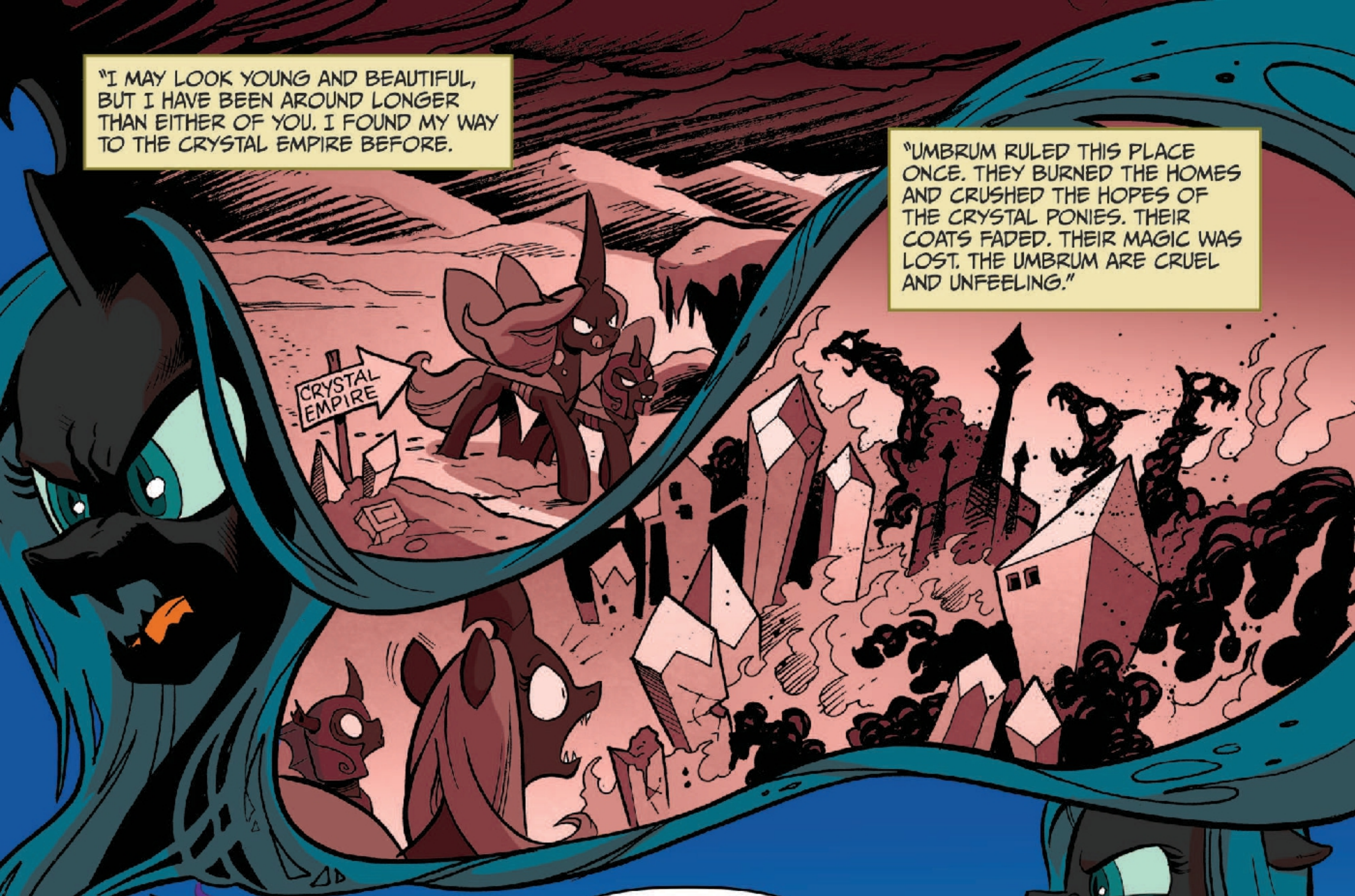
YES. BUT I WAS ALSO TOLD MY CHANGELINGS WOULD BE FREE TO ROAM EQUESTRIA AND FEED ON THE EMOTIONS OF ALL PONIES.

AND THEY SHALL.

NOT IF YOU UNLEASH THE UMBRUM.

"I MAY LOOK YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL, BUT I HAVE BEEN AROUND LONGER THAN EITHER OF YOU. I FOUND MY WAY TO THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE BEFORE.

"UMBRUM RULED THIS PLACE ONCE. THEY BURNED THE HOMES AND CRUSHED THE HOPES OF THE CRYSTAL PONIES. THEIR COATS FADED. THEIR MAGIC WAS LOST. THE UMBRUM ARE CRUEL AND UNFEELING."



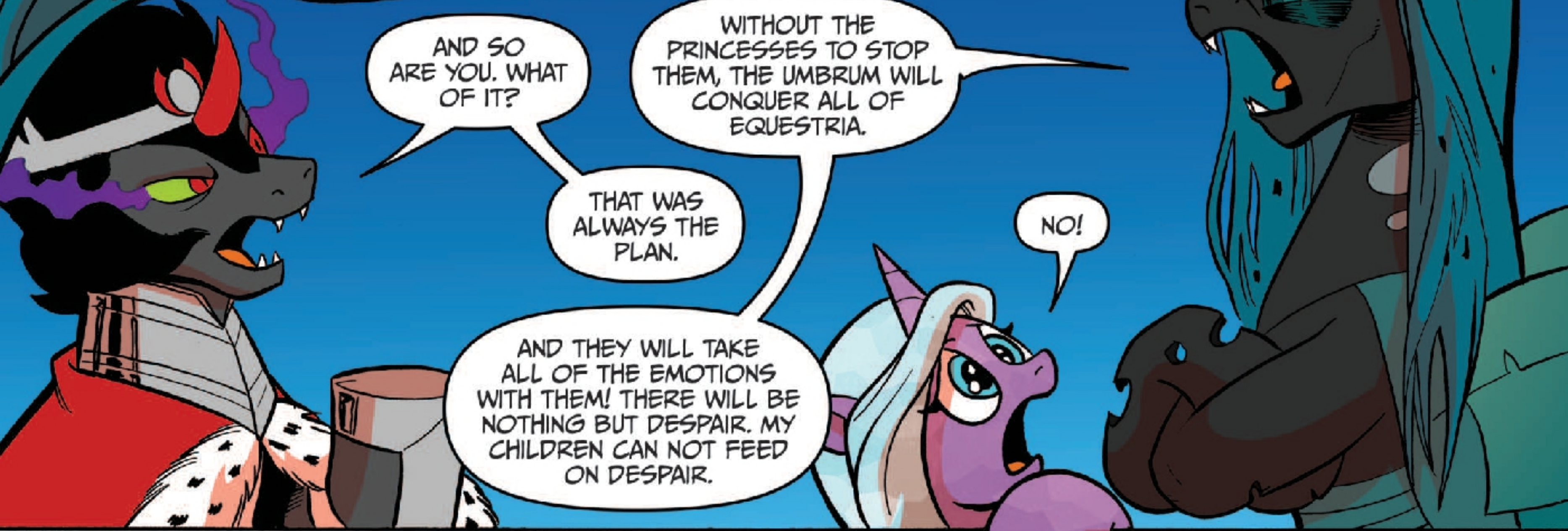
AND SO ARE YOU. WHAT OF IT?

WITHOUT THE PRINCESSES TO STOP THEM, THE UMBRUM WILL CONQUER ALL OF EQUESTRIA.

THAT WAS ALWAYS THE PLAN.

NO!

AND THEY WILL TAKE ALL OF THE EMOTIONS WITH THEM! THERE WILL BE NOTHING BUT DESPAIR. MY CHILDREN CAN NOT FEED ON DESPAIR.



THAT'S NOT WHAT THEY ARE! I LIVED AMONG THEM. THEY HAVE HOPES AND DREAMS LIKE ANY OTHER CREATURE. THEY JUST WANT TO BE FREE.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, YOU ARE DUMBER THAN YOU LOOK.

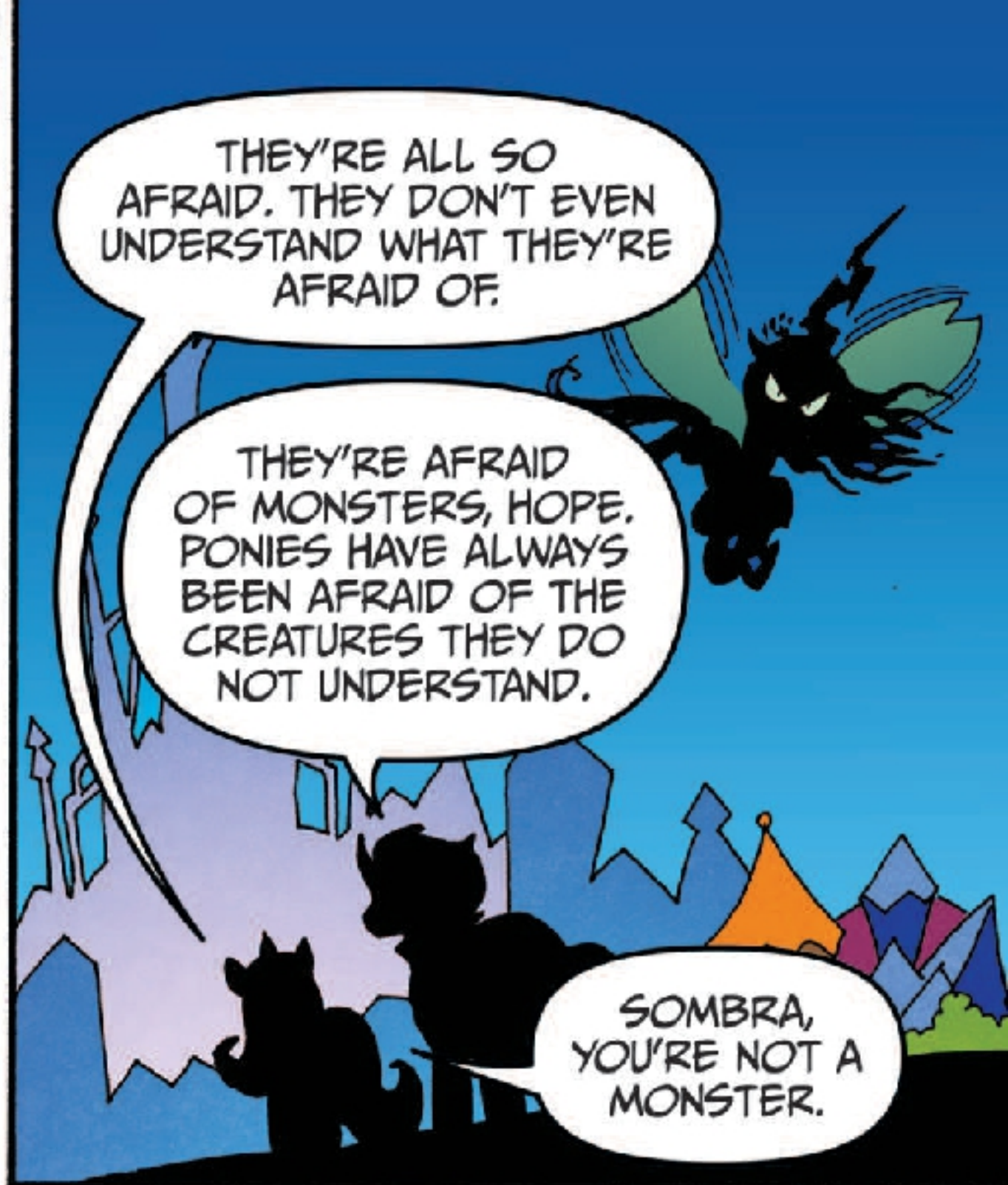
ENOUGH! THE UMBRUM WILL BE FREED AND IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME, I'LL HAVE ONE MORE STATUE IN MY GARDEN.





FINE. I'LL HELP YOU. BUT DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.

I PROMISE, CHRYSALIS, THEY'RE NOT LIKE YOU THINK THEY ARE. YOU'LL SEE.



THEY'RE ALL SO AFRAID. THEY DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE AFRAID OF.

THEY'RE AFRAID OF MONSTERS, HOPE. PONIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID OF THE CREATURES THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

SOMBRA, YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER.



JUST A FEW MINUTES WITH MY HEALING SPELL WILL MAKE YOU RIGHT AS RAIN.

I WANT YOU TO STAY UP HERE.

WHAT?

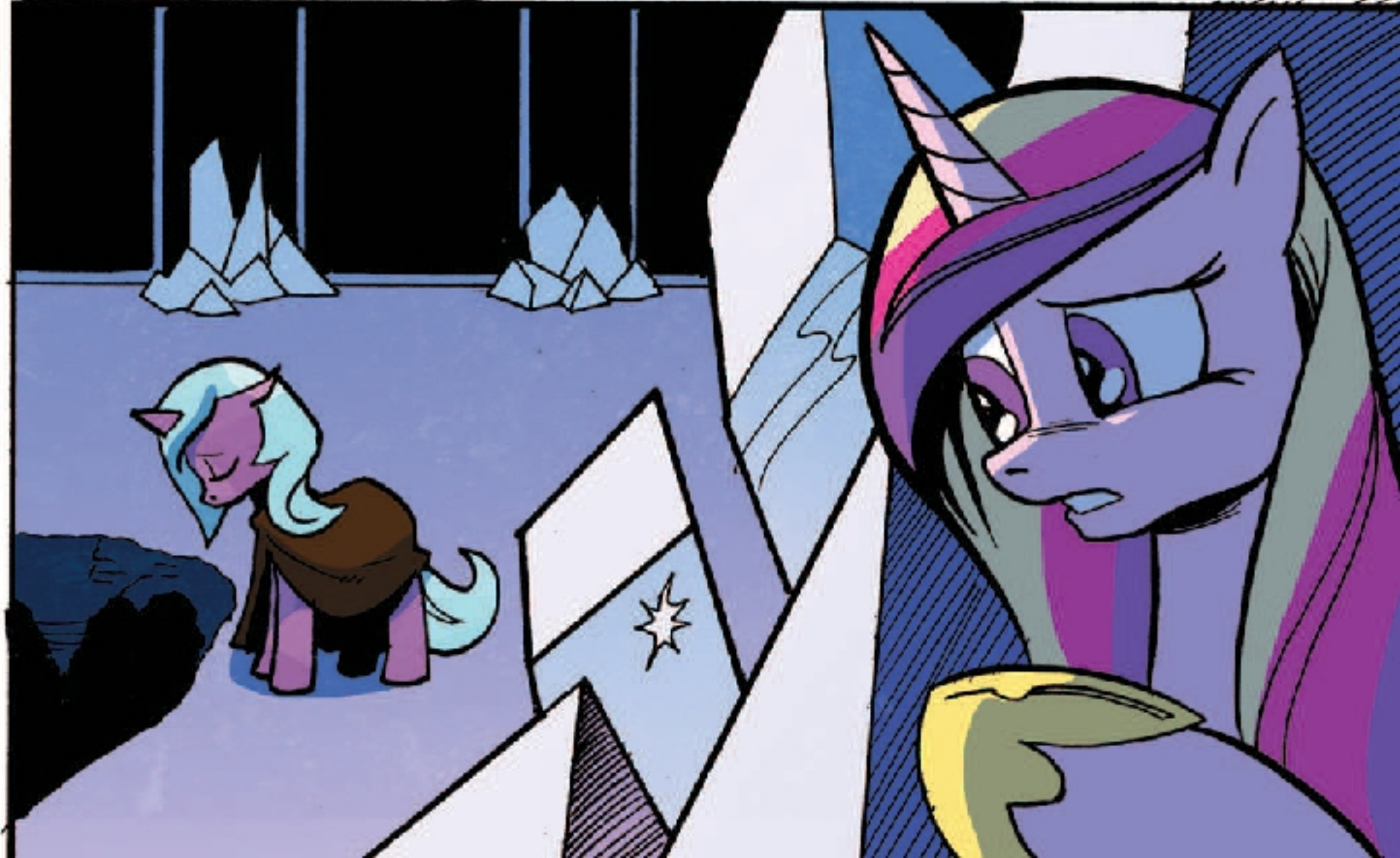


I HAVE BEEN GONE FOR A LONG TIME. I NEED SOME TIME TO THINK.

BUT I—



—EVERYTHING I'VE DONE IS FOR YOU.





ARE WE REALLY GOING TO STAY?

OF COURSE NOT, YOU FOOL. I JUST BOUGHT US SOME TIME. TELL THE HORDE WE'RE MOVING FAR AND FAST. SOMEWHERE ACROSS THE WATER.



IRON WILL IS FEELING LEERY ABOUT THIS.

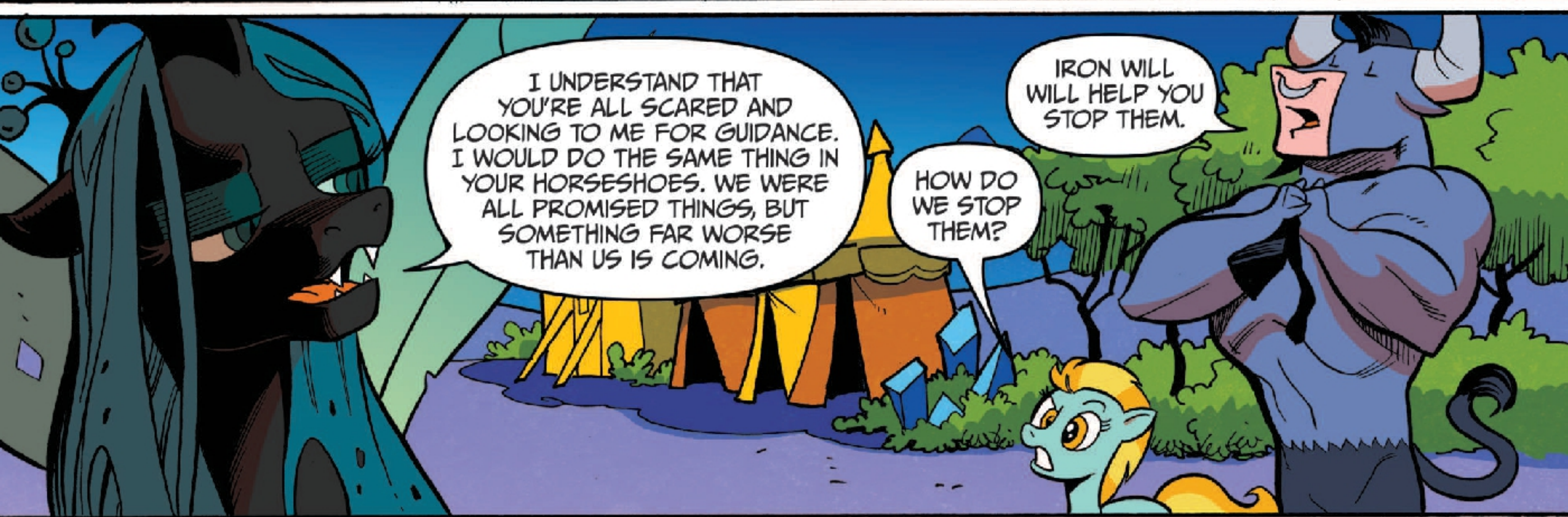
HE'S SAYING HE'S SCARED AND I DON'T BLAME HIM.

IRON WILL IS SCARED OF NOTHING!

BUT IRON WILL HAS A FAMILY! HE DIDN'T WANT TO OVERTHROW THE KINGDOM!

MY BROTHER AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING.

WE WERE WONDERING HOW CHANGELINGS FEEL ABOUT CIDER?



I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE ALL SCARED AND LOOKING TO ME FOR GUIDANCE. I WOULD DO THE SAME THING IN YOUR HORSESHOES. WE WERE ALL PROMISED THINGS, BUT SOMETHING FAR WORSE THAN US IS COMING.

IRON WILL WILL HELP YOU STOP THEM.

HOW DO WE STOP THEM?



THE UMBRUM ARE TERRIFYING SHADOWY MONSTERS AND WILL SURELY SPELL THE END OF ANY OF US WHO STAY HERE. I AM YOUR LAST BEST HOPE FOR SURVIVAL, IT'S TRUE.



BUT I NEED YOU ALL TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT...



I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ANY OF YOU!



THE ONLY REASON I EVEN CAME BACK HERE WAS TO TAUNT TWILIGHT SPARKLE. AFTER ALL, IF THE UMBRUM GET LOOSE, THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I SEE HER.

HOW'S IT GOING TO FEEL TO WATCH YOUR WHOLE WORLD ENVELOPED IN SHADOW AND YOU POWERLESS TO STOP IT?

AND YOU'RE JUST GOING TO RUN AWAY?

OF COURSE I AM!

YOU'RE A COWARD! MY MAGIC ISN'T EVEN WORKING AND YOU'RE STILL TAUNTING ME THROUGH A CAGE!



YOU KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.

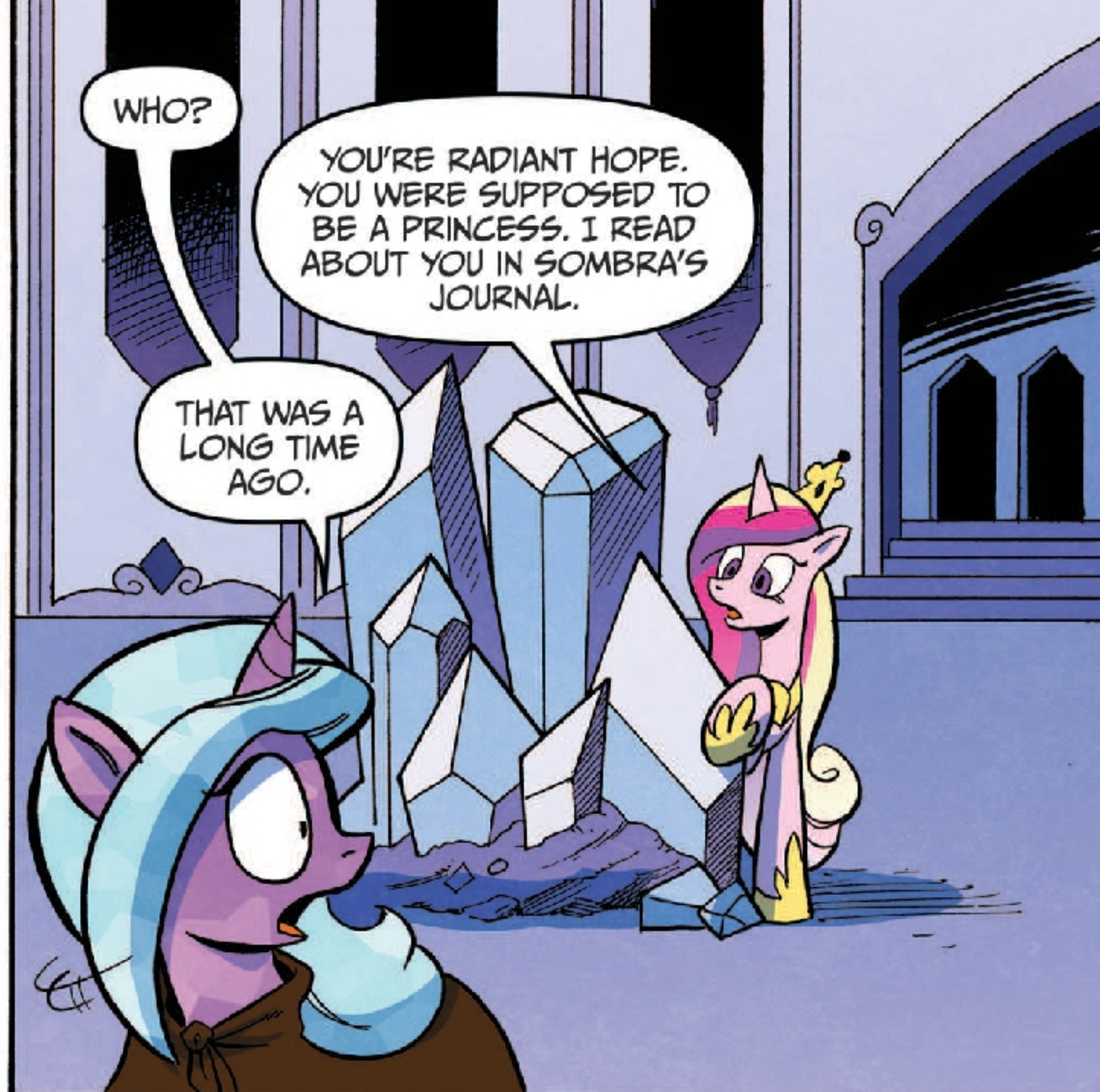


IT'LL BE EVEN BETTER TO WATCH YOU FAIL THIS WAY.

GOOD BYE, TWILIGHT SPARKLE!

WHAT WILL IRON WILL DO NOW?

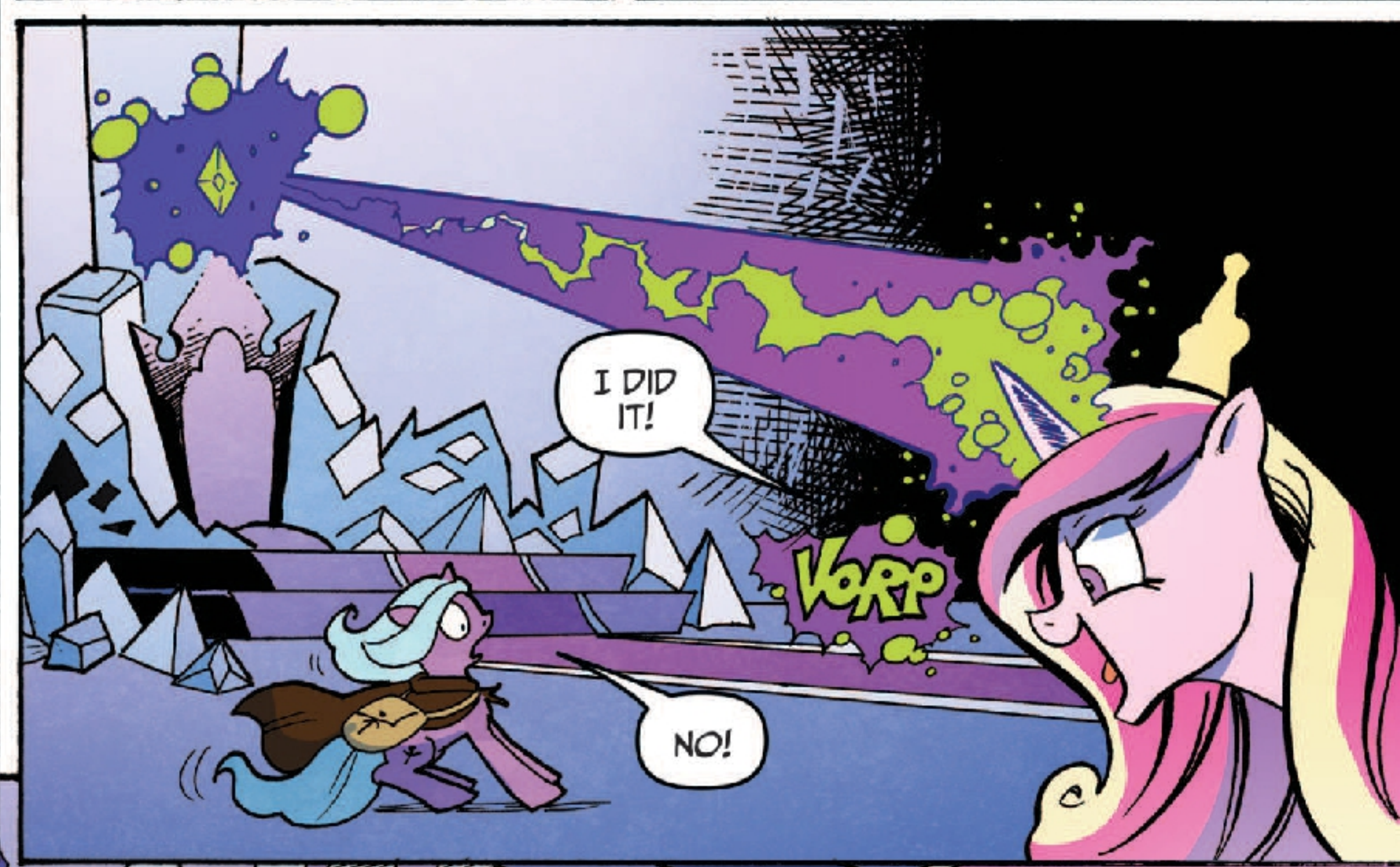
SLAM GAMES





SOMBRA!

ONLY ONE SHOT AT THIS—



I DID IT!

NO!



I COULDN'T DO THAT BEFORE. I'VE TRIED A HUNDRED TIMES!

SOMBRA DESIGNED IT. IT'S A TWO PART LOCK. KNOWING THE SPELL IS ONLY THE FIRST PART.

WHAT'S THE SECOND PART? HOW DO I HAVE IT NOW IF I DIDN'T HAVE IT BEFORE?



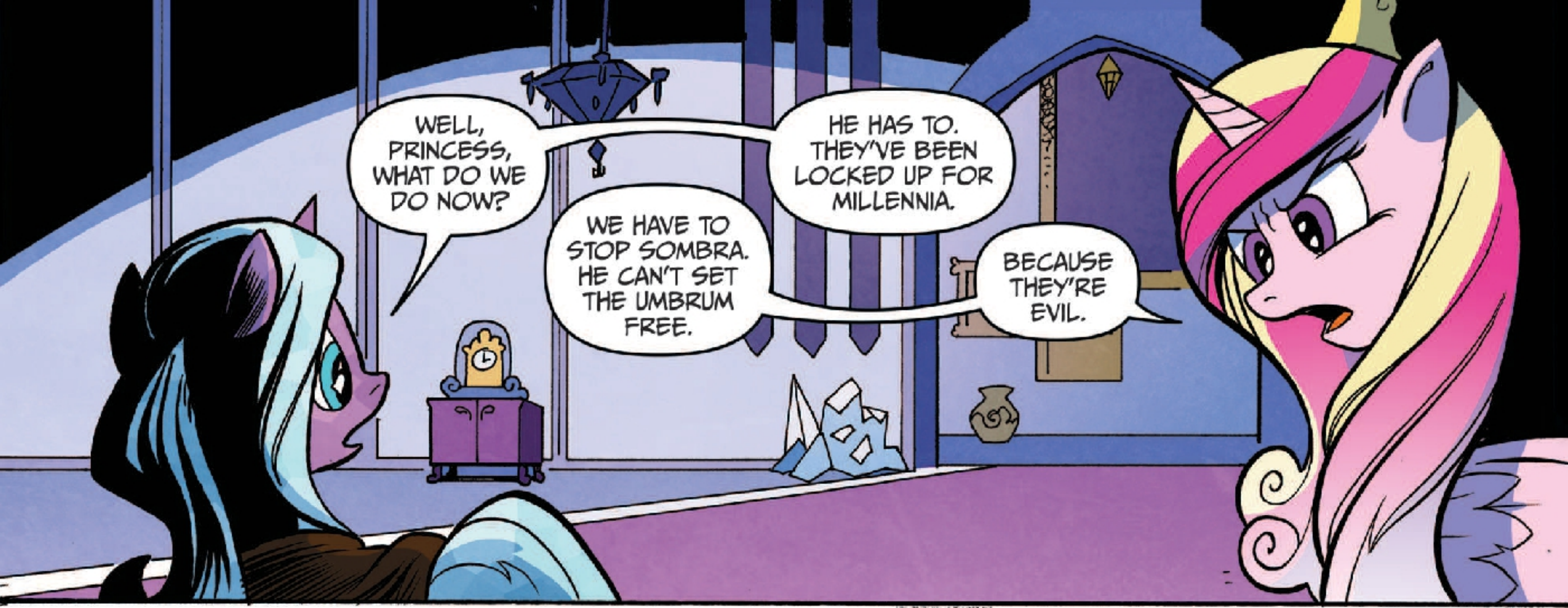
RAGE. YOU HAVE TO HAVE TRUE RAGE IN YOUR HEART. EVEN IF YOU HIDE IT WELL.

BUT WHEN TWILIGHT OPENS IT, SHE—

GETS A HEADACHE? SHE MUST HAVE ANGER IN HER, BUT CONTROL IT WELL. TELL ME, CADANCE, IS YOUR HEAD HURTING NOW?



NO. I FEEL FINE.



WELL, PRINCESS, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

HE HAS TO. THEY'VE BEEN LOCKED UP FOR MILLENNIA.

WE HAVE TO STOP SOMBRA. HE CAN'T SET THE UMBRUM FREE.

BECAUSE THEY'RE EVIL.



THEY'RE NOT. THEY'RE DECENT. THEY'RE NICE EVEN.

YOU CAN'T KNOW THAT. YOU'VE NEVER MET THEM.

BUT I HAVE! THAT'S WHERE I WAS ALL OF THESE YEARS. LIVING WITH THEM.



HOW DID YOU GET AWAY?

THEY LET ME GO. THEY WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT THEY WERE GOOD. THAT SOMBRA COULD BE GOOD. THEY WANTED ME TO HELP SOMBRA COMPLETE HIS MISSION.

BUT IF THEY'RE LOCKED AWAY, HOW DID YOU FIND THEM?



THERE'S A RED CRYSTAL IN THE ARCTIC WASTES. IT'S LIKE A DOOR. WE CAN GO IN, BUT THEY CAN'T GET OUT.

AND YOU WERE ABLE TO GO INTO THEIR PRISON AND SPEAK WITH THEM?

FOR CENTURIES. SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PLACE KEPT ME FROM AGING.



CAN YOU TAKE ME THERE? CAN I MEET THEM?

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.



BAMF!

BAMF

I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO MEET THEM! YOU'LL SEE THEY'RE NOT AT ALL WHAT YOU THINK.

JUST GIVE THEM A CHANCE! YOU'LL SEE THAT THEY'RE NOT EVIL.

HOPE, I WANT TO MAKE SURE WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

IF YOU'RE RIGHT, I'LL HELP YOU SET THEM FREE. BUT IF YOU'RE WRONG—

—YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO HELP ME STOP SOMBRA.

OF COURSE! BUT YOU'LL SEE, I'M NOT WRONG.

WHAT IS IT WITH THESE THINGS AND STAIRS?

WAIT, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR THAT.

WATCH YOUR STEP, IT'S VERY DARK.

WELL, I WISH I HADN'T SEEN ANY OF THIS.

YOU CAN'T JUDGE EVERYTHING BY ITS APPEARANCE, PRINCESS.

WHAT ABOUT ITS SMELL? CAN I JUDGE IT ON THAT?

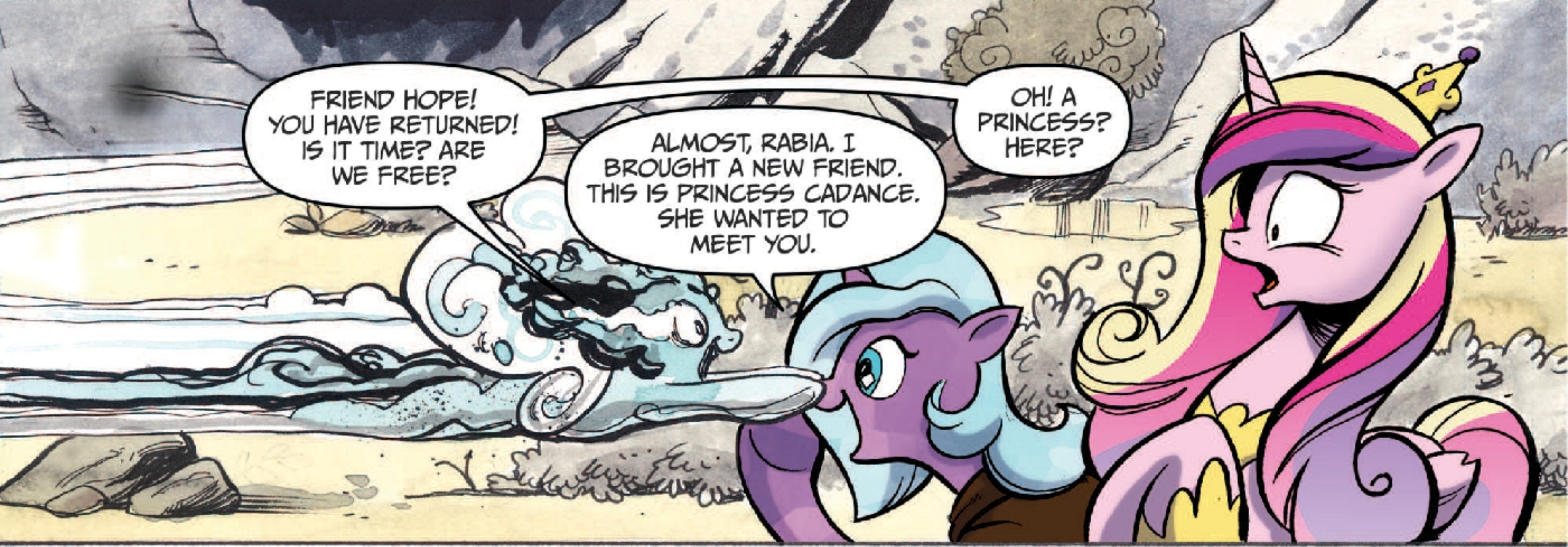
RABIA! RABIA, IT'S ME, HOPE!

I DON'T SEE A DOOR. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

I BROUGHT A GUEST, RABIA. SHE WANTS TO MEET THE UMBRUM AND HELP ME TO FREE YOU.

HOPE... MAYBE WE SHOULD—

HERE SHE COMES!



FRIEND HOPE!
YOU HAVE RETURNED!
IS IT TIME? ARE
WE FREE?

ALMOST, RABIA. I
BROUGHT A NEW FRIEND.
THIS IS PRINCESS CADANCE.
SHE WANTED TO
MEET YOU.

OH! A
PRINCESS?
HERE?



HELLO, RABIA.
RADIANT HOPE HAS
TOLD ME MUCH ABOUT
YOU AND HOW YOU
WERE UNJUSTLY
IMPRISONED.

I HOPED I MIGHT
BE ABLE TO MEET
YOUR PONIES. YOU
UNDERSTAND, I HAVE TO
BE SURE MY PONIES
WILL REMAIN
SAFE.

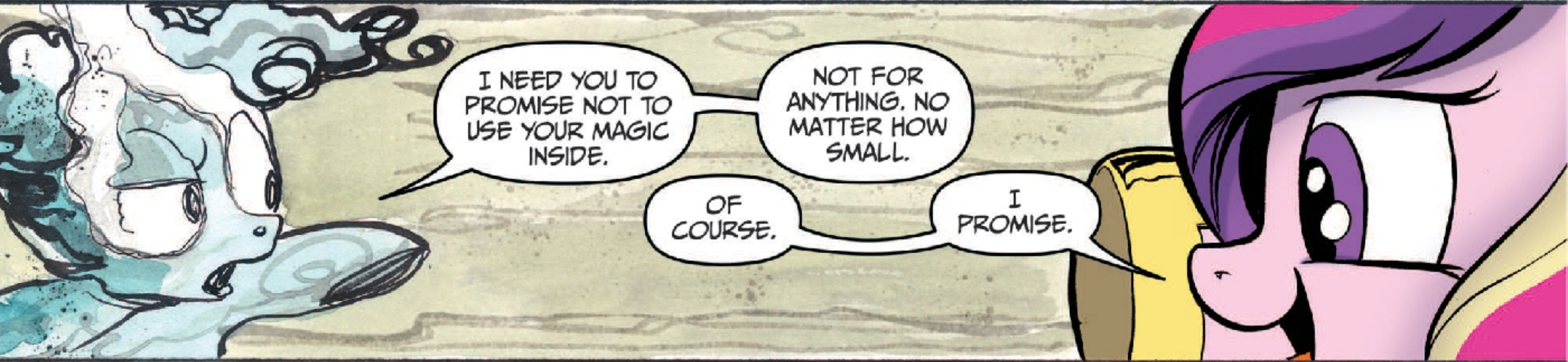
YES, IT IS A
PAINFUL MEMORY
FOR US.



HMMMM... A
PRINCESS IN THE
PRISON OF SHADOWS?
THAT'S UNHEARD OF.

PLEASE,
RABIA—

YOU KNOW IT
WAS A PRINCESS
WHO LOCKED US IN
HERE, RIGHT? WHAT
IF SHE TRIES
TO HURT MY
PONIES?



I NEED YOU TO
PROMISE NOT TO
USE YOUR MAGIC
INSIDE.

NOT FOR
ANYTHING. NO
MATTER HOW
SMALL.

OF
COURSE.

I
PROMISE.



WELL,
IN THAT
CASE—



WELCOME TO
THE SHADOW
PRISON.



COME ON, TWILY! YOU CAN DO IT!

I... CAN'T...

SOMBRA'S MAGIC IS TOO STRONG! I CAN'T GET THE CRYSTALS TO GO AWAY!



SHE NEEDS OUR HELP! CAN'T YOU GUYS DO SOME SORT OF, I DON'T KNOW, HARMONY THING?

WELL, THERE'S A BIT OF AN ISSUE WITH THAT. YOU SEE...

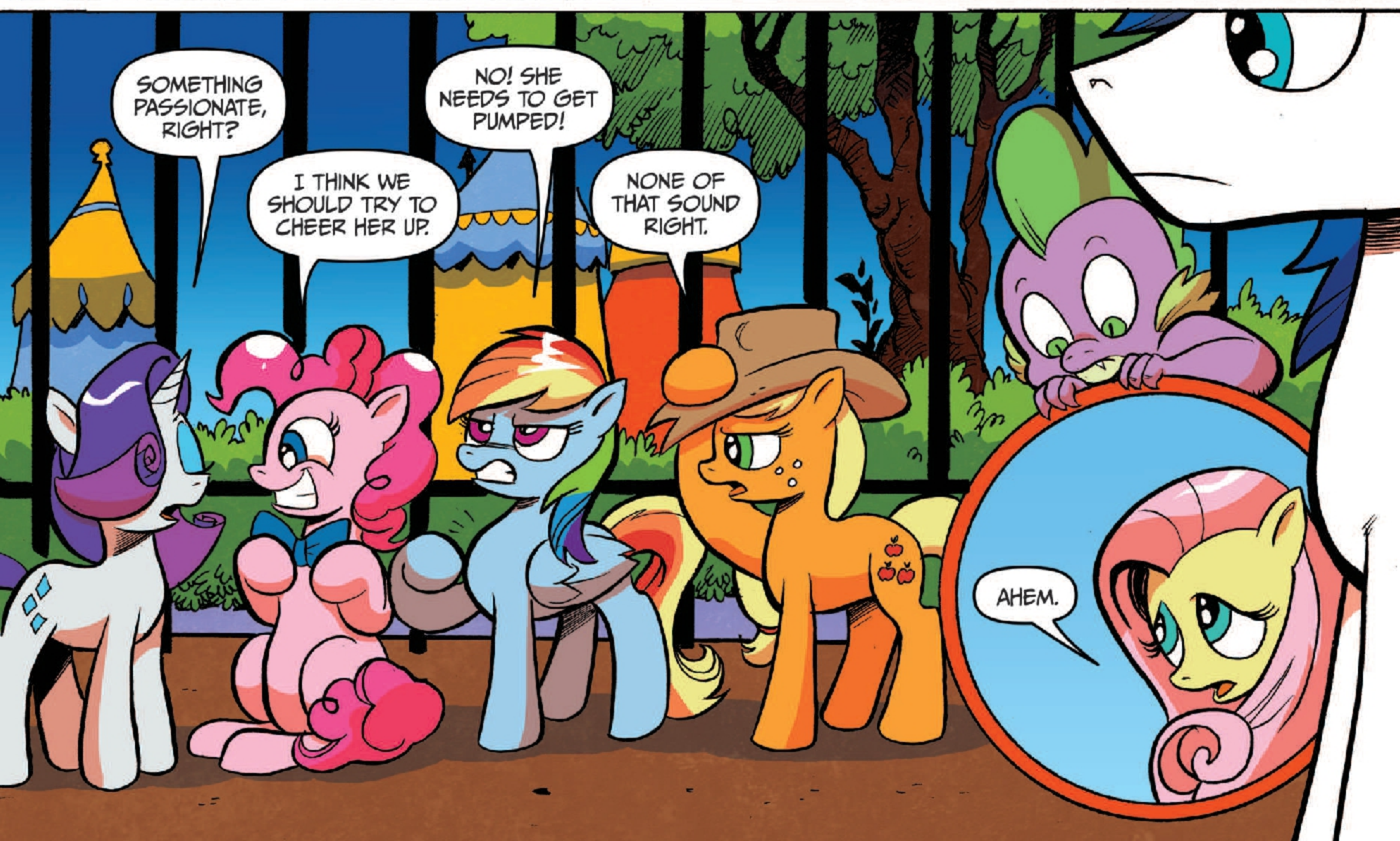
WE DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW IT WORKS.

LET MY PONIES GO



YEAH. USUALLY TWILIGHT SAYS SOMETHING OR DOES SOMETHING, THEN THERE'RE SPARKLY LIGHTS.

WELL, GOSH DARN IT, GIRLS, WE GOTTA TRY SOMETHING! WHAT KINDA THING DO WE SAY ANYWHO?



SOMETHING PASSIONATE, RIGHT?

NO! SHE NEEDS TO GET PUMPED!

I THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO CHEER HER UP.

NONE OF THAT SOUND RIGHT.

AHEM.

I BELIEVE OUR FRIENDSHIP IS STRONGER THAN SOMBRA'S MAGIC. I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN'T DO TOGETHER.

I BELIEVE IN YOU, TWILIGHT.

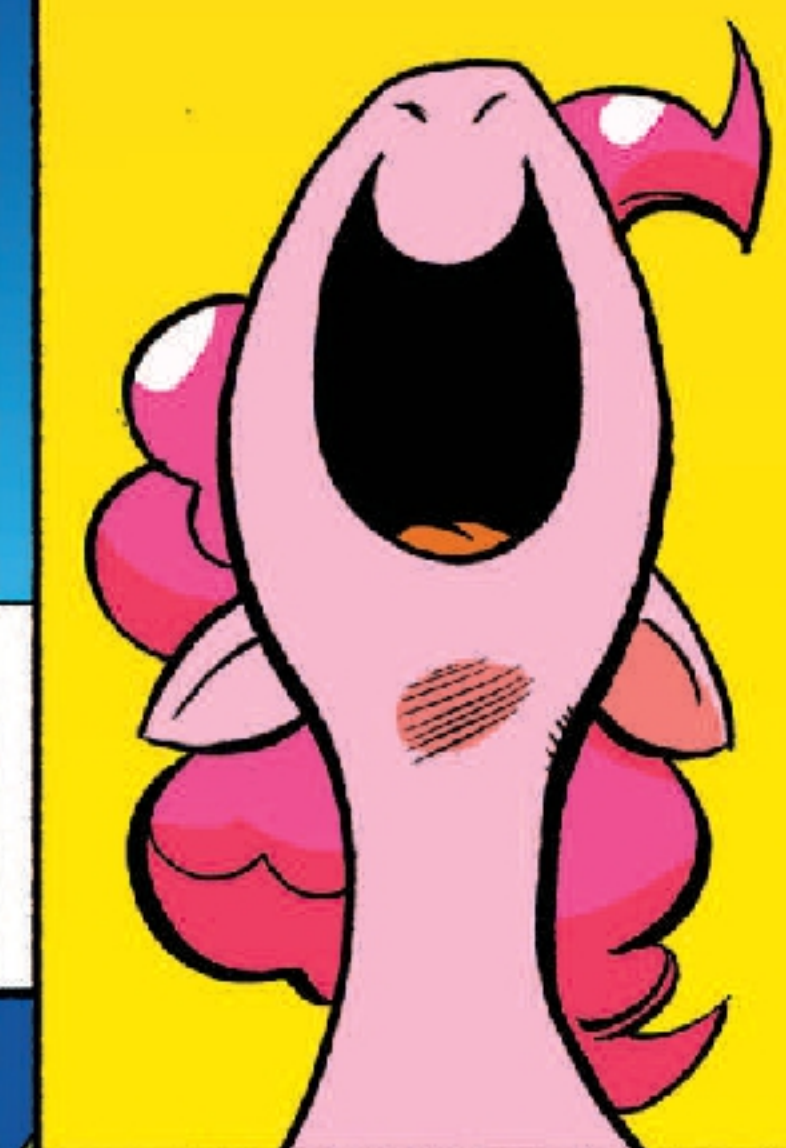


I BELIEVE IN YOU, TWILIGHT.

I BELIEVE IN YOU, TWILIGHT.

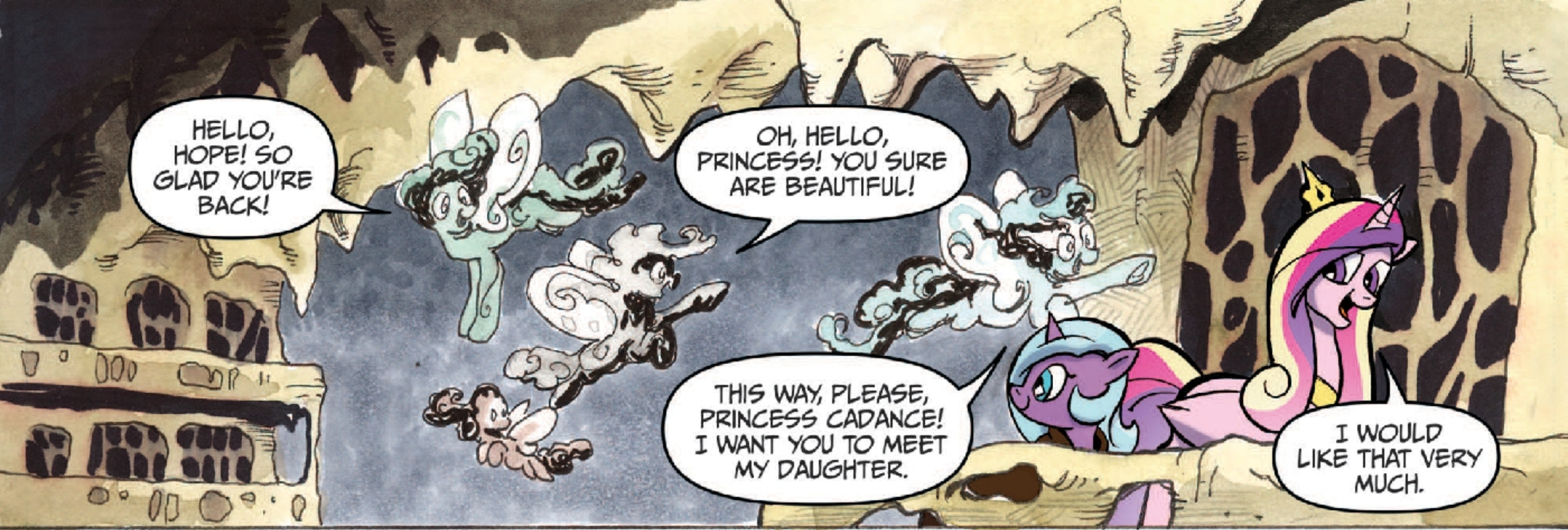
I BELIEVE IN YOU, TWILIGHT!

I BELIEVE IN YOU, TWILIGHT.



I BELIEVE IN YOU, LITTLE SISTER.





HELLO, HOPE! SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK!

OH, HELLO, PRINCESS! YOU SURE ARE BEAUTIFUL!

THIS WAY, PLEASE, PRINCESS CADANCE! I WANT YOU TO MEET MY DAUGHTER.

I WOULD LIKE THAT VERY MUCH.



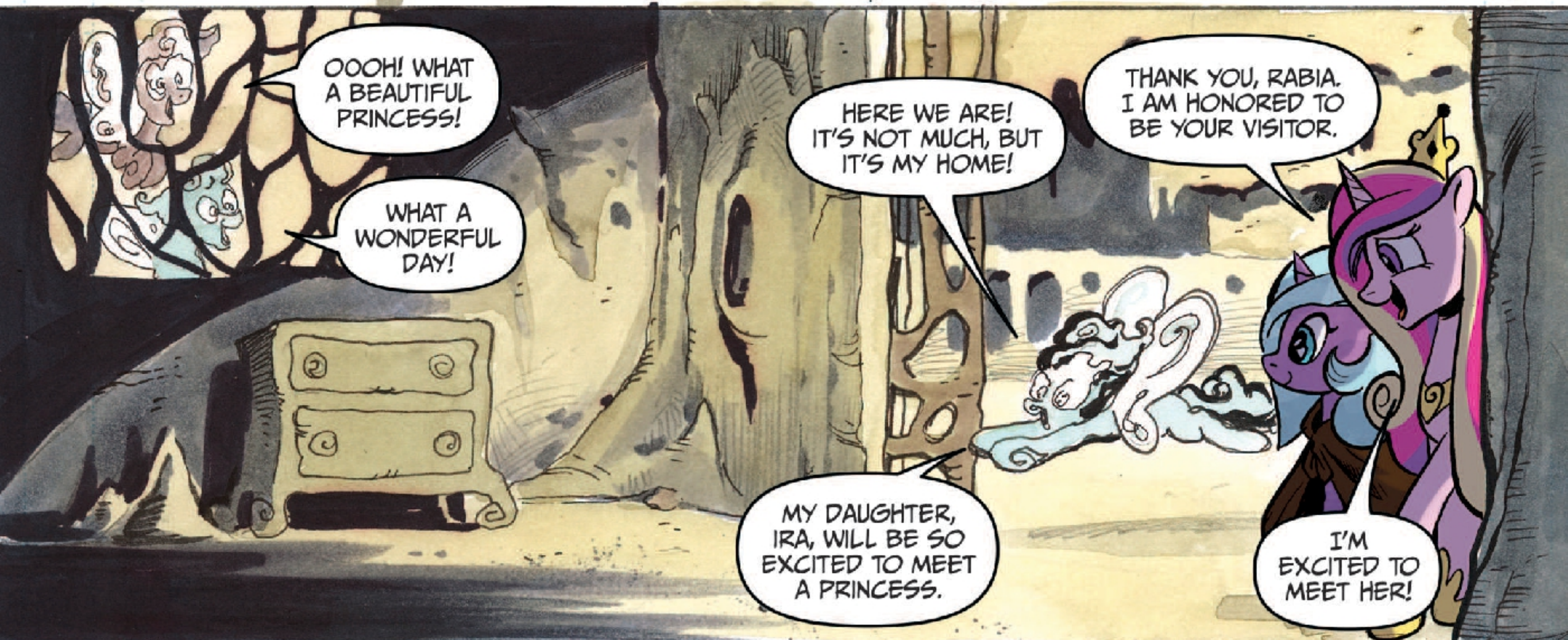
HELLO!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THEY'RE WONDERFUL, RIGHT?

THEY CERTAINLY DO SEEM NICE. BUT WHY WOULD ANYPONY LOCK THESE ADORABLE CREATURES AWAY?

GOOD DAY!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING.



OOOH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS!

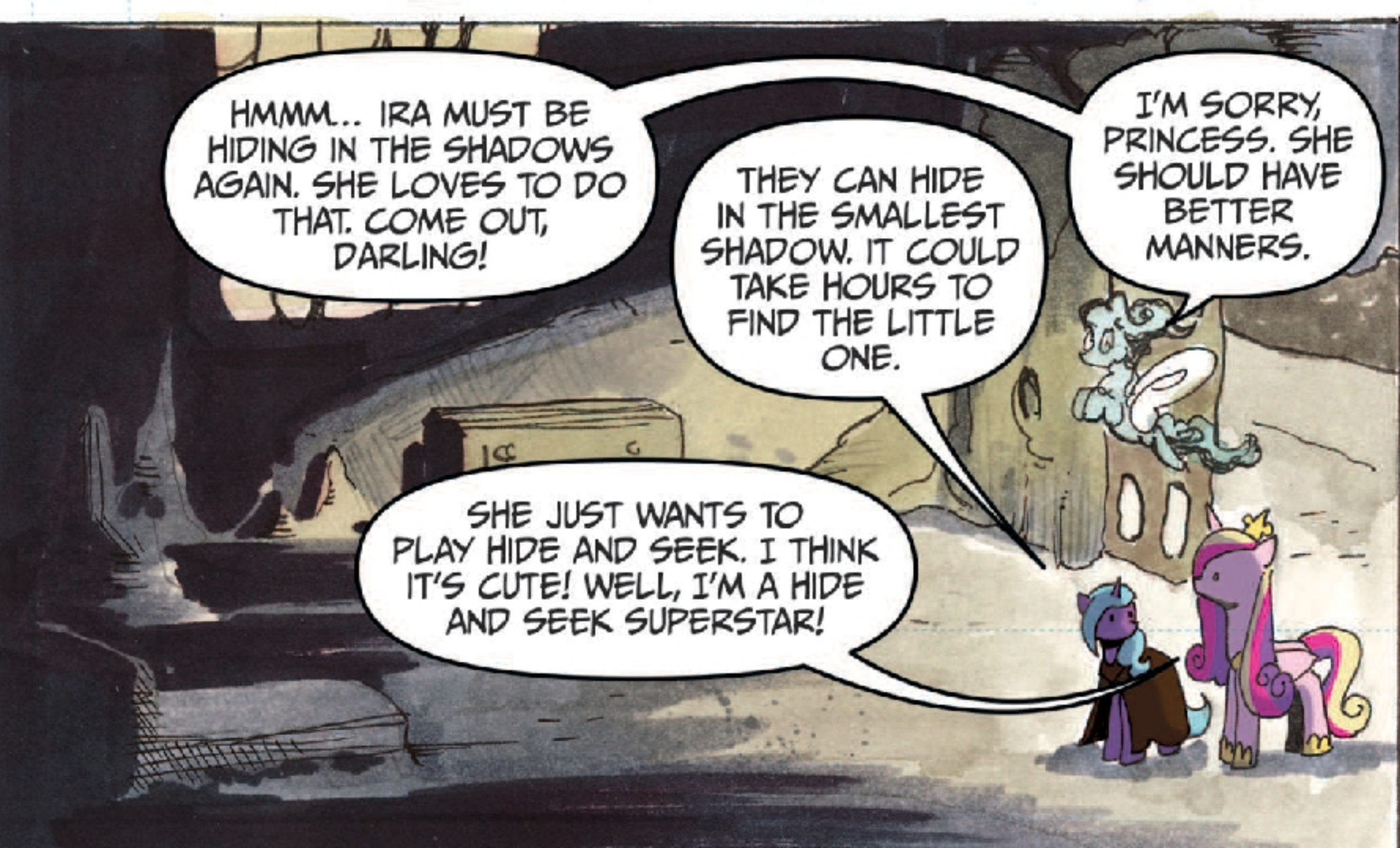
WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY!

HERE WE ARE! IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT'S MY HOME!

THANK YOU, RABIA. I AM HONORED TO BE YOUR VISITOR.

MY DAUGHTER, IRA, WILL BE SO EXCITED TO MEET A PRINCESS.

I'M EXCITED TO MEET HER!



HMMM... IRA MUST BE HIDING IN THE SHADOWS AGAIN. SHE LOVES TO DO THAT. COME OUT, DARLING!

THEY CAN HIDE IN THE SMALLEST SHADOW. IT COULD TAKE HOURS TO FIND THE LITTLE ONE.

I'M SORRY, PRINCESS. SHE SHOULD HAVE BETTER MANNERS.

SHE JUST WANTS TO PLAY HIDE AND SEEK. I THINK IT'S CUTE! WELL, I'M A HIDE AND SEEK SUPERSTAR!



I HAVE A SECRET WEAPON FOR—

NO!





HAHAHAHA! I JUST GAVE HOPE WHAT SHE WANTED. SHE WANTED SOMBRA NOT TO BE WHAT WE ARE. SHE WANTED ME TO TELL HER SOMBRA WAS NOT A MONSTER.

HE'S NOT! SOMBRA IS GOOD INSIDE! I KNOW HE IS!

YOU FOOL!

"SOMBRA'S JUST AS MUCH AN UMBRUM AS ANY OF US. WHEN HE WAS JUST A YOUNG FILLY, WE CAME UP WITH A PLAN. OUR POWERS KEPT US FROM CROSSING THROUGH THE CRYSTAL..."

"SO WE HAD TO LOCK THE DARKNESS AWAY IN HIM. WE HAD TO MAKE HIM LOOK AND SEEM LIKE A PONY, SO HE COULD PASS THROUGH."

"WHEN THE PONIES TOOK HIM IN, THEY WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT HE REALLY WAS. IT WAS HIDDEN EVEN FROM HIM UNTIL HE WAS FINALLY STRONG ENOUGH."



BUT YOU KEPT HIM FROM RELEASING US THEN! WE'VE WAITED THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND WE WON'T LET YOU STOP US AGAIN.

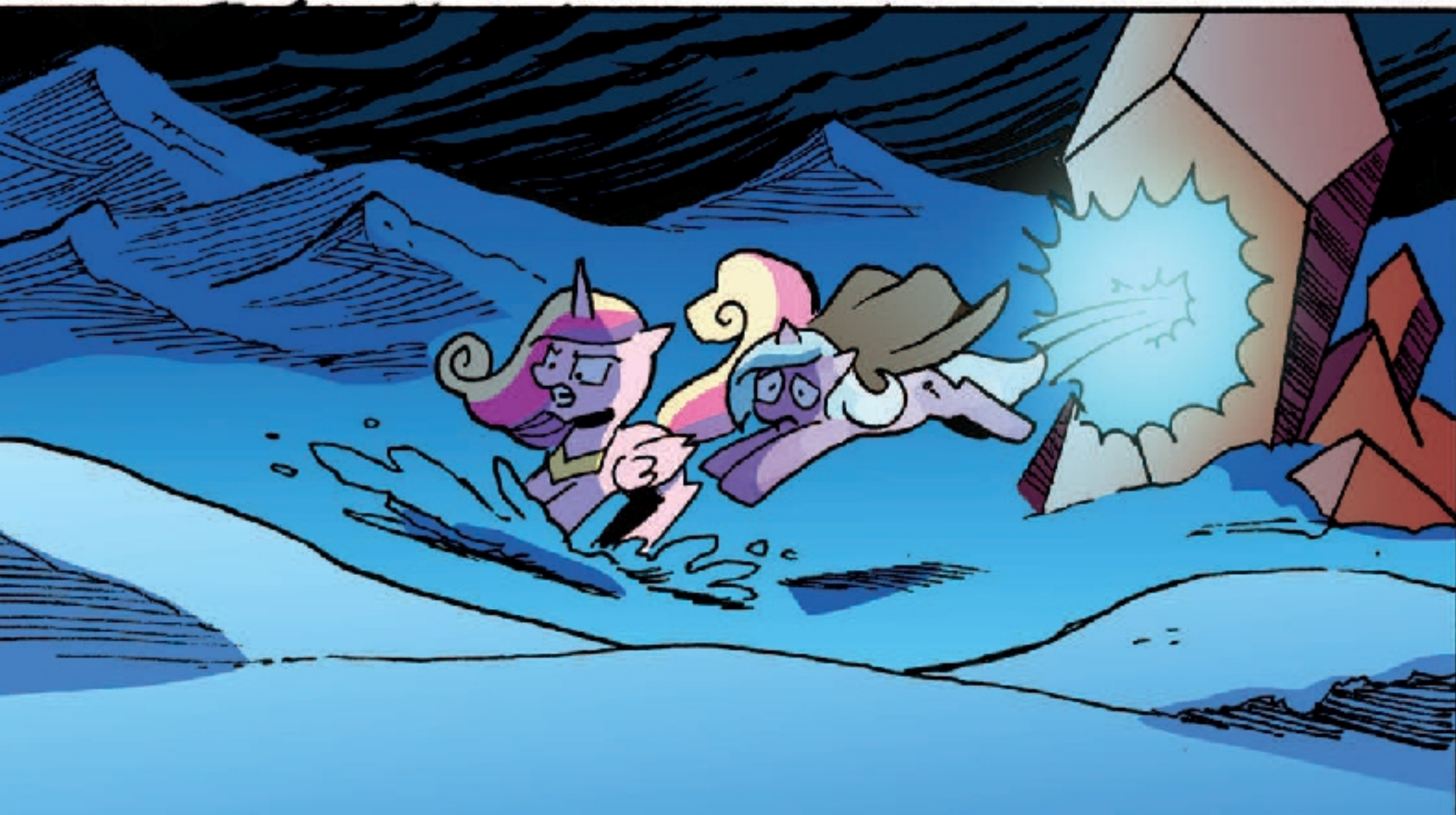
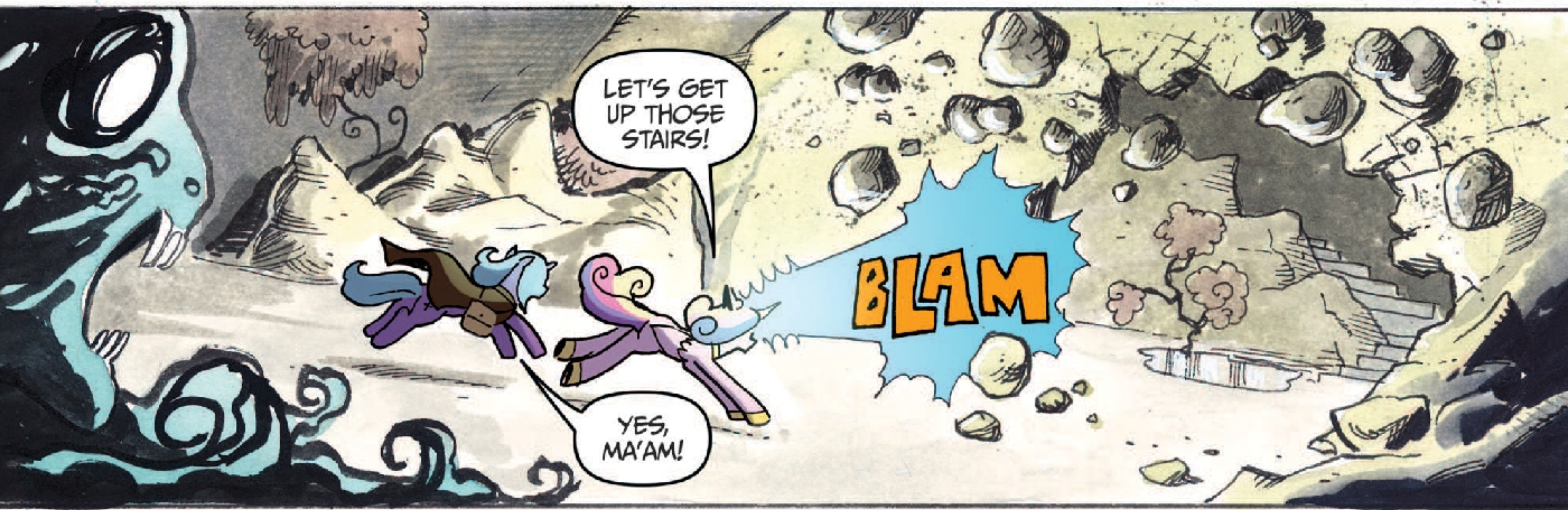
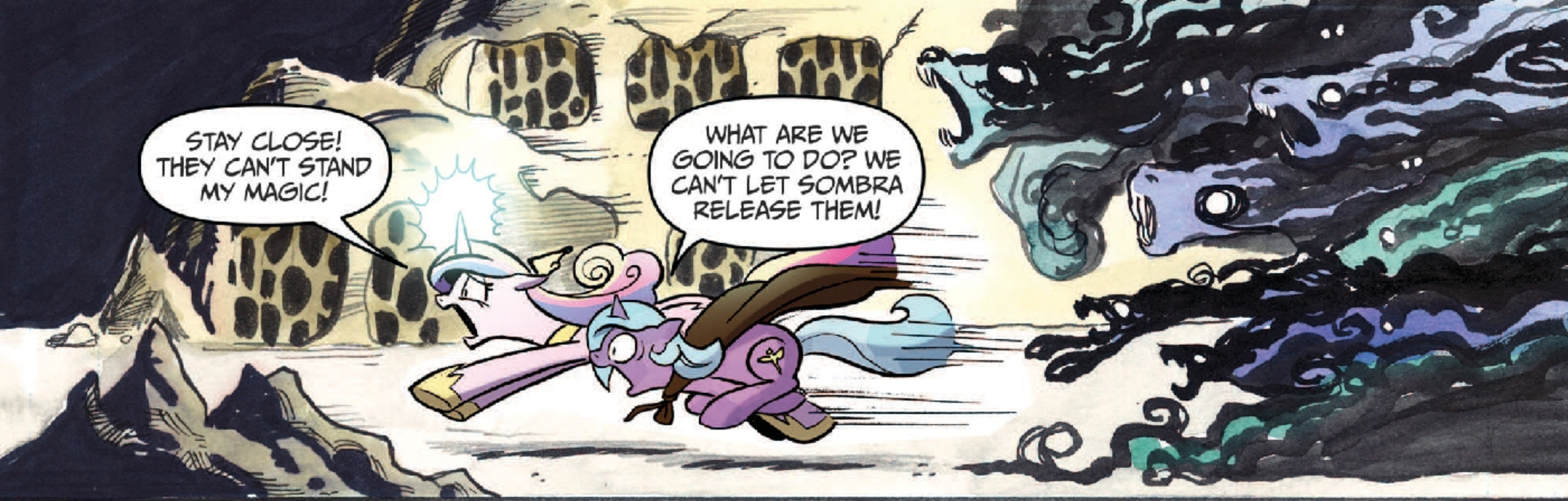
HOPE, GET TO THE ENTRANCE.

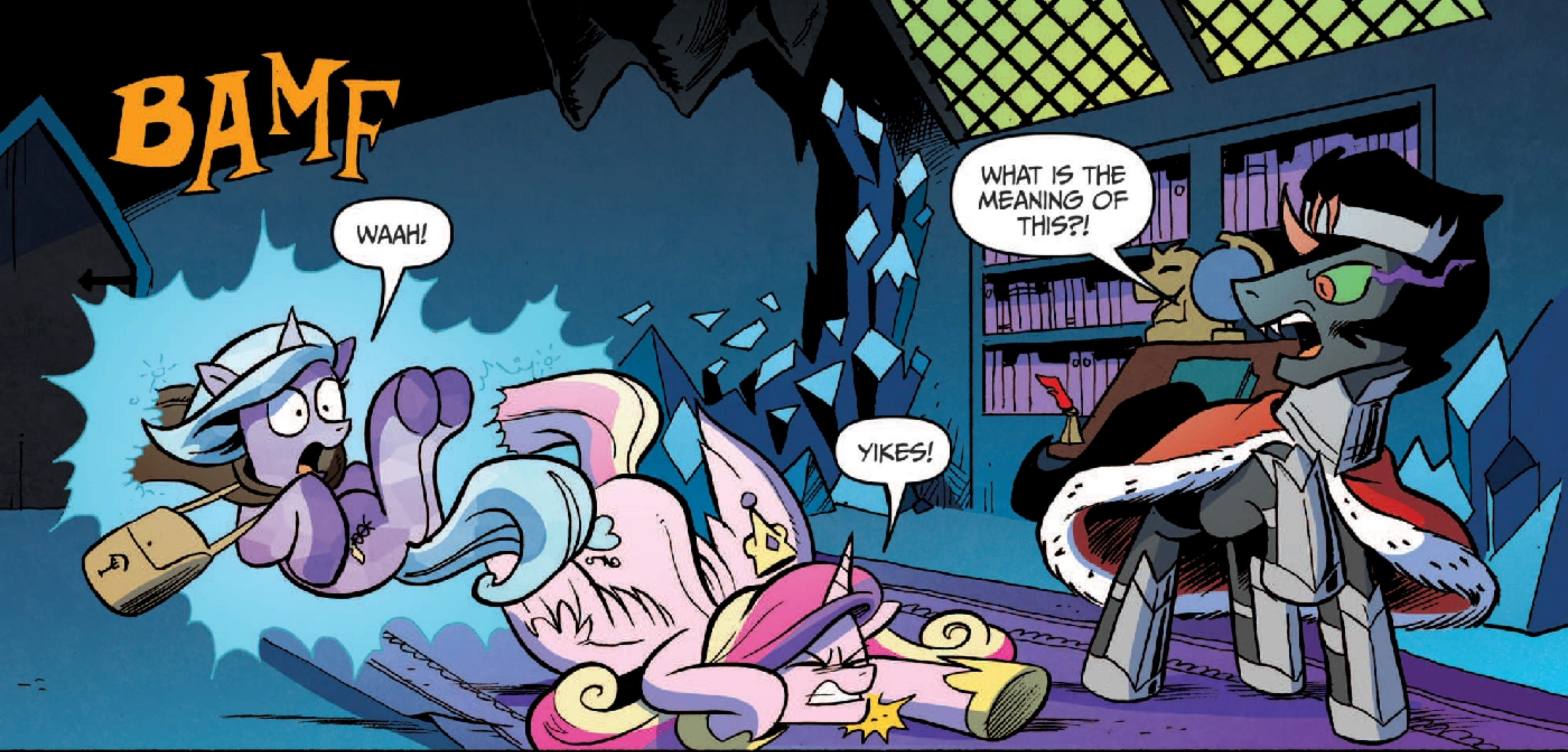
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM.

YES, PRINCESS, SHE'S RIGHT. YOU'RE NOT LEAVING HERE.









BAMF

WAAH!

YIKES!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!



SOMBRA!
YOU CAN'T DO IT. YOU CAN'T UNCOVER THE DOOR AND LET THEM OUT!

OH, MY DEAR RADIANT HOPE.

OUCH!
MY LEG!



I UNCOVERED IT BEFORE I WAS EVER IMPRISONED. I JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO OPEN IT.

NO, HOPE. IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN THAT.

YOU COULDN'T UNLEASH MONSTERS ON YOUR OWN HOME. OH, SOMBRA!



WHAT IF I OPENED THE DOOR AND THEY WERE GOOD AFTER ALL? WHAT IF I WAS THE ONLY REAL MONSTER?

SOMBRA, YOU CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR. I WAS WRONG ABOUT—



YOU ARE A MONSTER! AND I TOLD YOU YOU'D BE PUNISHED!

K-POW





I'LL GIVE YOU MONSTERS!

TO BE CONTINUED...

SIEGE of The CRYSTAL EMPIRE part 3