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LET'S
PLAY A
GAME!



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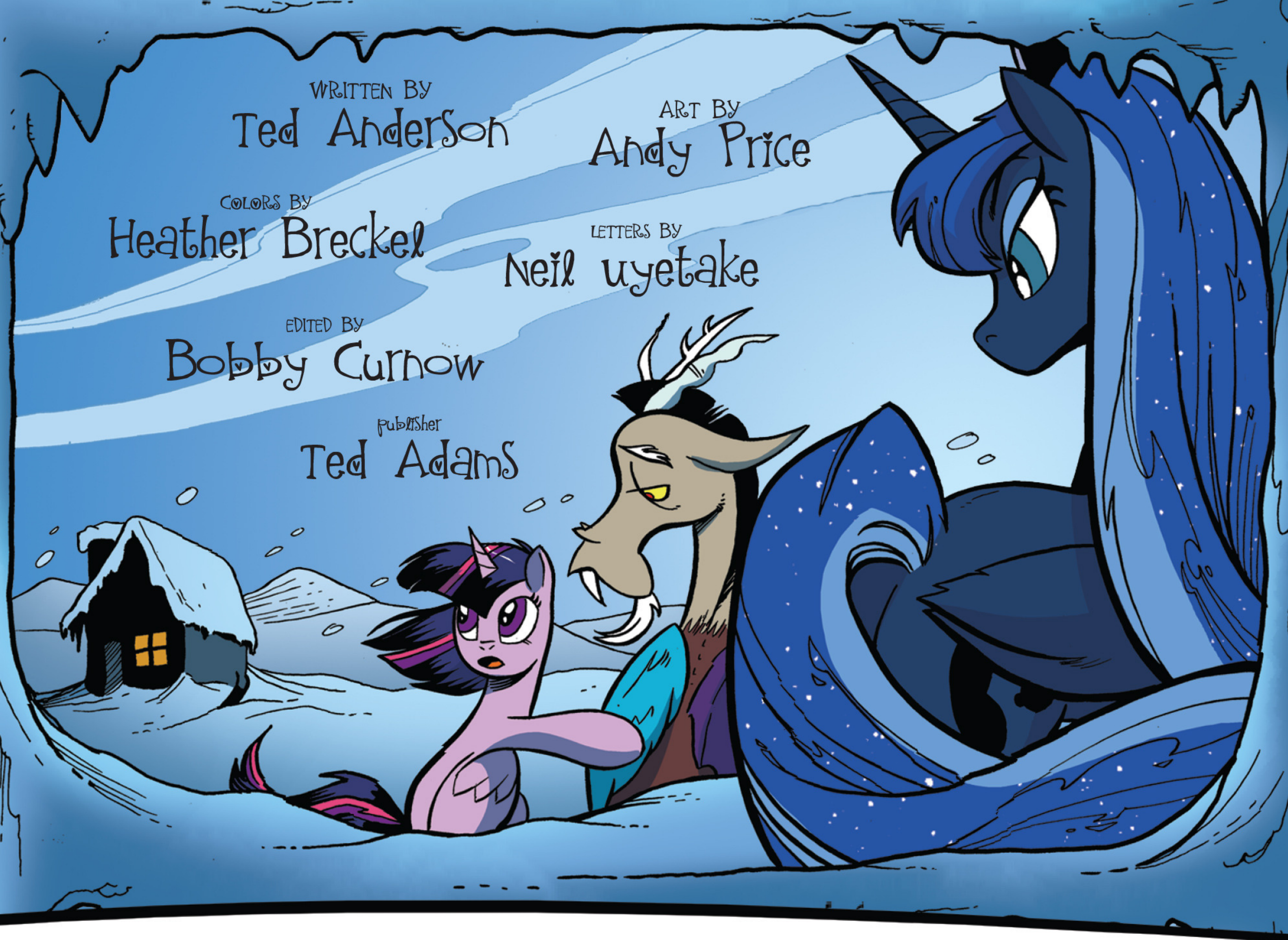
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WE JOIN OUR HEROES IN CANTERLOT CASTLE—

—WHERE ACCORD, THE ORDER-OBSESSED OPPOSITE OF THE CHAOTIC DISCORD—

—IS HYPNOTIZING PONIES INTO OBEYING HIS EVERY WHIM!

ACCORDO

PART THE SECOND: IN ALL CHAOS THERE IS A COSMOS, IN ALL DISORDER A SECRET ORDER.



JOIN US, PRINCESSES.

JOIN US.

JOIN US.

JOIN US.



SEE HOW WONDERFUL THINGS COULD BE WHEN EVERYPONY AGREES!

AGREE.

AGREE.



ACCORD, PLEASE STOP!

THIS ISN'T ORDER— THIS IS MIND CONTROL!

I DO NOT THINK HE WILL LISTEN, STARLIGHT GLIMMER...

AND WE CANNOT RISK HARMING THE MIND-CONTROLLED PONIES!



IF ACCORD'S MAGIC IS SPREADING—

—ALL OF CANTERLOT IS IN DANGER!

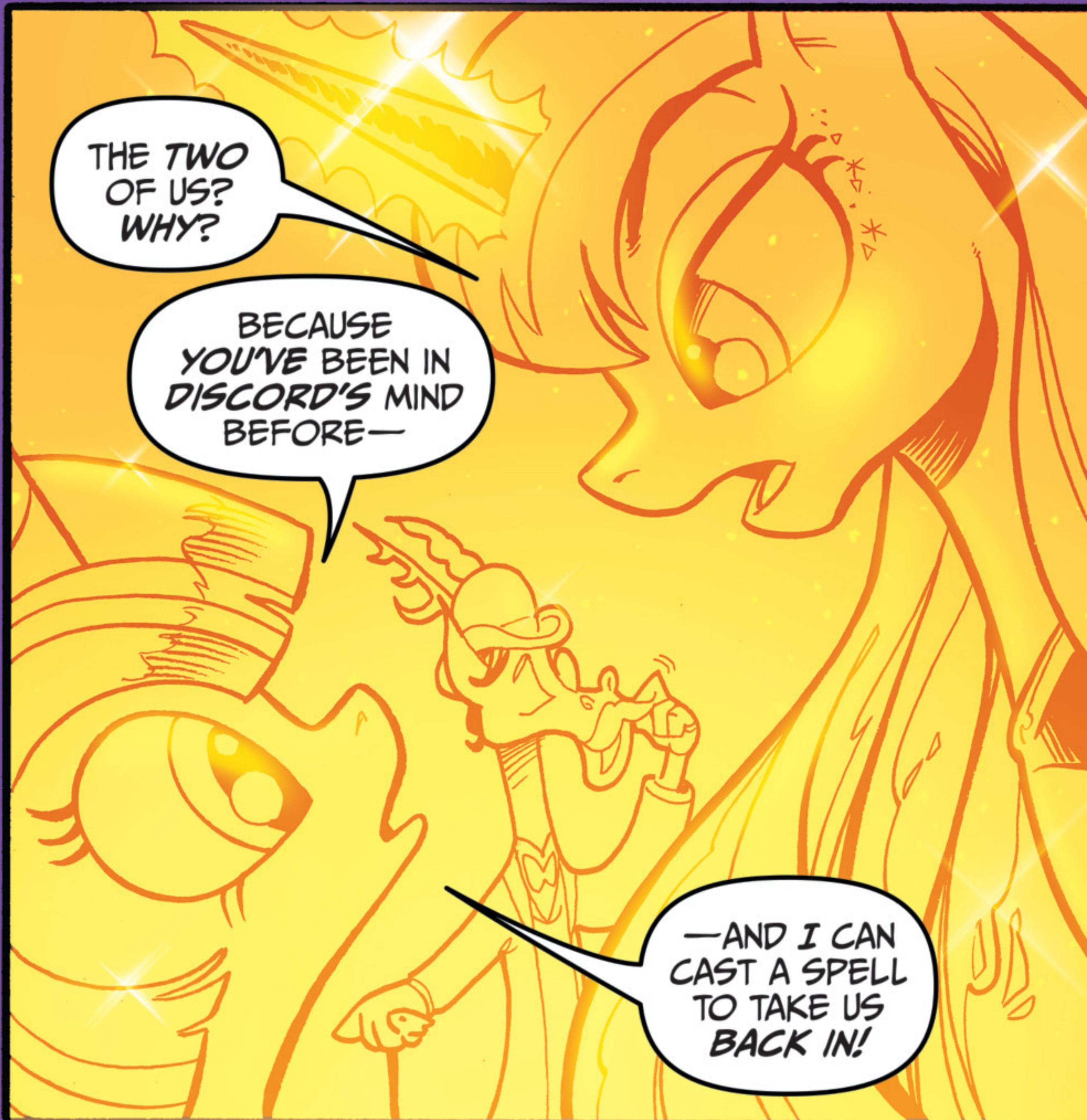
PERHAPS ALL OF EQUESTRIA!



PRINCESS CELESTIA, EVERYPONY—

—PLEASE GET READY TO EVACUATE CANTERLOT.

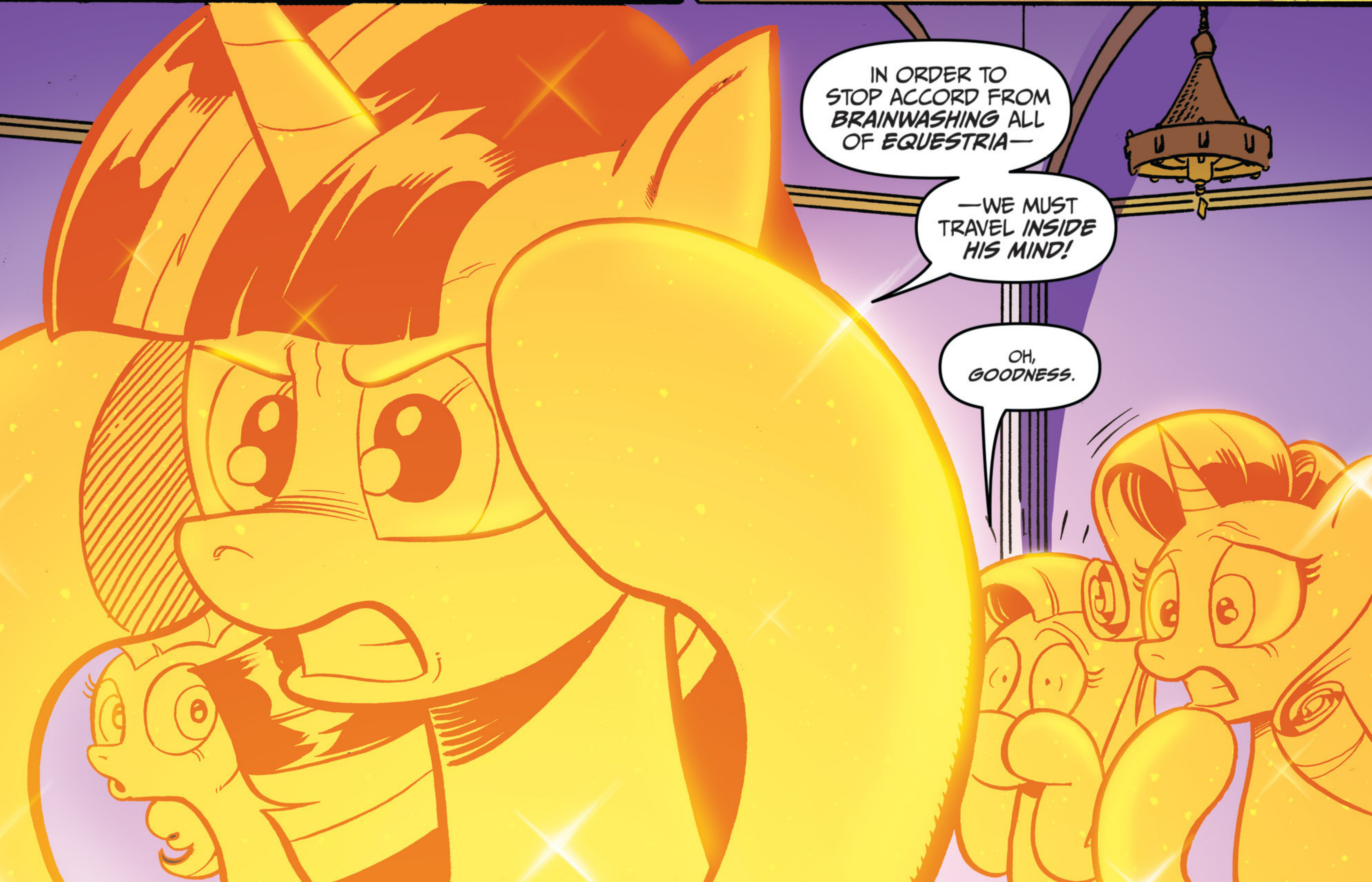
PRINCESS LUNA, YOU AND I NEED TO CONFRONT ACCORD.



THE TWO OF US? WHY?

BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN IN DISCORD'S MIND BEFORE—

—AND I CAN CAST A SPELL TO TAKE US BACK IN!



IN ORDER TO STOP ACCORD FROM BRAINWASHING ALL OF EQUESTRIA—

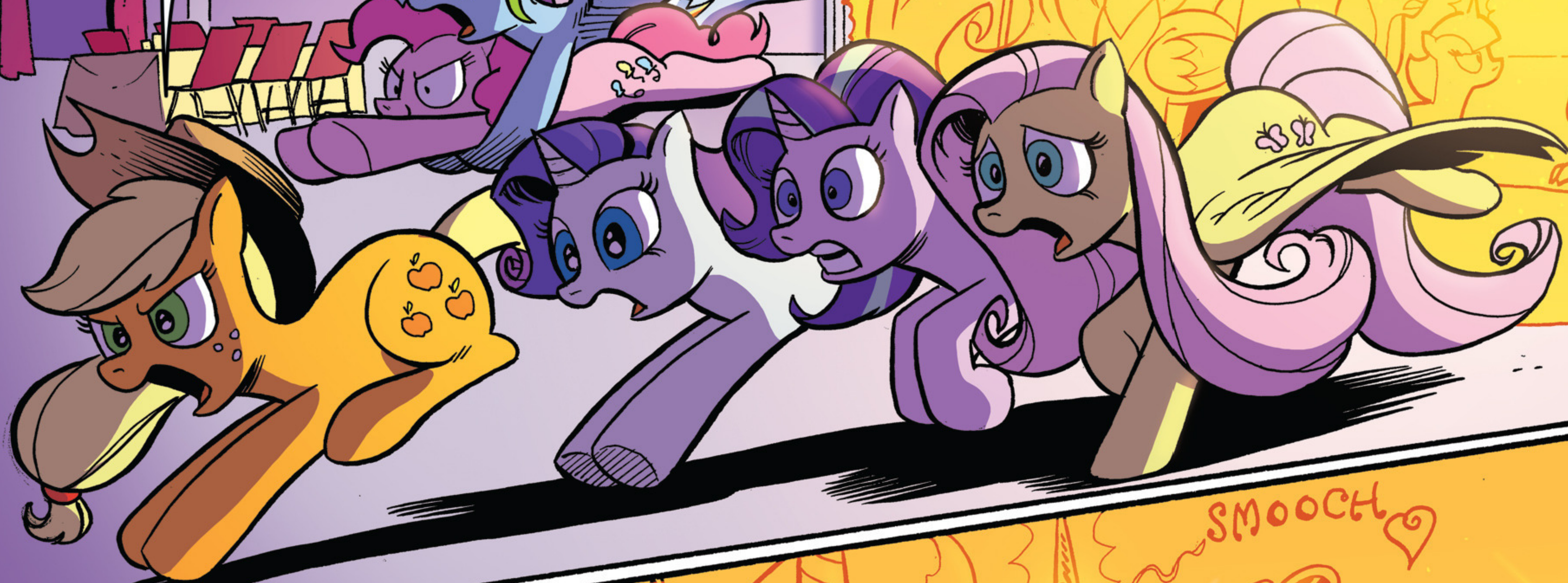
—WE MUST TRAVEL INSIDE HIS MIND!

OH, GOODNESS.

DO WHAT YOU CAN, TWILIGHT—

GOOD LUCK, PRINCESSES!

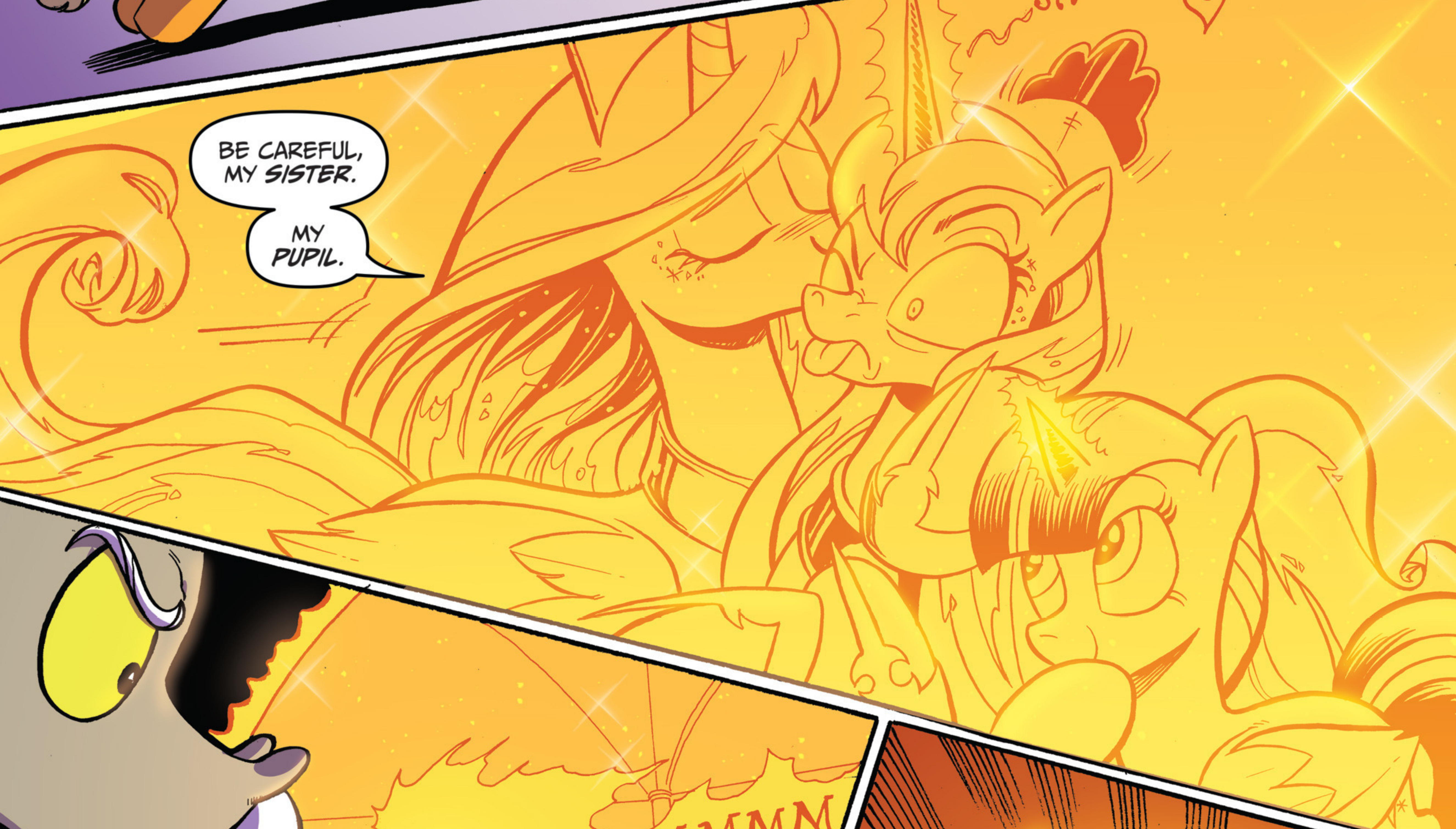
—BUT IF IT DON'T WORK, WE'LL BE READY TO EVACUATE THE CITY!



SMOOCH ♡

BE CAREFUL, MY SISTER.

MY PUPIL.



VVVVMMMMMM

SHRING!



BY THE STARS!

I—IT WORKED!

I THINK.

ACCORD'S MIND IS INDEED VERY DIFFERENT FROM DISCORD'S...

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HIM HAS CHANGED HIM JUST AS THOROUGHLY INSIDE AS OUT!

I'LL SAY...

WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT, EXACTLY, CAUSED HIM TO TURN INTO ACCORD.

THE MAGIC OF THE COSMIC CONVERGENCE WAS PART OF IT, BUT...

PERHAPS THERE WAS A SPELL INVOLVED, TOO?

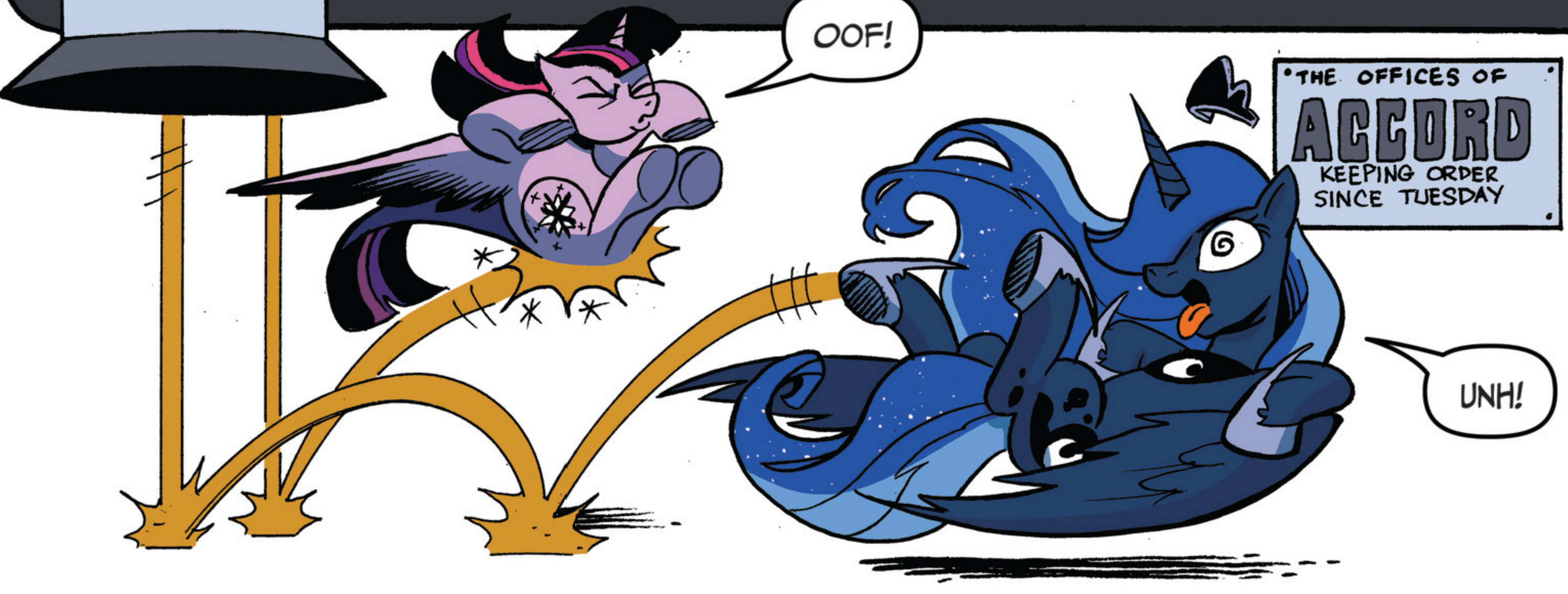
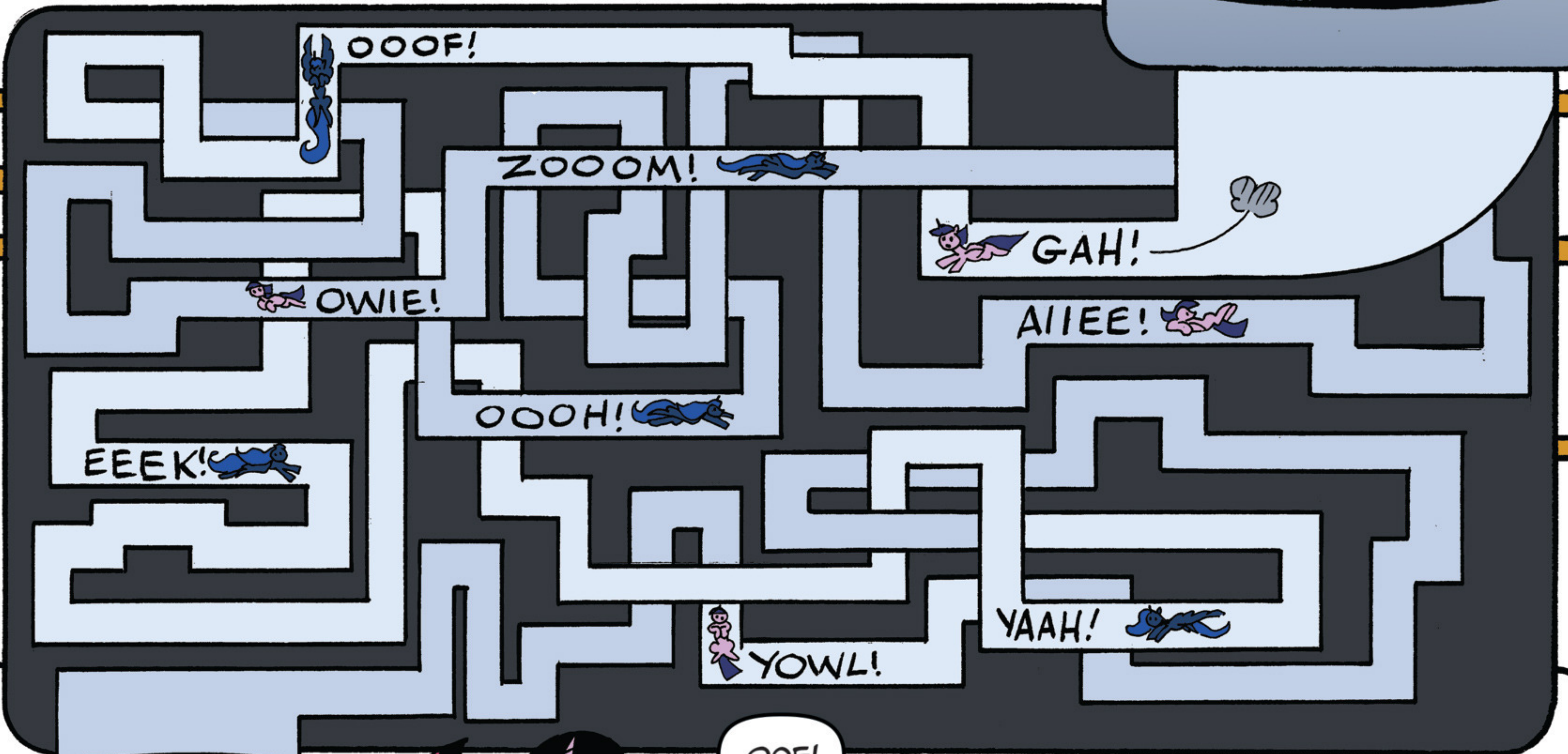
DID SOMEONY WANT TO CHANGE HIM?

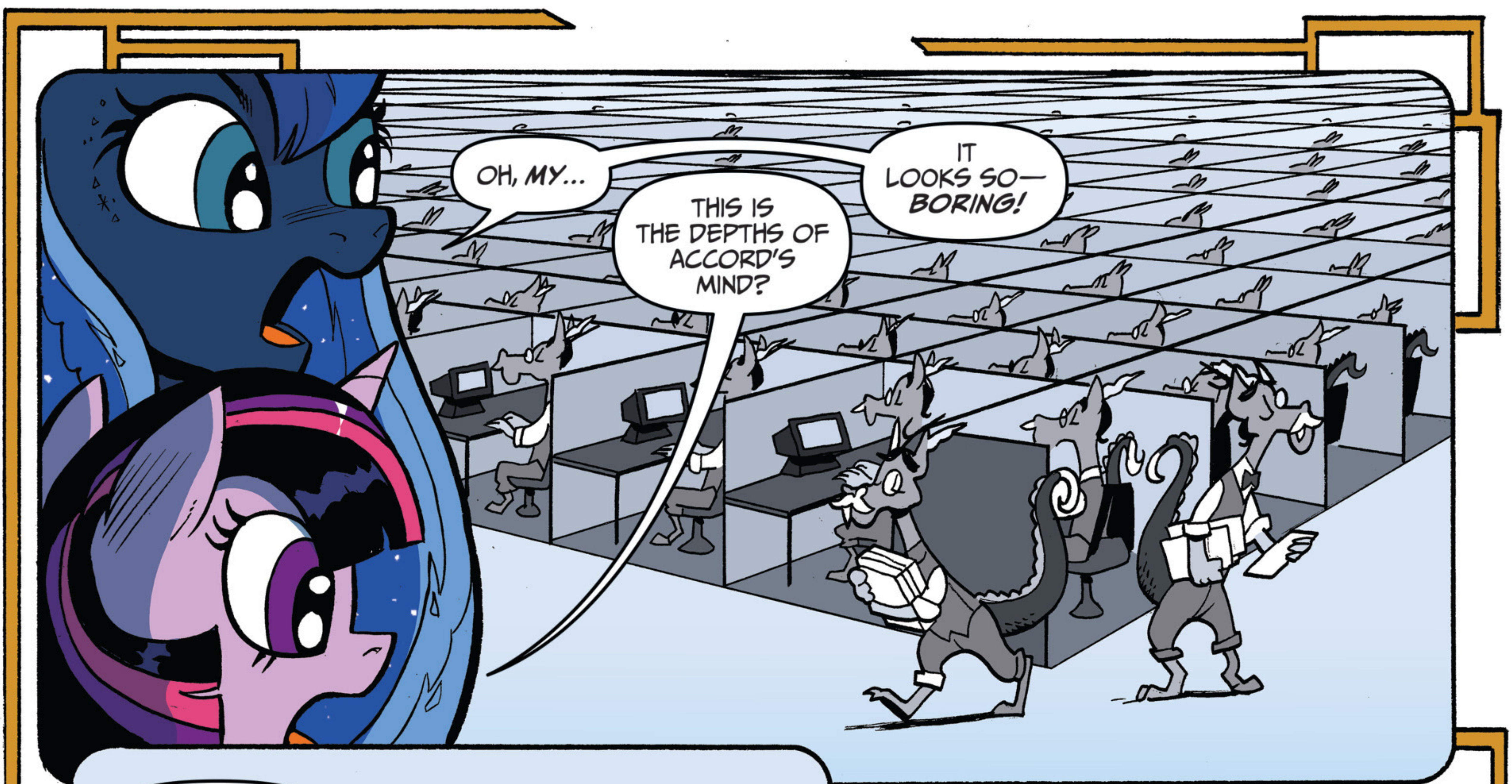
AND IF SO—WHY?

Yoff?



AAAH!

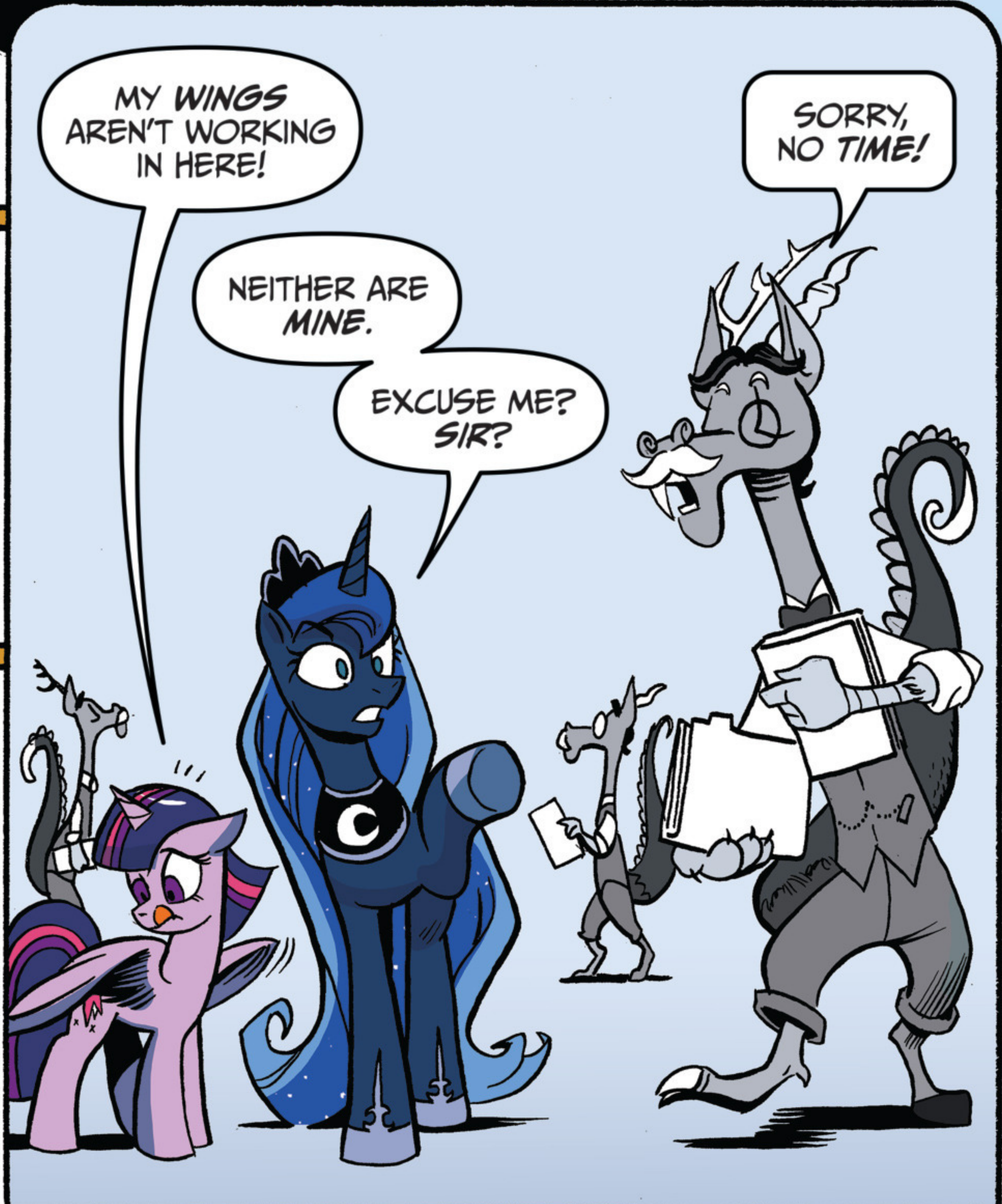




OH, MY...

THIS IS THE DEPTHS OF ACCORD'S MIND?

IT LOOKS SO-BORING!



MY WINGS AREN'T WORKING IN HERE!

NEITHER ARE MINE.

EXCUSE ME? SIR?

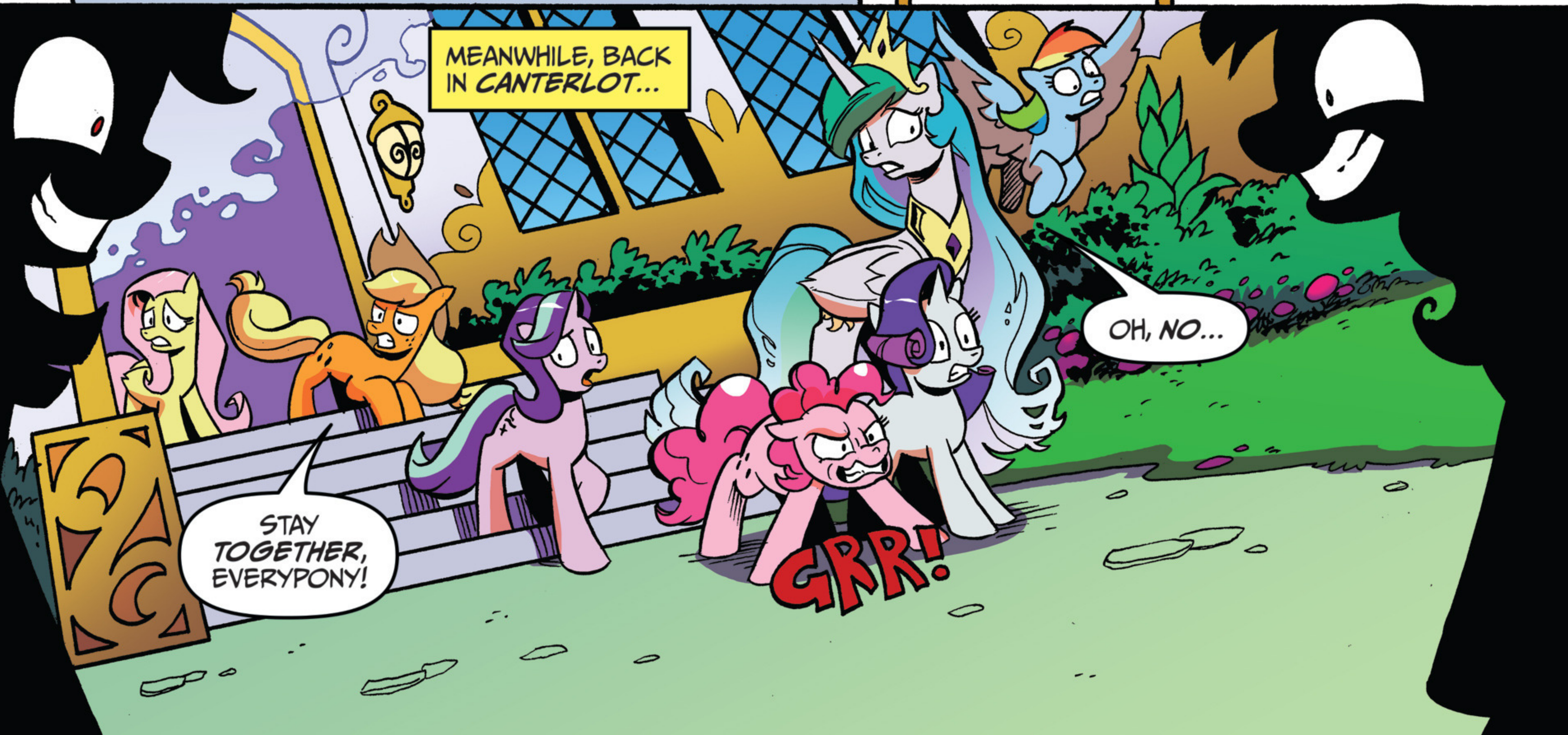
SORRY, NO TIME!



I DON'T THINK THEY WILL BE OF MUCH HELP.

THEN WE NEED TO GET EXPLORING—

—AND QUICKLY!

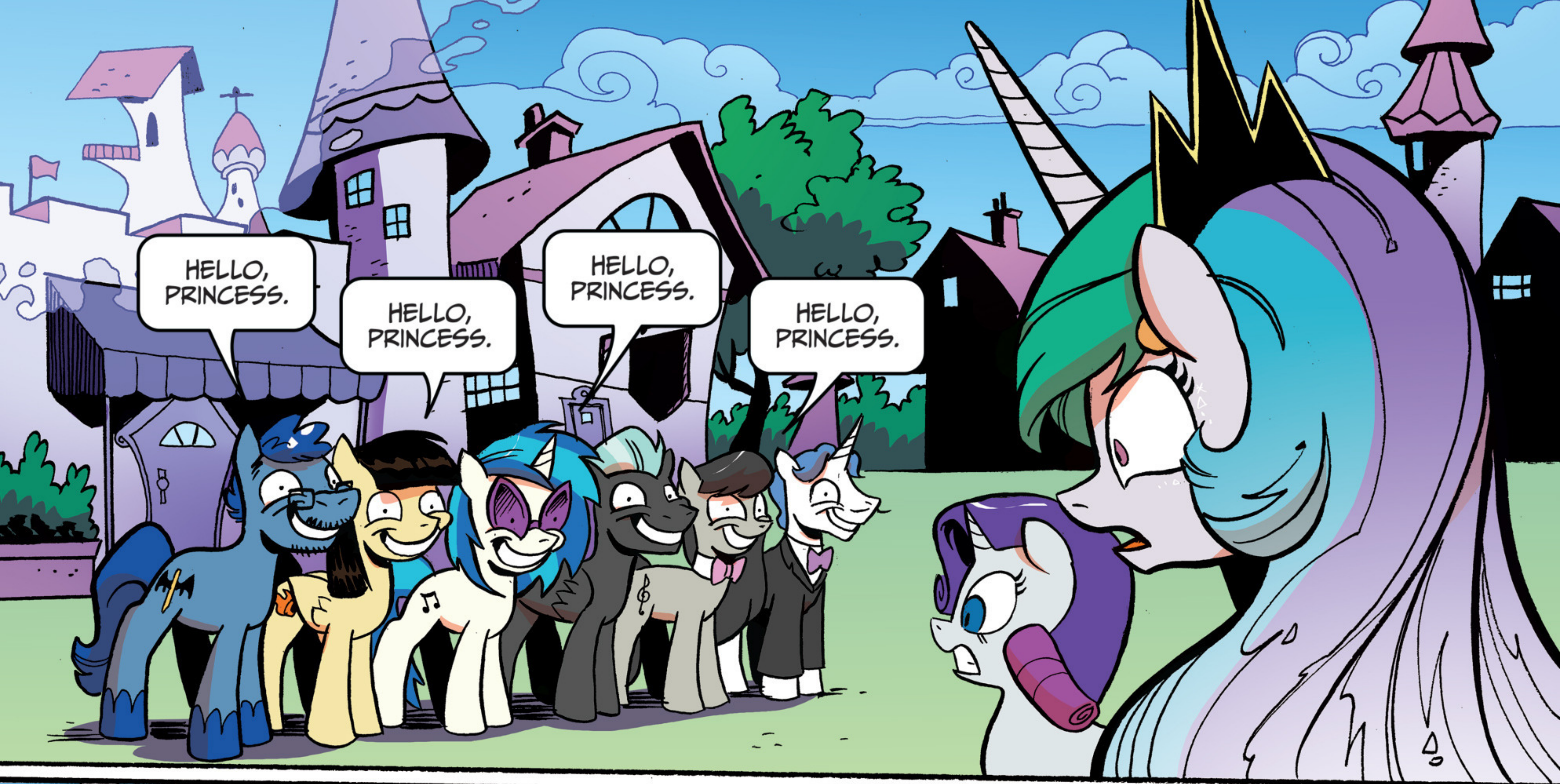


MEANWHILE, BACK IN CANTERLOT...

STAY TOGETHER, EVERYPONY!

OH, NO...

GRRR!



HELLO, PRINCESS.

HELLO, PRINCESS.

HELLO, PRINCESS.

HELLO, PRINCESS.



NO...
MY SUBJECTS.

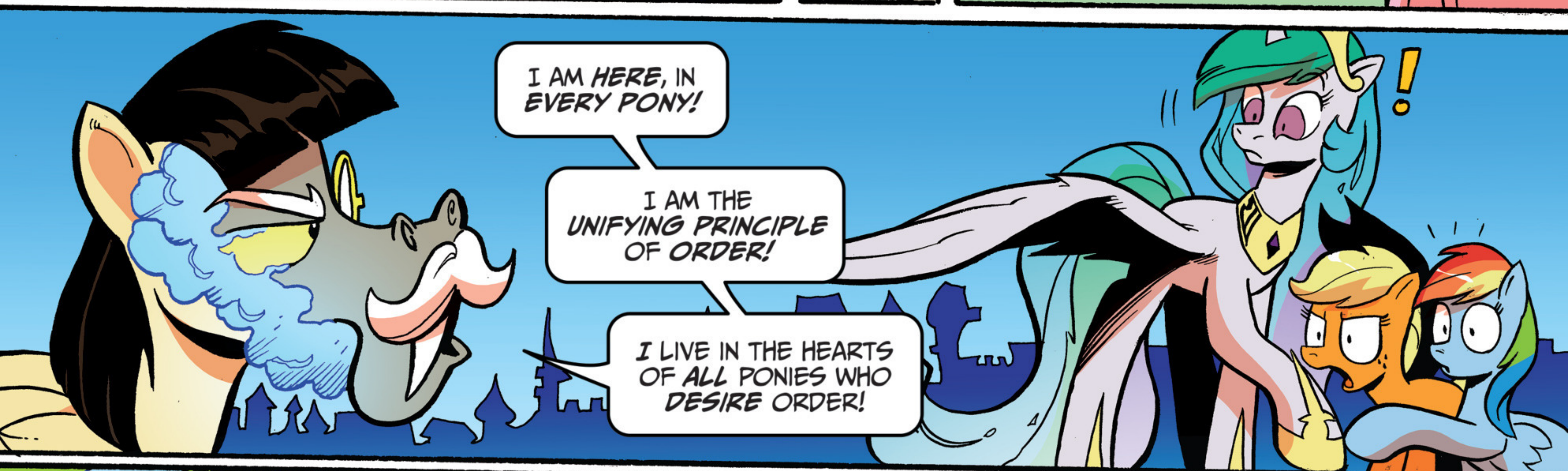
ACCORD'S MAGIC IS SPREADING—

—AND QUICKLY!



IT IS NOT JUST MY MAGIC, STARLIGHT GLIMMER.

IT IS ME.



I AM HERE, IN EVERY PONY!

I AM THE UNIFYING PRINCIPLE OF ORDER!

I LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF ALL PONIES WHO DESIRE ORDER!



AND ORDER WE SHALL HAVE.



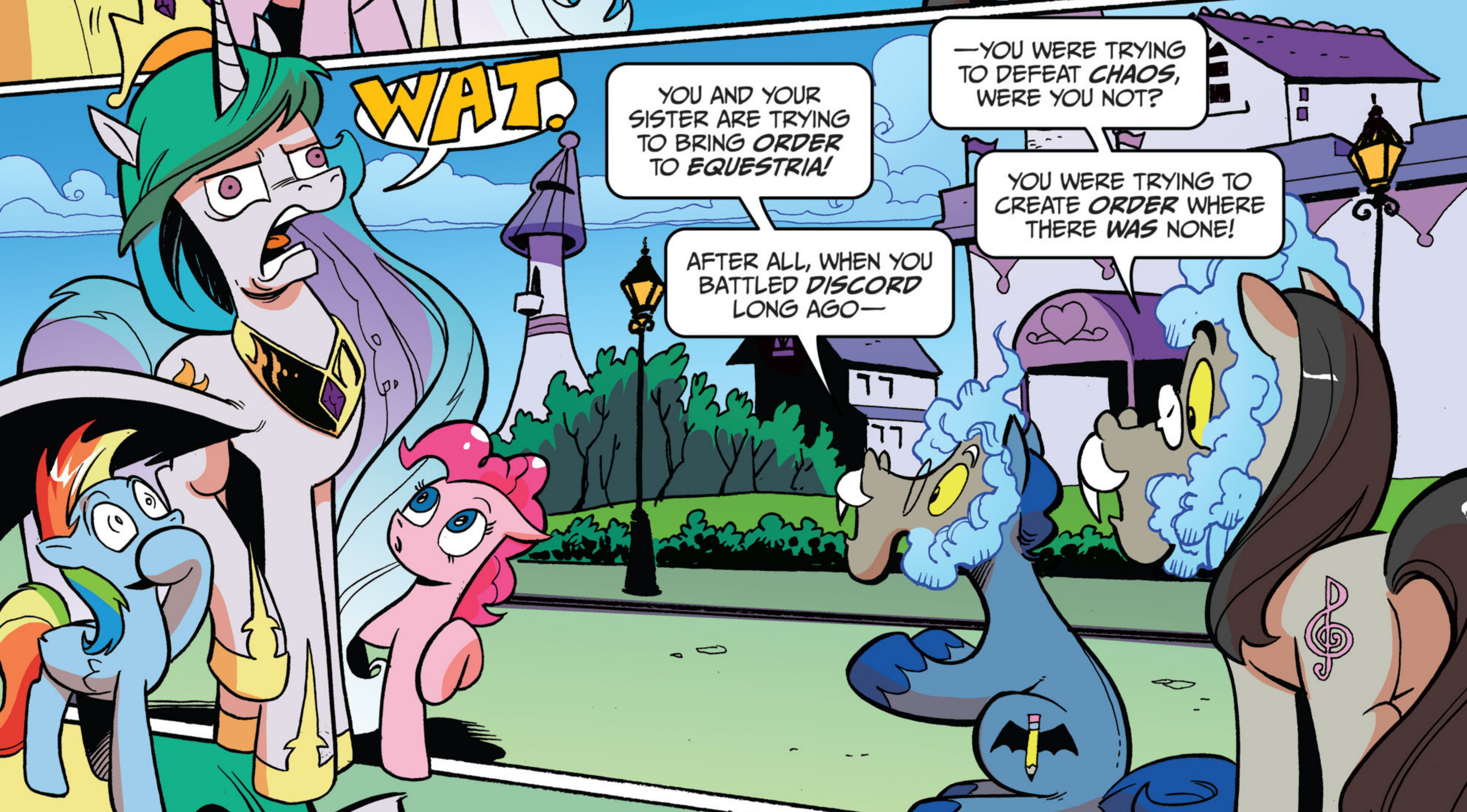
THIS AIN'T ORDER!

YOU'RE JUST TAKIN' OVER PONIES' MINDS!

ACCORD, PLEASE! THIS ISN'T RIGHT!

NOT RIGHT?

BUT WE ARE MERELY TRYING TO ACHIEVE THE SAME GOAL AS PRINCESS CELESTIA!



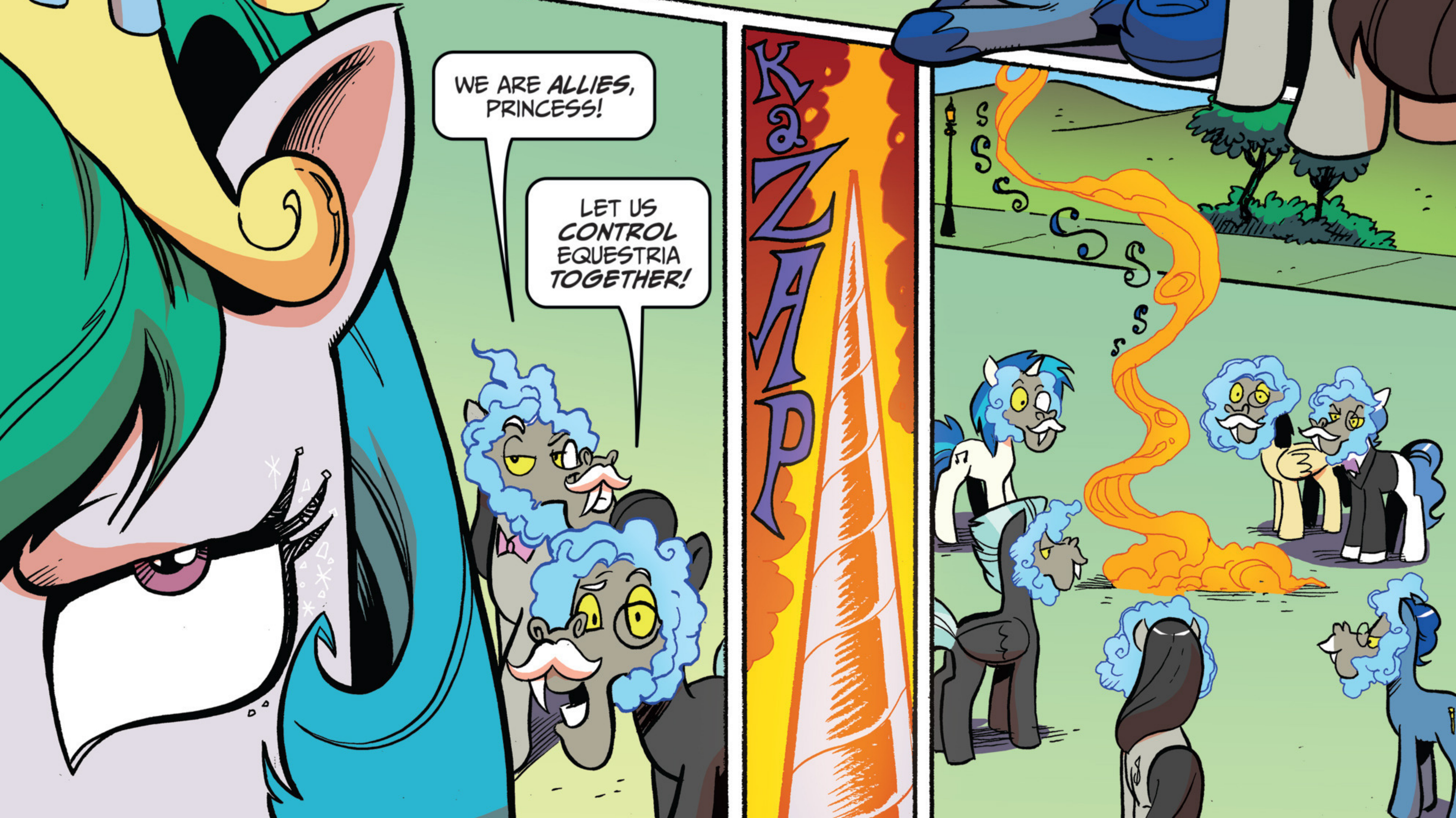
WAT!

YOU AND YOUR SISTER ARE TRYING TO BRING ORDER TO EQUESTRIA!

—YOU WERE TRYING TO DEFEAT CHAOS, WERE YOU NOT?

YOU WERE TRYING TO CREATE ORDER WHERE THERE WAS NONE!

AFTER ALL, WHEN YOU BATTLED DISCORD LONG AGO—



WE ARE ALLIES, PRINCESS!

LET US CONTROL EQUESTRIA TOGETHER!

KAZAP



COME ON!

WE MUST ESCAPE THE CITY!

!!?!?!?



COME BACK, PRINCESS.

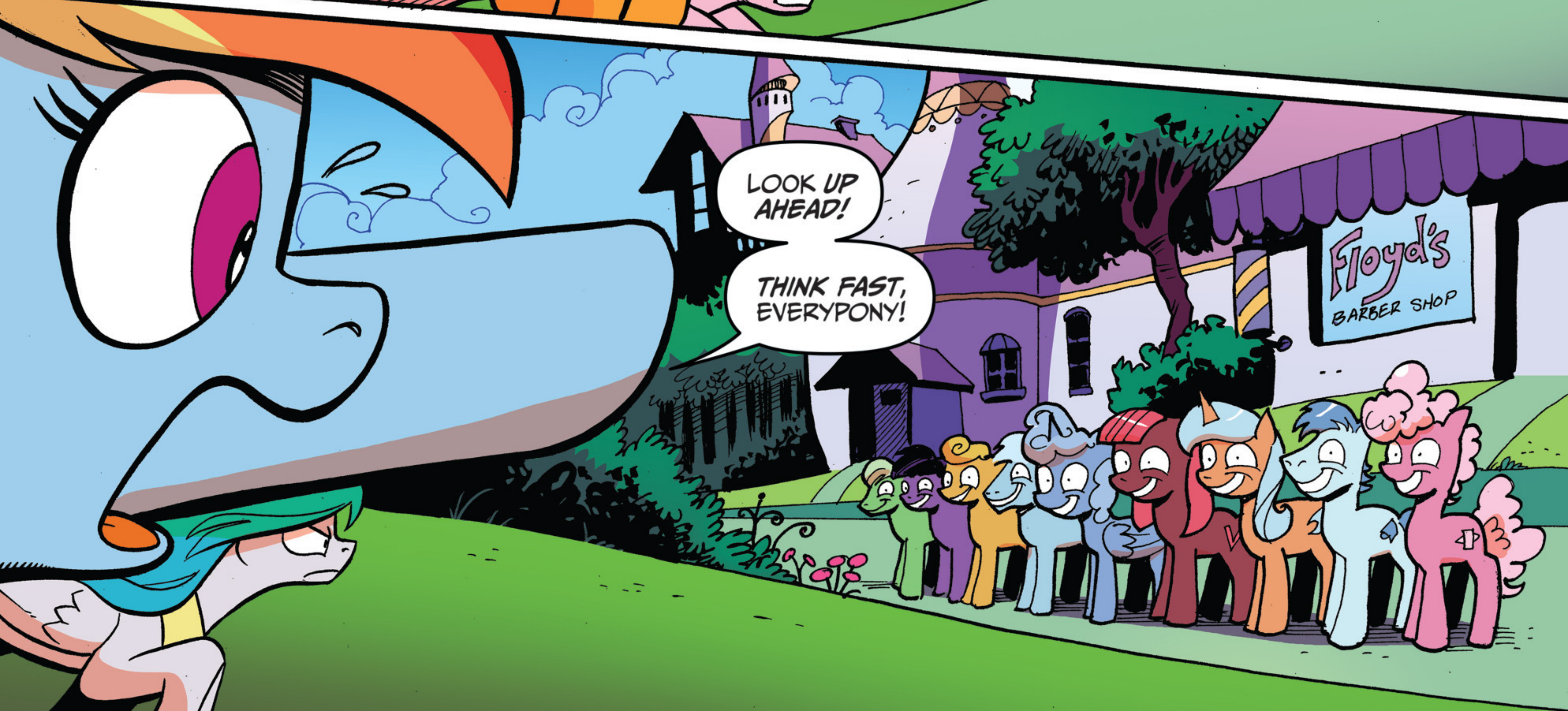
COME BACK.



FORGET FOLLOWING—

—THEY'RE COMING IN FROM ALL SIDES!

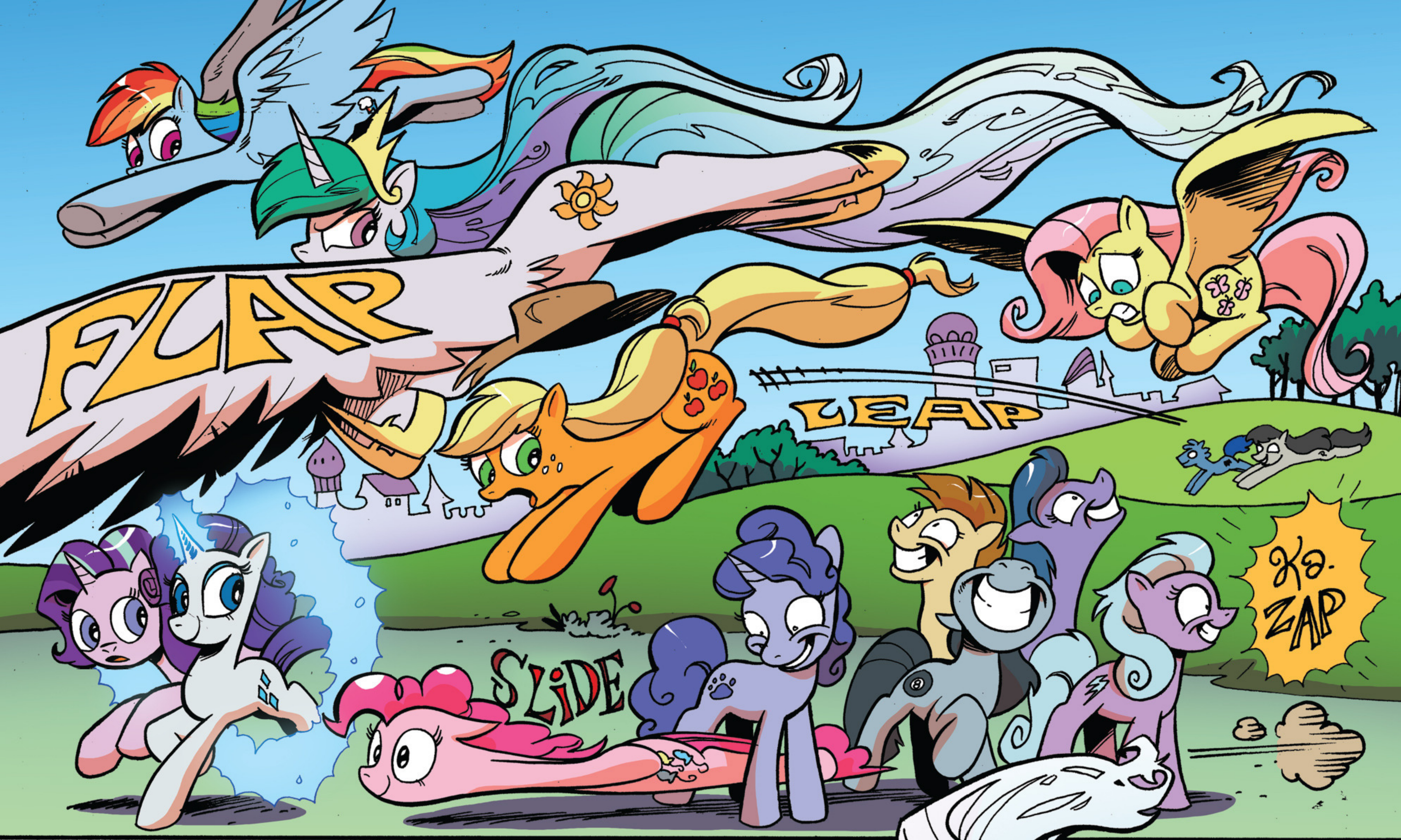
THEY'RE STILL FOLLOWIN' US!



LOOK UP AHEAD!

THINK FAST, EVERYPONY!

Floyd's
BARBER SHOP





INDEED...

ACCORD

ACCORD

ACCORD

ACCORD

ACCORD

ACCORD

ACCORD

ACCORD

ACCORD

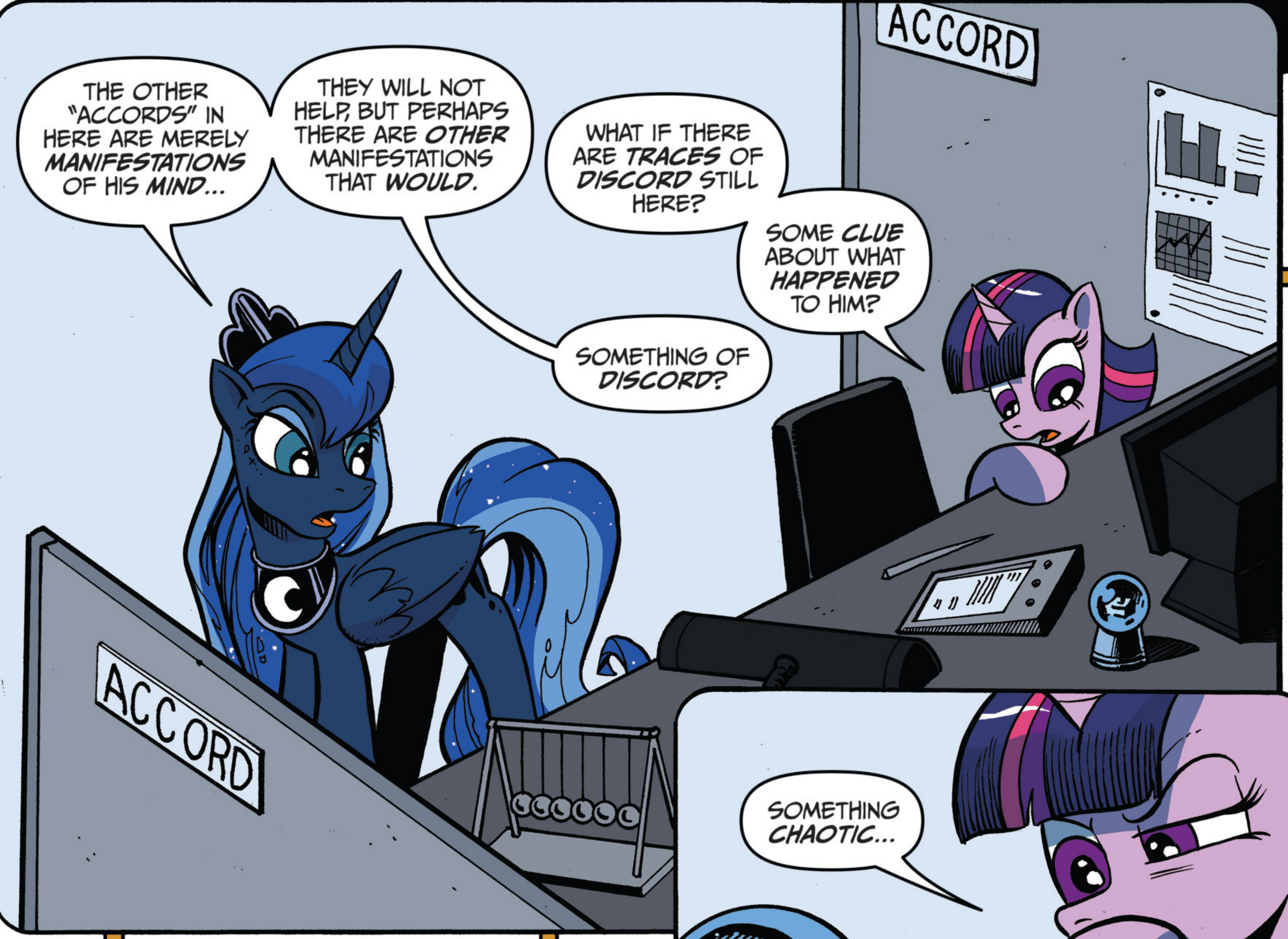
ACCORD

ACCORD

IT MAKES SENSE THAT THE MIND OF A LORD OF ORDER WOULD BE SO...

...UNIFORM.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR!



THE OTHER "ACCORDS" IN HERE ARE MERELY MANIFESTATIONS OF HIS MIND...

THEY WILL NOT HELP, BUT PERHAPS THERE ARE OTHER MANIFESTATIONS THAT WOULD.

WHAT IF THERE ARE TRACES OF DISCORD STILL HERE?

SOME CLUE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

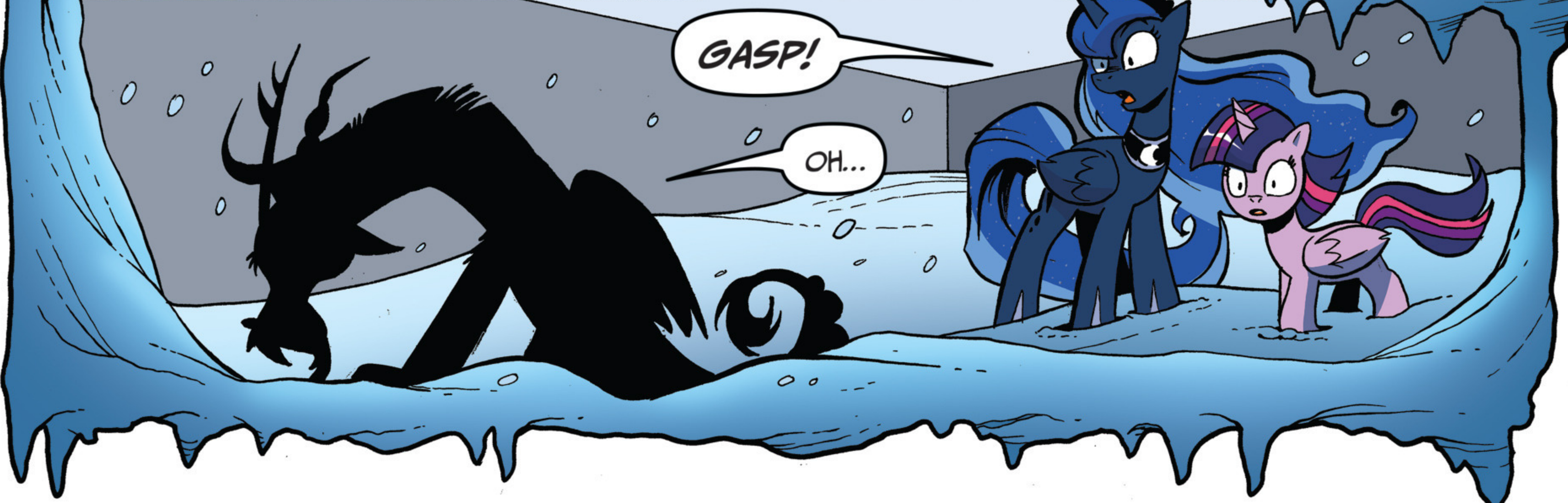
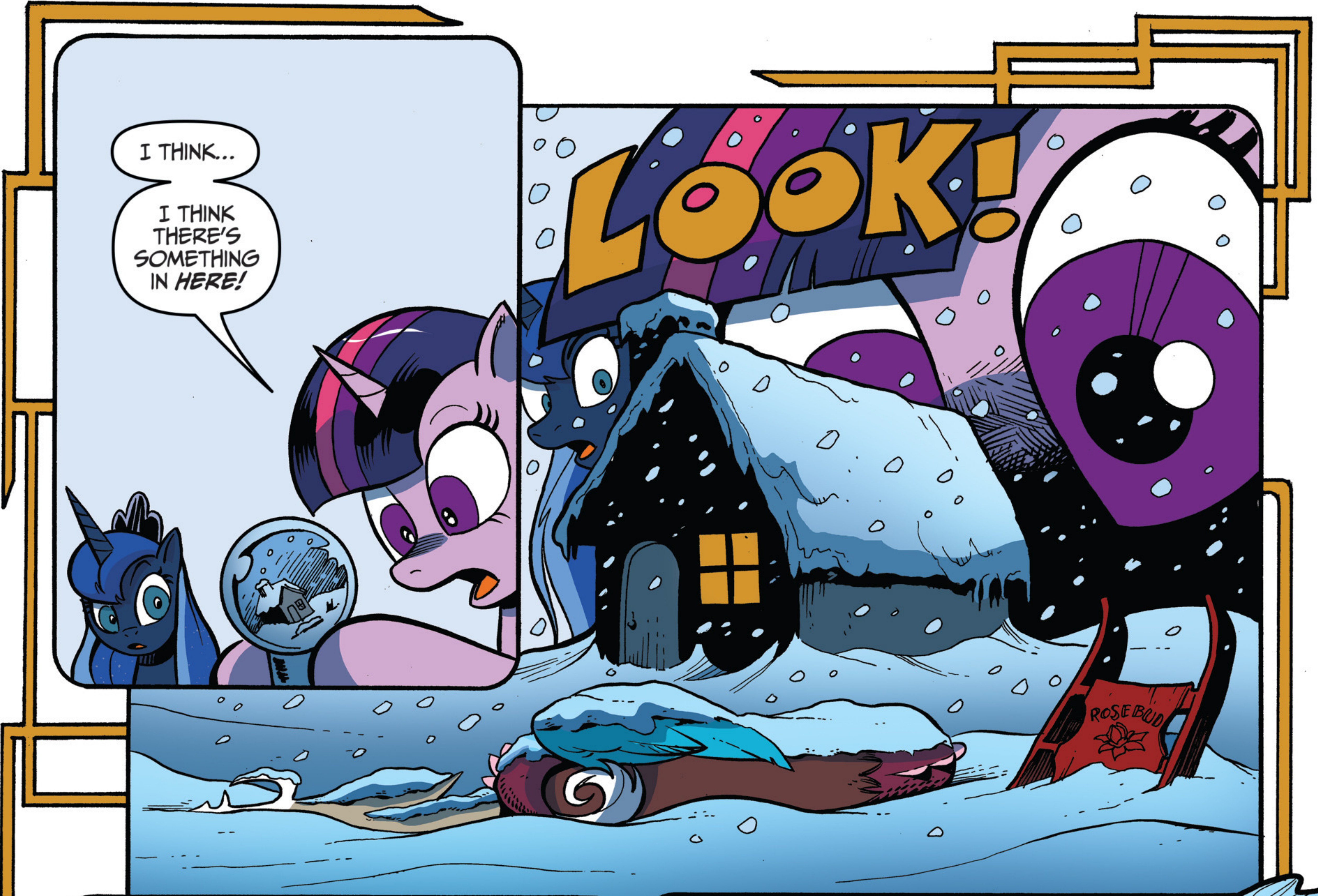
SOMETHING OF DISCORD?

ACCORD

ACCORD

SOMETHING CHAOTIC...







...HELLO, PRINCESSES.

DISCORD!

IT'S... GOOD TO SEE YOU...

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!



WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHY ARE YOU IN HERE?

WHAT IS "HERE"?

THE LAST NON-ACCORD PART OF MY MIND...

...ALL THAT'S LEFT OF ME.



DISCORD, WHAT HAPPENED?

WHO CHANGED YOU INTO ACCORD?

"WHO CHANGED ME"?

WHY, TWILIGHT...

I CHANGED MYSELF.

"AT THE CONJUNCTION
THAT NIGHT..."

"I REALIZED THAT
MY STYLE OF
WACKY ANTICS
IS NEVER GOING
TO FIT WITH YOU
PONIES!"

"I REALIZED I WOULD
NEVER FIT IN WITH YOU."

"SO PERHAPS..."

"...IT WAS TIME
FOR A CHANGE."

"PERHAPS..."

"...A NEW ME WOULD
DO BETTER!"

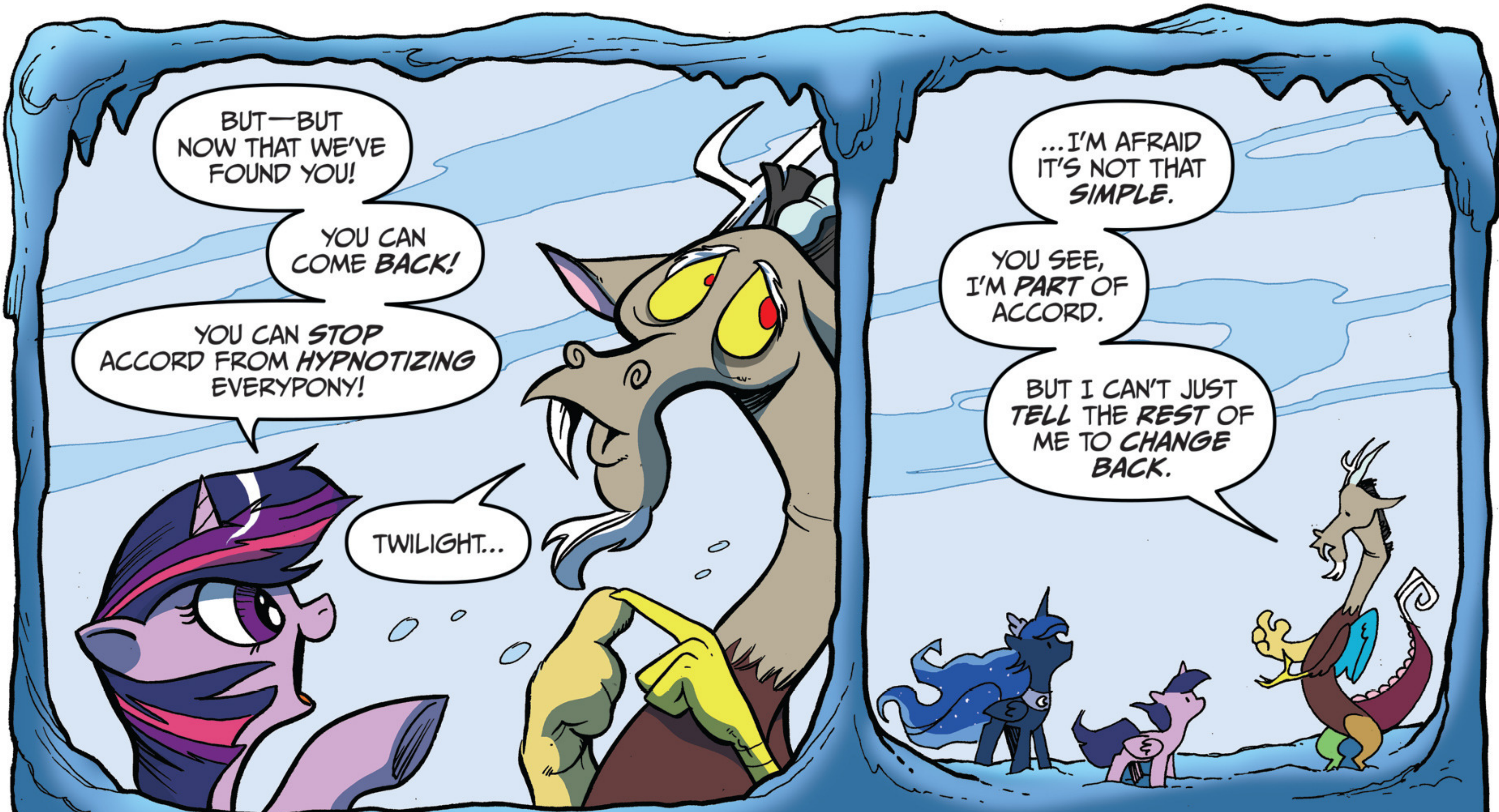
OH,
DISCORD..."

I'M SO
SORRY.

WE SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
MADE YOU FEEL
SO AWFUL.

IT'S ALL
OUR FAULT.





BUT—BUT NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND YOU!

YOU CAN COME BACK!

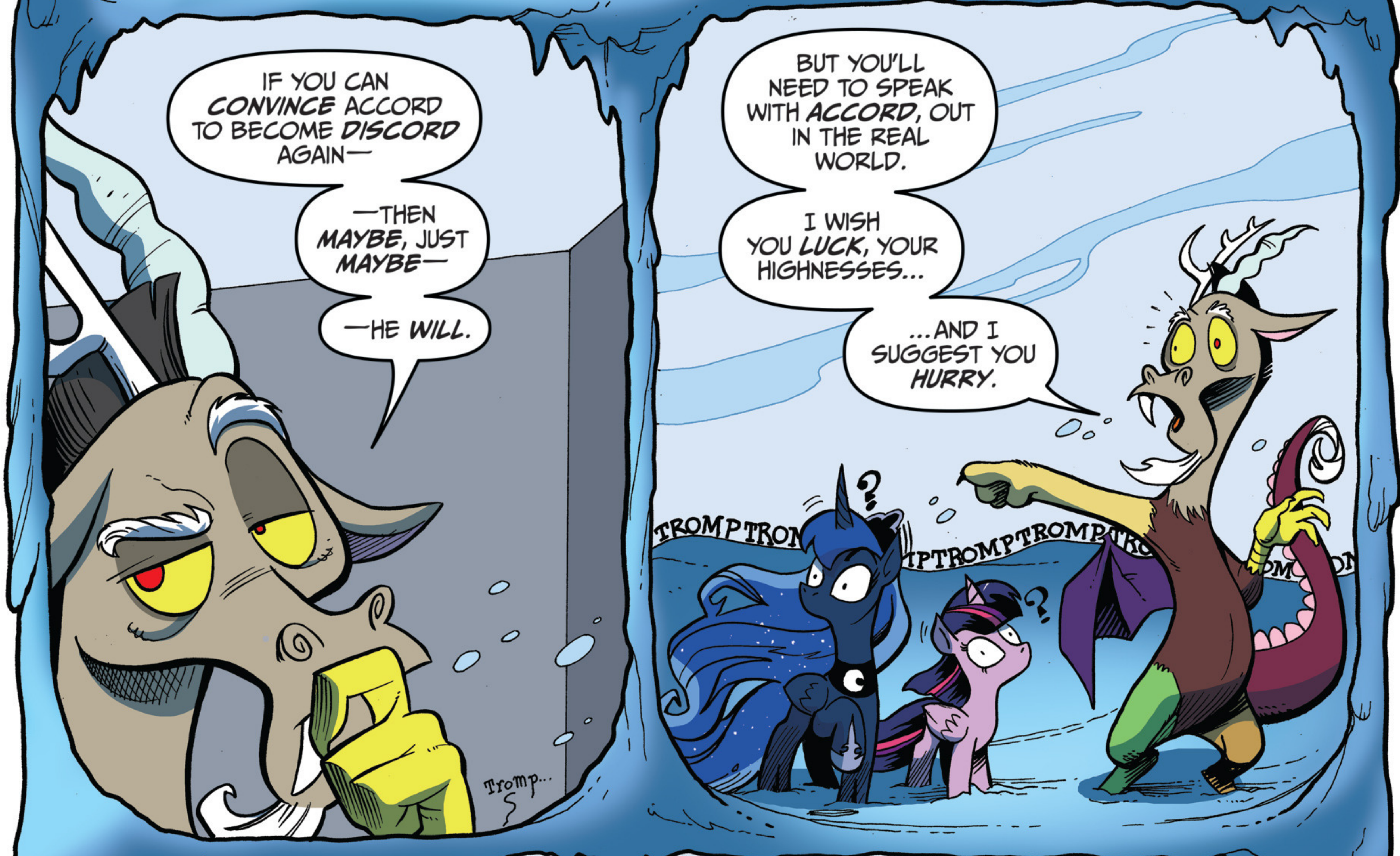
YOU CAN STOP ACCORD FROM HYPNOTIZING EVERYPONY!

TWILIGHT...

...I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

YOU SEE, I'M PART OF ACCORD.

BUT I CAN'T JUST TELL THE REST OF ME TO CHANGE BACK.



IF YOU CAN CONVINCE ACCORD TO BECOME DISCORD AGAIN—

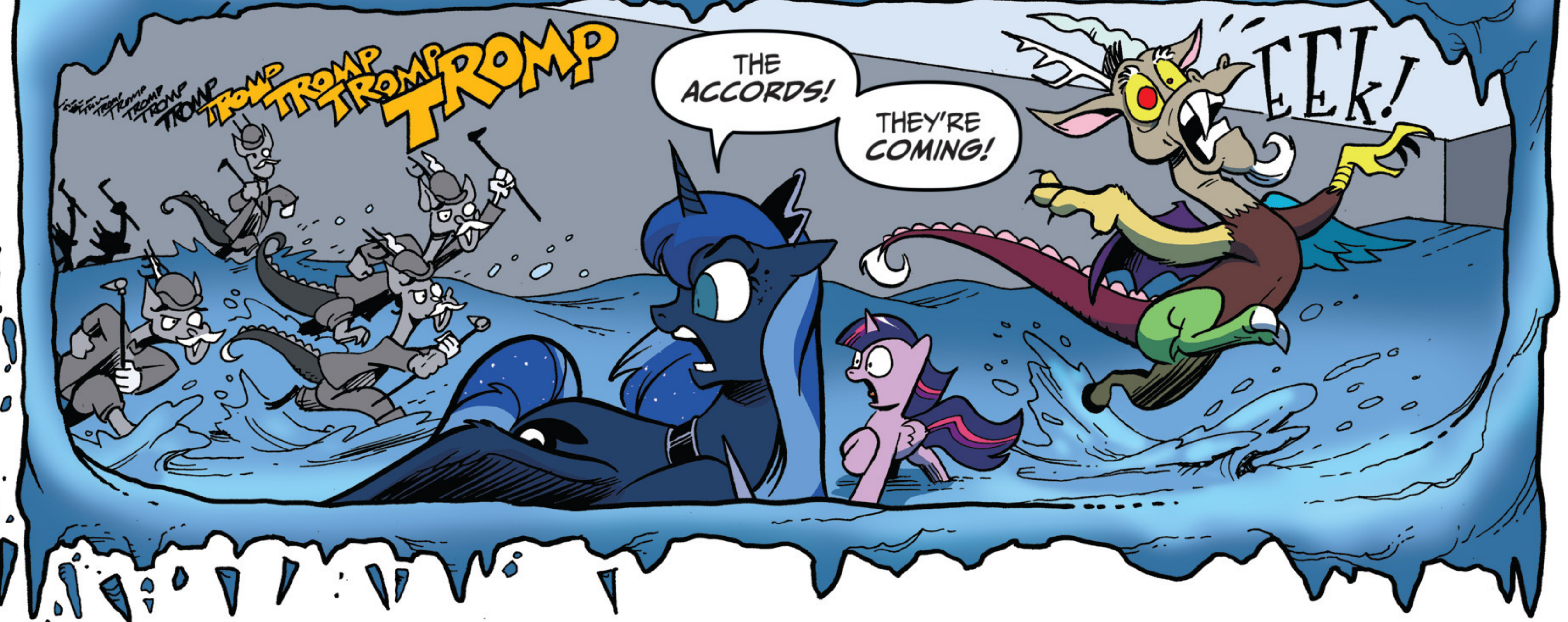
—THEN MAYBE, JUST MAYBE—

—HE WILL.

BUT YOU'LL NEED TO SPEAK WITH ACCORD, OUT IN THE REAL WORLD.

I WISH YOU LUCK, YOUR HIGHNESSES...

...AND I SUGGEST YOU HURRY.

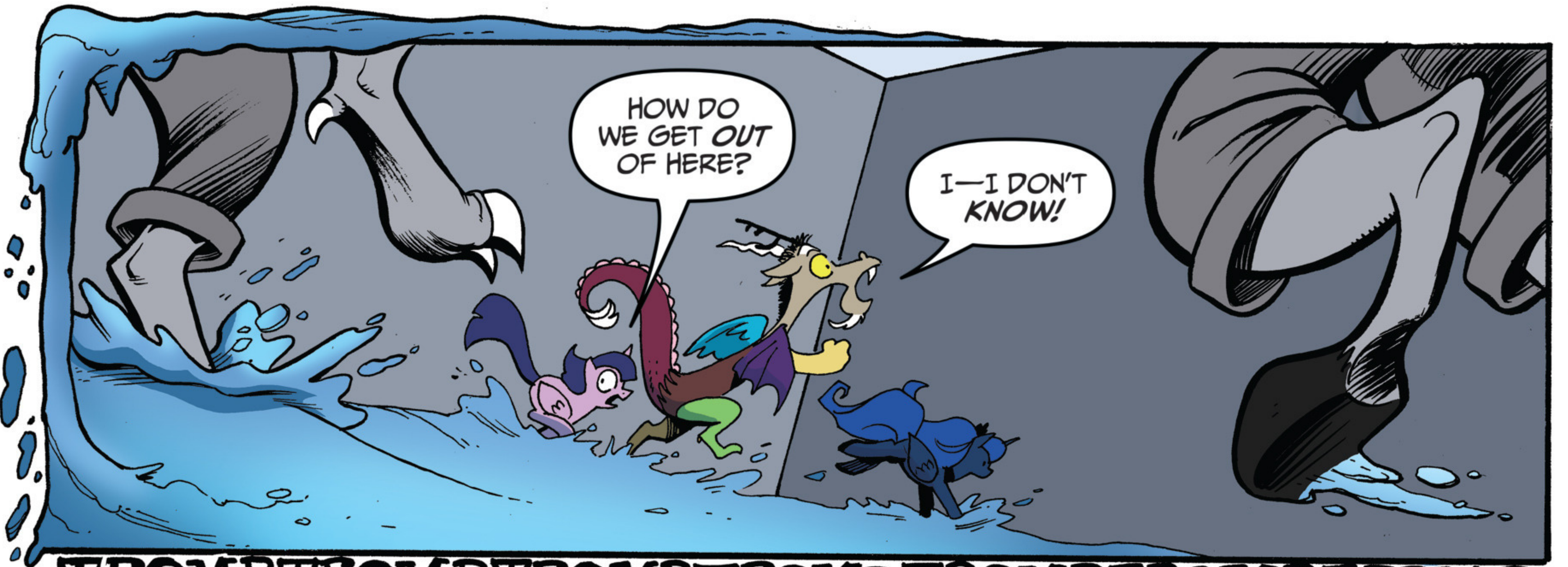


THE ACCORDS!
THEY'RE COMING!

THEY'RE COMING!

EEEK!

TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP TROMP



HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?

I—I DON'T KNOW!

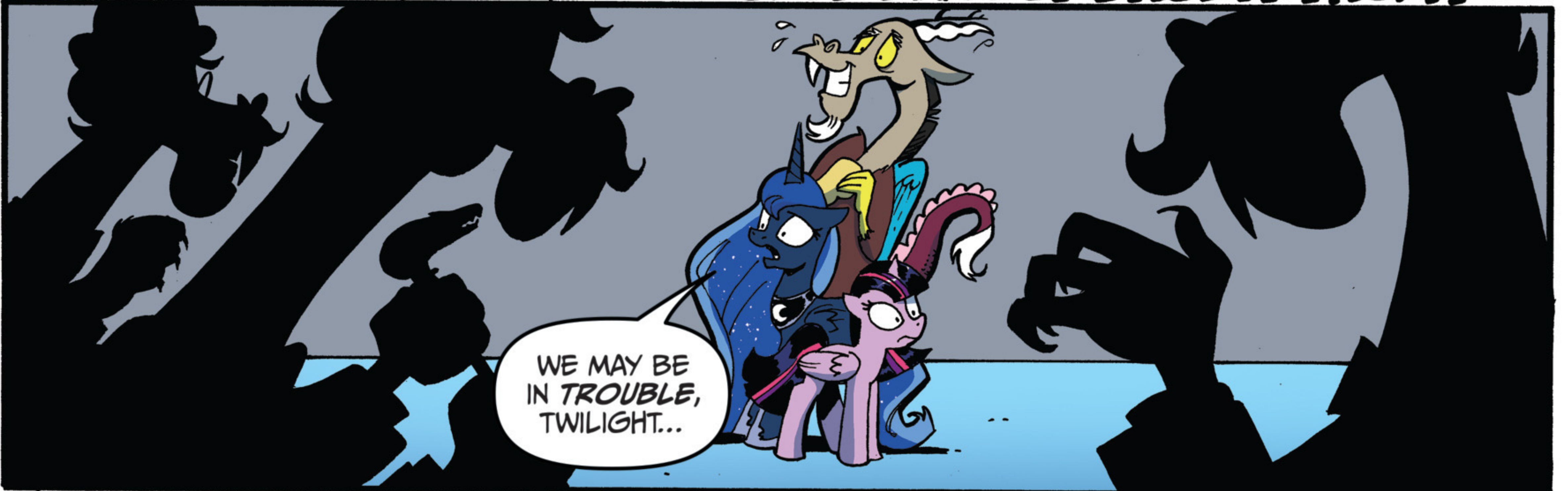
TROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPT



CAN WE DESTROY THE WALLS?

MY MAGIC ISN'T WORKING!

TROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPT



WE MAY BE IN TROUBLE, TWILIGHT...

TROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPTROMPT



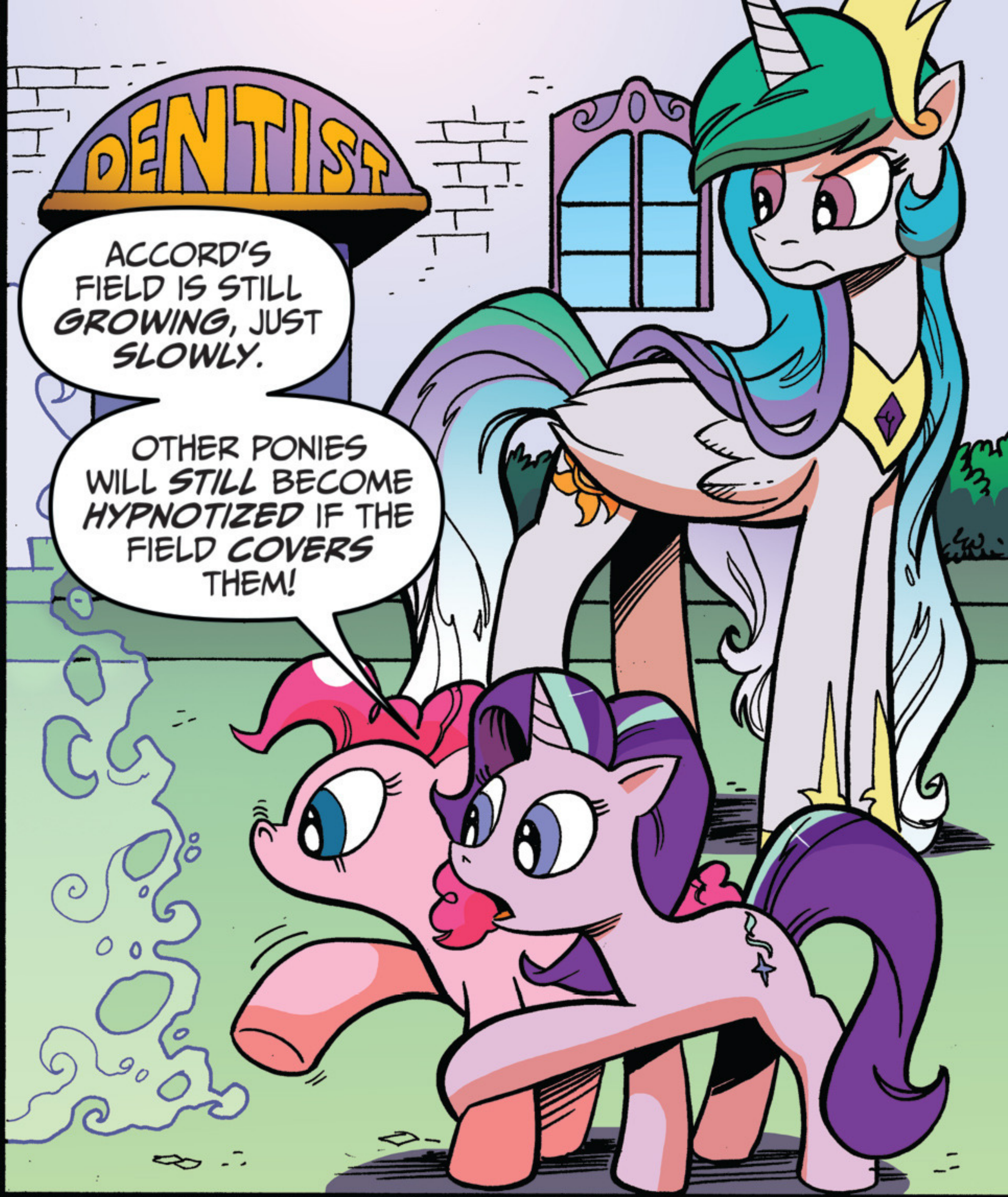
LOOK! UP AHEAD!

IT'S THE EDGE OF ACCORD'S HYPNOSIS FIELD!



WE MADE IT!
WE'RE SAFE!

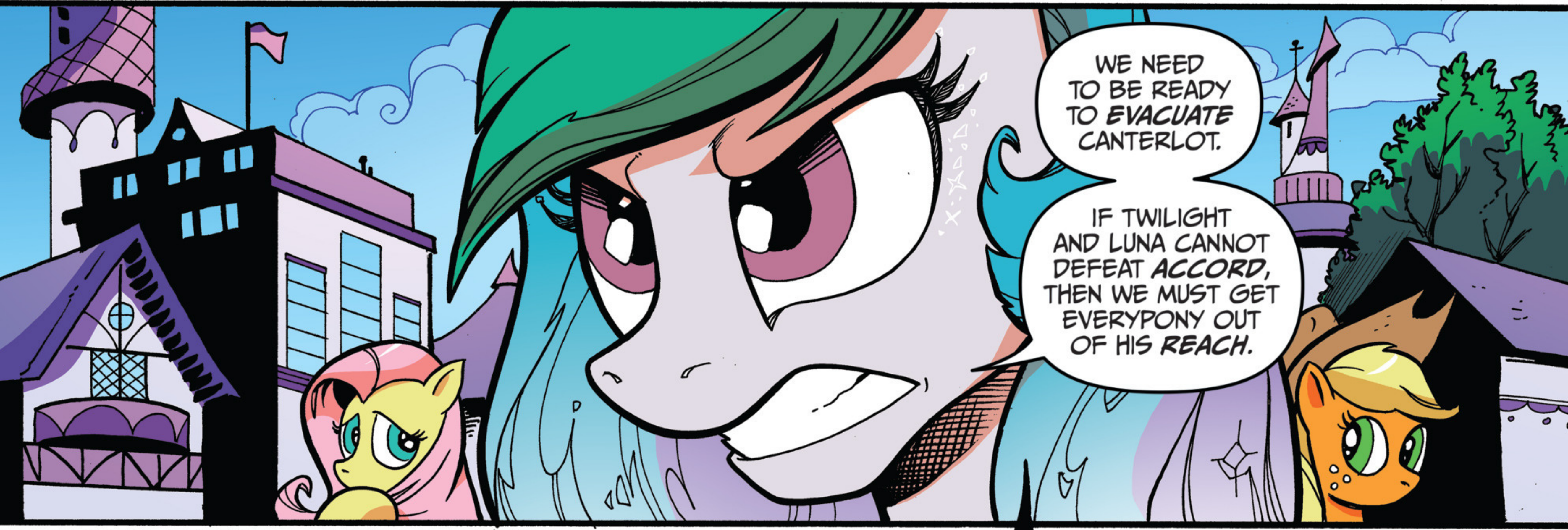
FOR NOW...



DENTIST

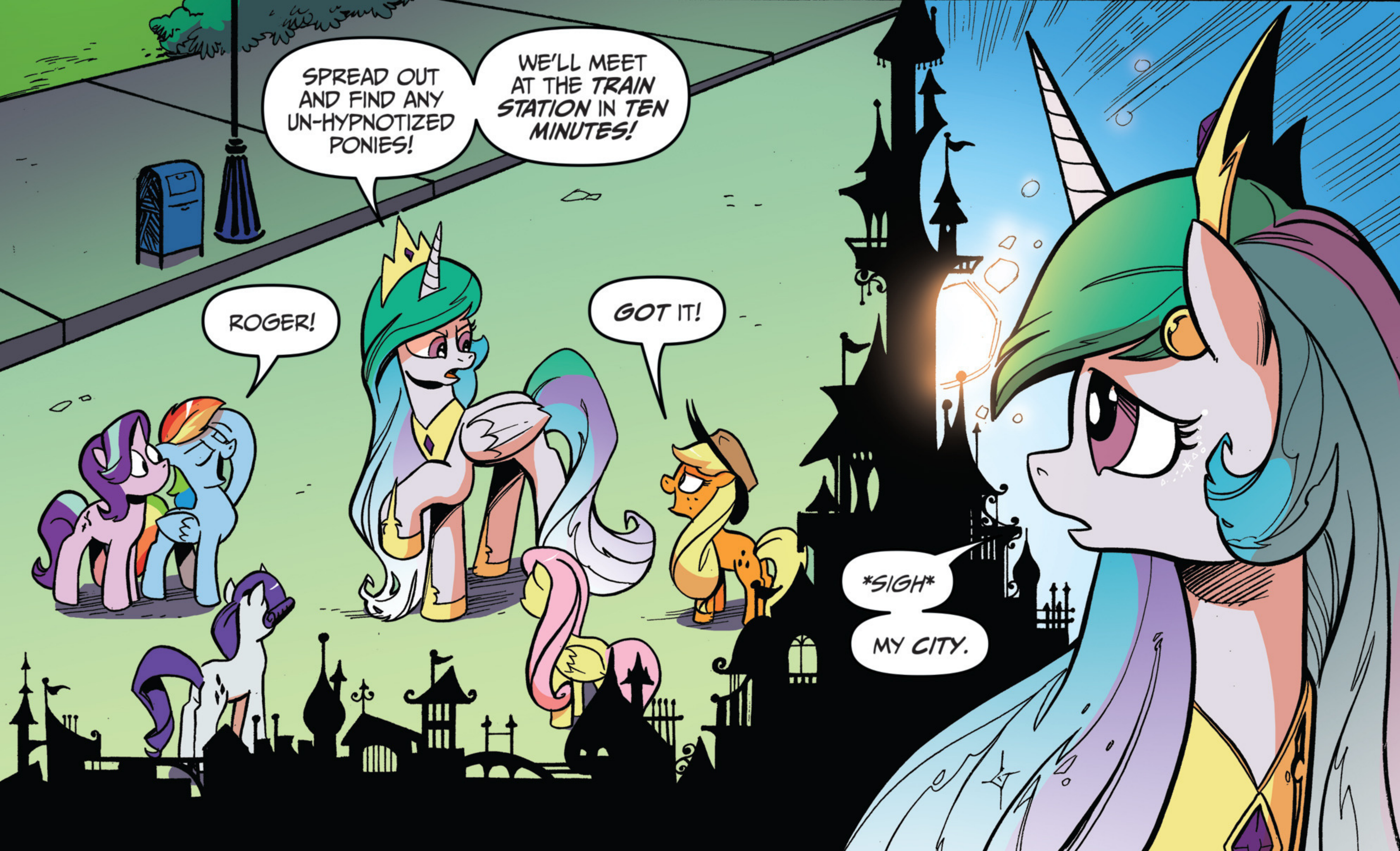
ACCORD'S FIELD IS STILL GROWING, JUST SLOWLY.

OTHER PONIES WILL STILL BECOME HYPNOTIZED IF THE FIELD COVERS THEM!



WE NEED TO BE READY TO EVACUATE CANTERLOT.

IF TWILIGHT AND LUNA CANNOT DEFEAT ACCORD, THEN WE MUST GET EVERYPONY OUT OF HIS REACH.



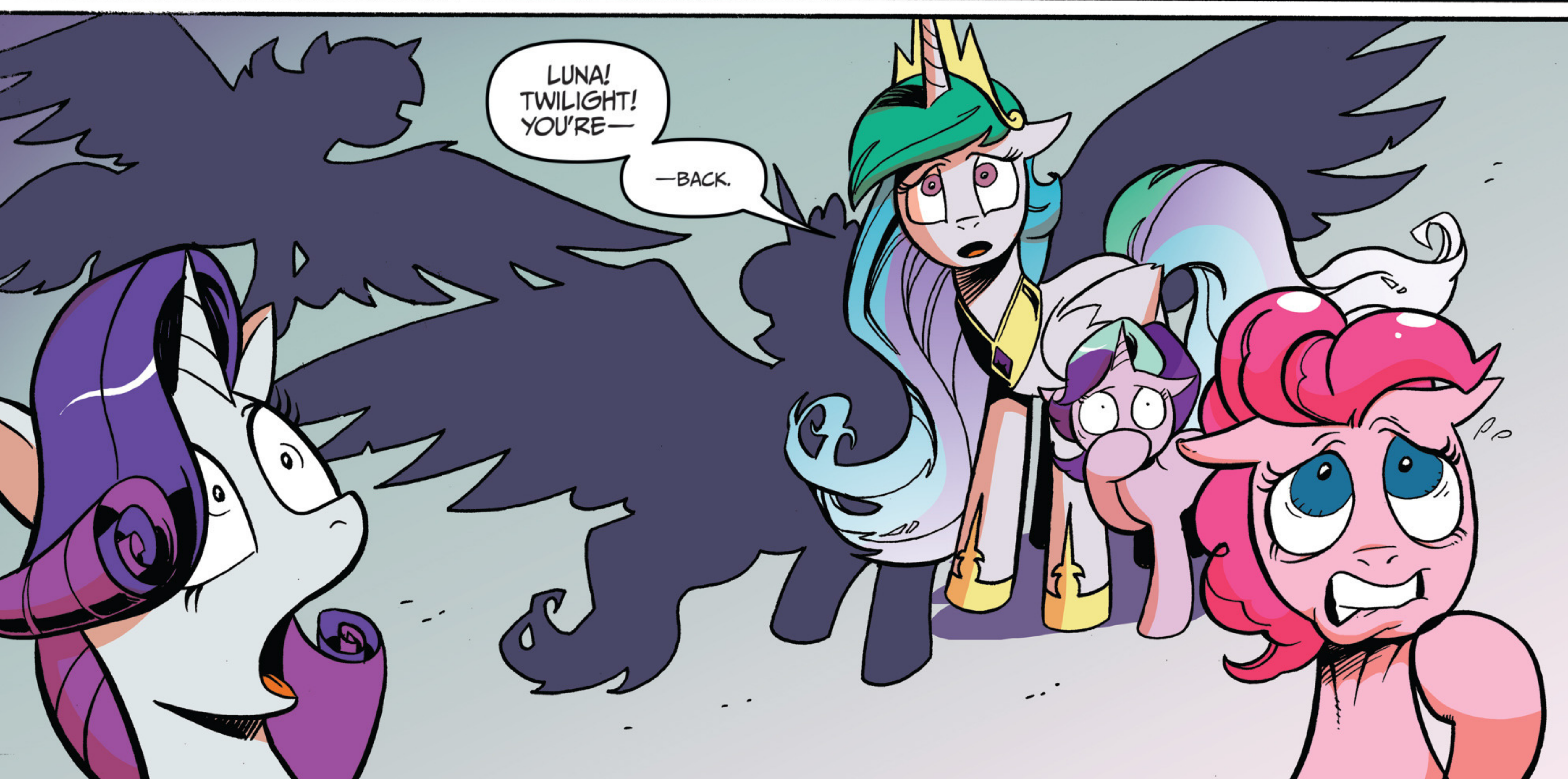
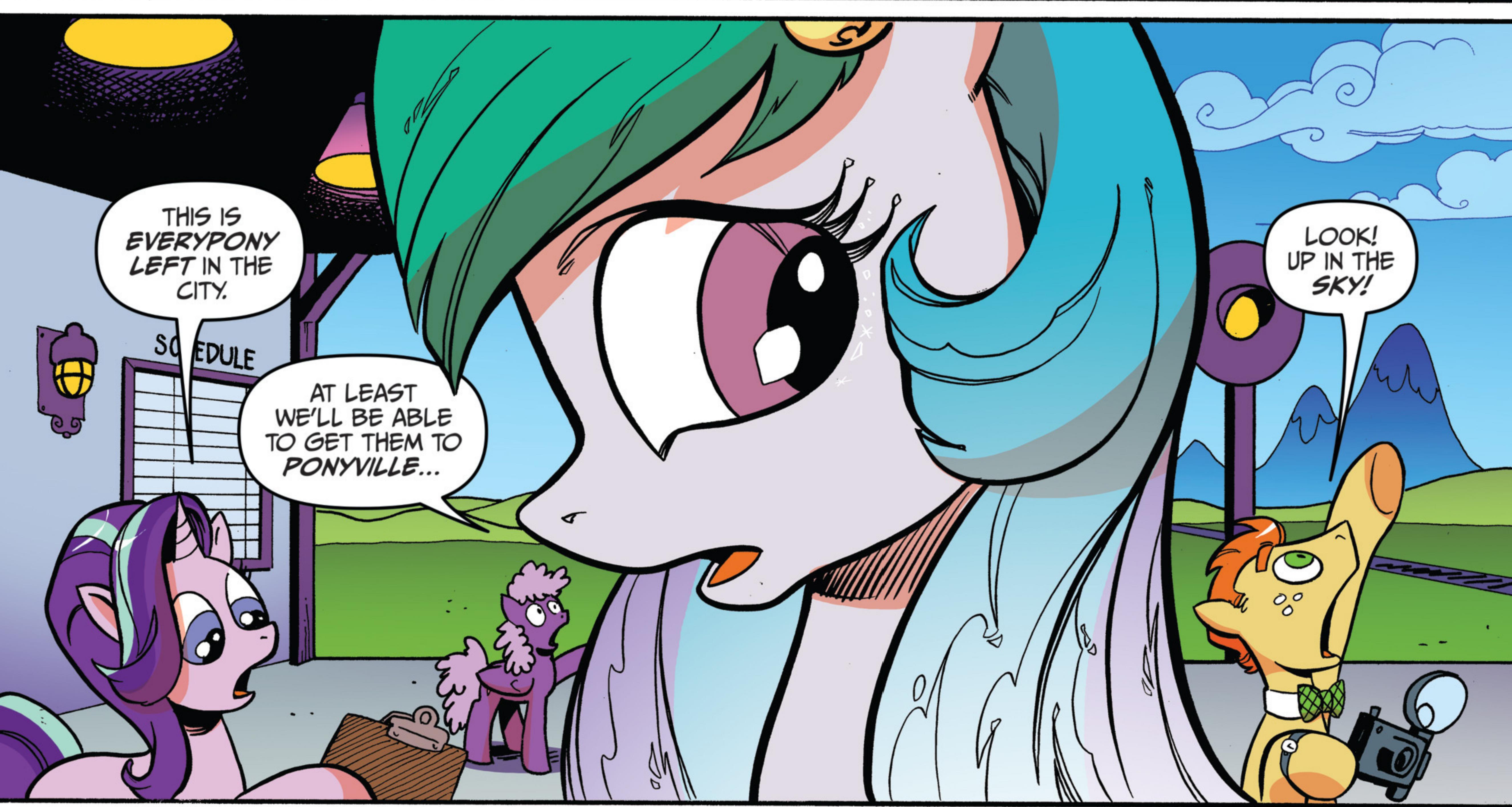
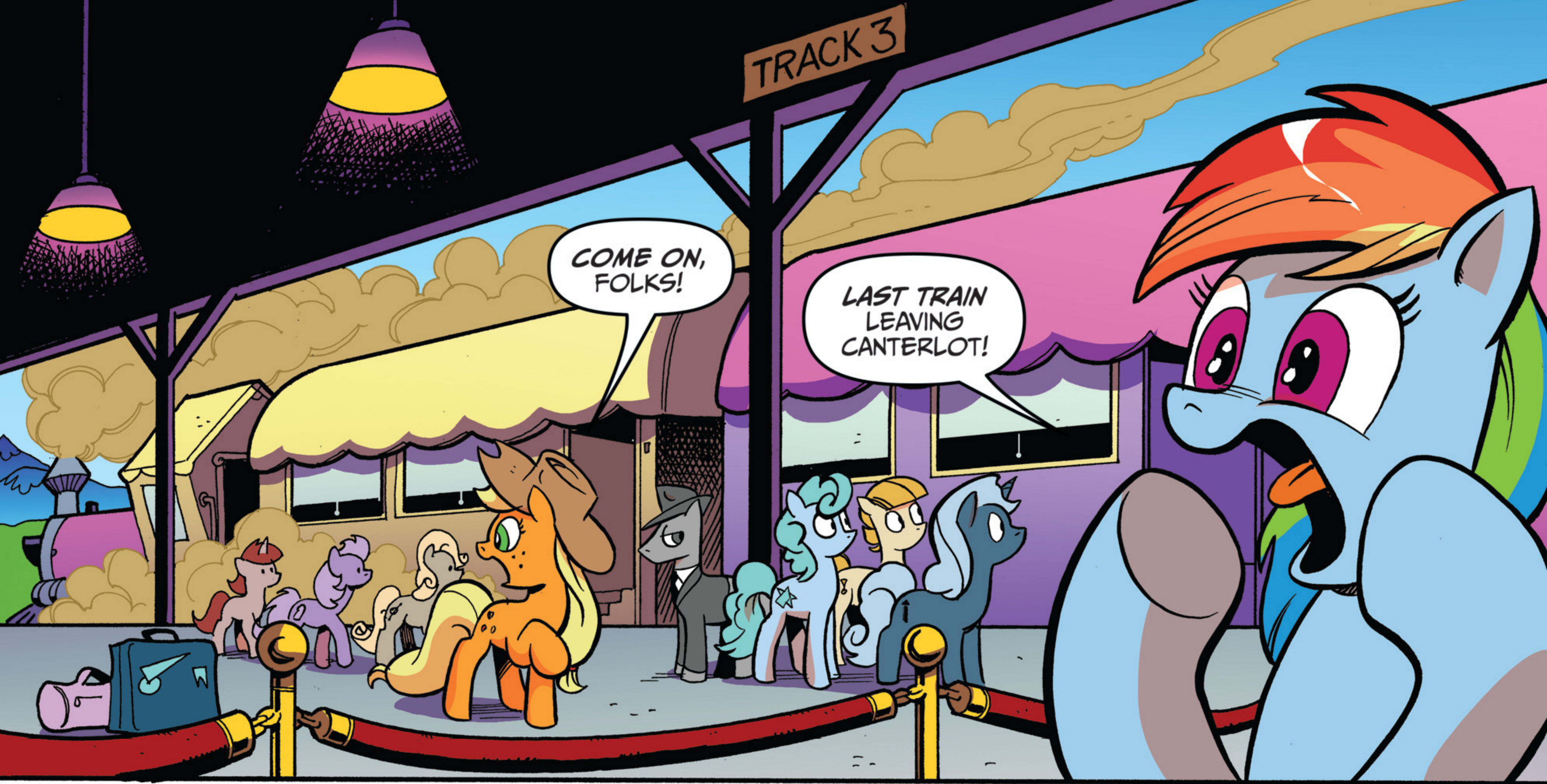
SPREAD OUT AND FIND ANY UN-HYPNOTIZED PONIES!

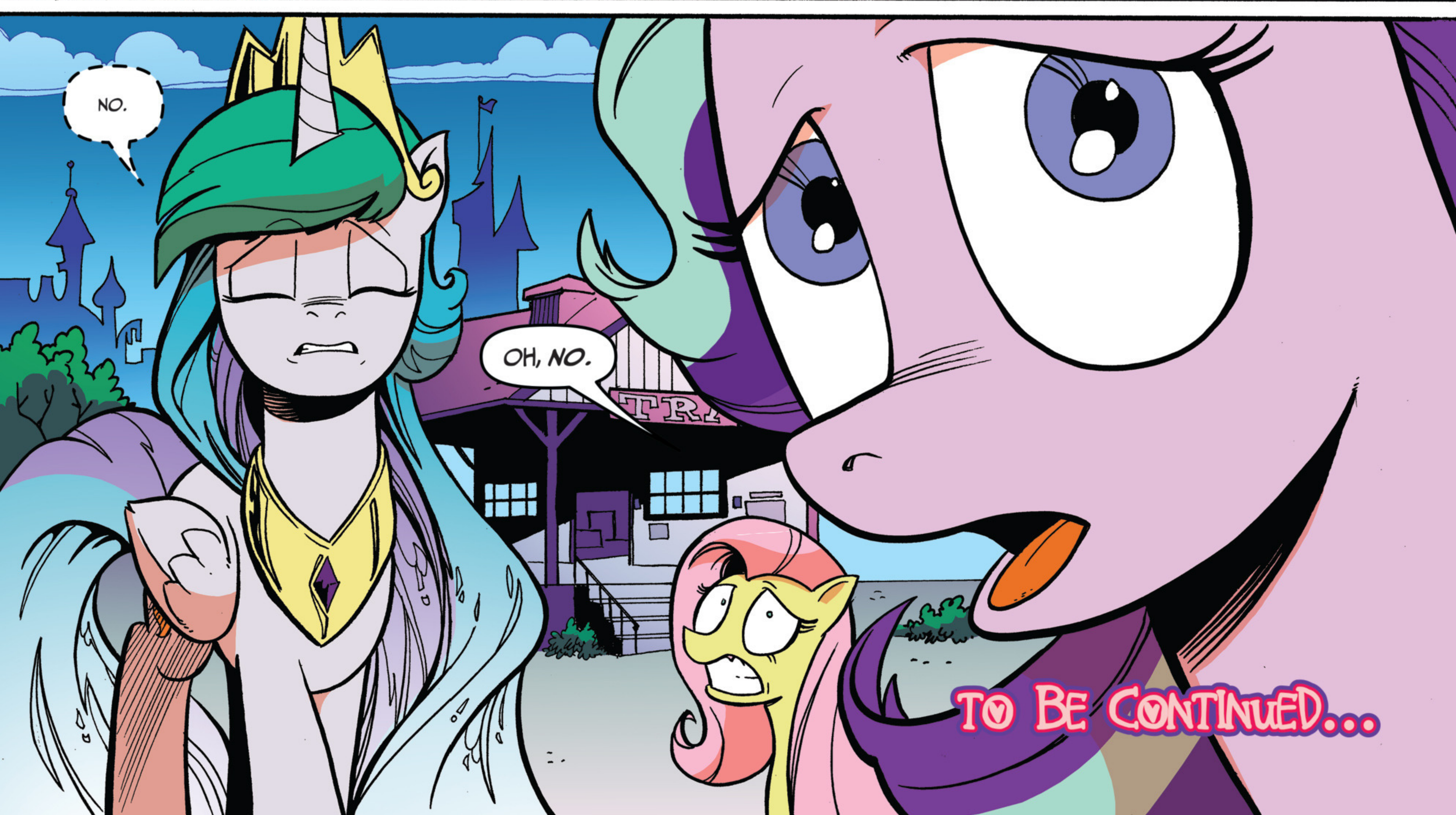
WE'LL MEET AT THE TRAIN STATION IN TEN MINUTES!

ROGER!

GOT IT!

SIGH
MY CITY.





FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

by Ted Adams

To celebrate the return of **Locke & Key** with this month's "Small World," I'm devoting this month's column to a conversation with the book's creators—**Joe Hill** and **Gabriel Rodriguez**.

TA: Joe, as the comic book adapter of Richard Matheson's *The Shrinking Man*, I have to ask if his novel influenced "Small World."

JH: Probably 80% of everything I've ever written has been influenced by Richard Matheson—"Locke & Key: Small World" being no exception. He is, to horror fiction, what Chuck Berry is to rock and roll. Foundational. People won't have to look hard to see the connection between *The Shrinking Man* and "Small World." It's in almost every panel of the last dozen pages.

TA: Gabe, we just saw each other at New York Comic Con where you told me you were very happy with the work you're doing on "Small World." You've literally never done a piece of art that I haven't loved and I'm curious about what makes this feel different for you?

GR: Ah, well, thanks for the support as I try hard, 'cause I'm sure there's still A LOT for me to learn about drawing comics yet... But yes, as we talked about in New York, I feel more in control of what I'm doing than ever before. Applying all I've learned in the projects we did after finishing *Locke & Key* (*Onyx*, *Little Nemo*, and *Tales From The Darkside*) in this new book.

I'm very proud about what we achieved in the original series with the designs, worldbuilding and storytelling, but I always felt that the drawings themselves were hit or miss from what I had in my head. I have to admit, in "Small World," I'm feeling more comfortable and inspired than ever in the process of bringing the story to flesh. Hopefully the experience is paying off after drawing comics almost non-stop for about 15 years... And beyond that, I think most of it comes from the joy that it is returning to this amazing world and lovely characters in the company of my amazing teammates: Joe, the best there is at writing comics, Jay and his magic color touch, and the great editorial team from IDW!

TA: Joe, it's no secret you're writing the pilot script for a *Locke & Key* TV show that will be produced by IDW Entertainment. What's it like adapting your own work from one medium to another?

JH: It's been so, so much fun. Some of the fun is going back home to Keyhouse and these characters that I love so much.

Some of the fun is in recharging and refreshing the narrative. The story is often very faithful to the original material; but at key moments I've broken off in new directions; tossed out old ideas, characters, and

moments; and invented new ones. The spirit of the comic is there in every scene, but I've also made some important changes, to keep fans of the books off balance.

TA: I want a cookie jar that's modeled after Bode's open head from *Locke & Key: Head Games* and a Lego version of Key House. What's your dream *Locke & Key* merchandise?

JH: Oh, man, a Head Games cookie jar... that would be great! We gotta get Skelton Crew Studios on that.

I've been spoiled by all the great Skelton Crew merchandise for *Locke & Key*. I'd be ashamed to want anymore... if I could feel shame, that is! But since I can't, I'll say I'd love a working Music Box that I could activate with a music key.

And, obviously, a Lego Keyhouse is the dream.

TA: Any future plans for *L&K* comics?

GR: OH, YES. We've been discussing—since the original *Locke & Key* run—several ideas and characters we want to explore. We're already working in a set of short stories around the family of Chamberlin Locke that will complete a seventh *L&K* volume, but it will not stop there. We feel that Keyhouse is still asking us for more revisits, and the Locke family has grown in several branches that offer us chances for amazing stories.

And that's the **Key** point (pun!) in this situation: as long as we feel we're not 'exploiting a brand', as we think there are still worthy, fun stories to tell, we'll find a way to return to Lovecraft, Massachusetts. So we have already plotted the backbone of a new saga that hopefully will be as entertaining and meaningful for us as the previous one, so now it's just about finding the right time for all of us to do it. And hopefully it'll be sooner than later.

JH: I'll add to what Gabe said with a couple tentative thoughts. So, yeah, we've mapped out a plan for a new six book cycle, called *World War Key*... a whole new 37 issue epic. But it's one thing to imagine it, and plan it, and another to actually do it. Even now, I'm not sure if it'll ever happen, or if it'll remain hypothetical.

But as Gabe said, there will be another *Locke & Key* book... *Locke & Key: The Golden Age*. "Small World" is a Golden Age story. So is "Grindhouse" and "Open the Moon." And there'll be three or four more, eventually. Golden Age would be a kind of interlude, not part of *Locke & Key: The Phantom Menace* and not part of *World War Key*.

Oh did I ever mention this? The original series, that began with *Welcome to Lovecraft* and ended with *Alpha & Omega*? That series title is actually *Locke & Key: The Phantom Menace*. Ted, when are we going to get around to reprinting the books to reflect that?

Ted? Ted? Why are you crying, Ted?

TA: Tears of joy, Joe! Wait a minute, I didn't hear anything after "a whole new 37 issue epic". Did I miss something...?

Thanks, guys. *Locke & Key: A Small World* is available this December with great covers by Gabe, C.P. Wilson III, and David Petersen. See you in 2017!



IDW
ISSUE
8

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ART BY: Genevieve FT

COLORS BY: Genevieve FT

LETTERS BY: Christa Miesner



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NO! NO MORE VIDEOS.

BUT STRAWBERRY, YOU HAVE TO SEE WHAT HE SAID!

The Grubby Grub Race
Written by: Georgia Ball
Art by: Tina Francisco
Colors by: Mae Hao
Letters by: Christa Miesner



I WANT TO KEEP MY MIND ON THE BERRY BITTY CAFÉ, BLUEBERRY.

NO MORE ATTACK ADS, NO MORE SHADY SUBTWITS, NO MORE ONE-UPMANSHIP. THIS STUFF IS MESSING WITH MY LIFE.

BUT HE CALLED YOU OUT!

JUST NOPE.



THE PURPLE PIE MAN CHALLENGED YOU TO A GRUDGE MATCH, STRAWBERRY. MAYBE IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

YOU CAN'T JUST *NOT* LOOK AT IT...



STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE... YOU ARE A FORMIDABLE COMPETITOR. WE'VE HAD MANY, MANY DIFFERENCES IN THE PAST—

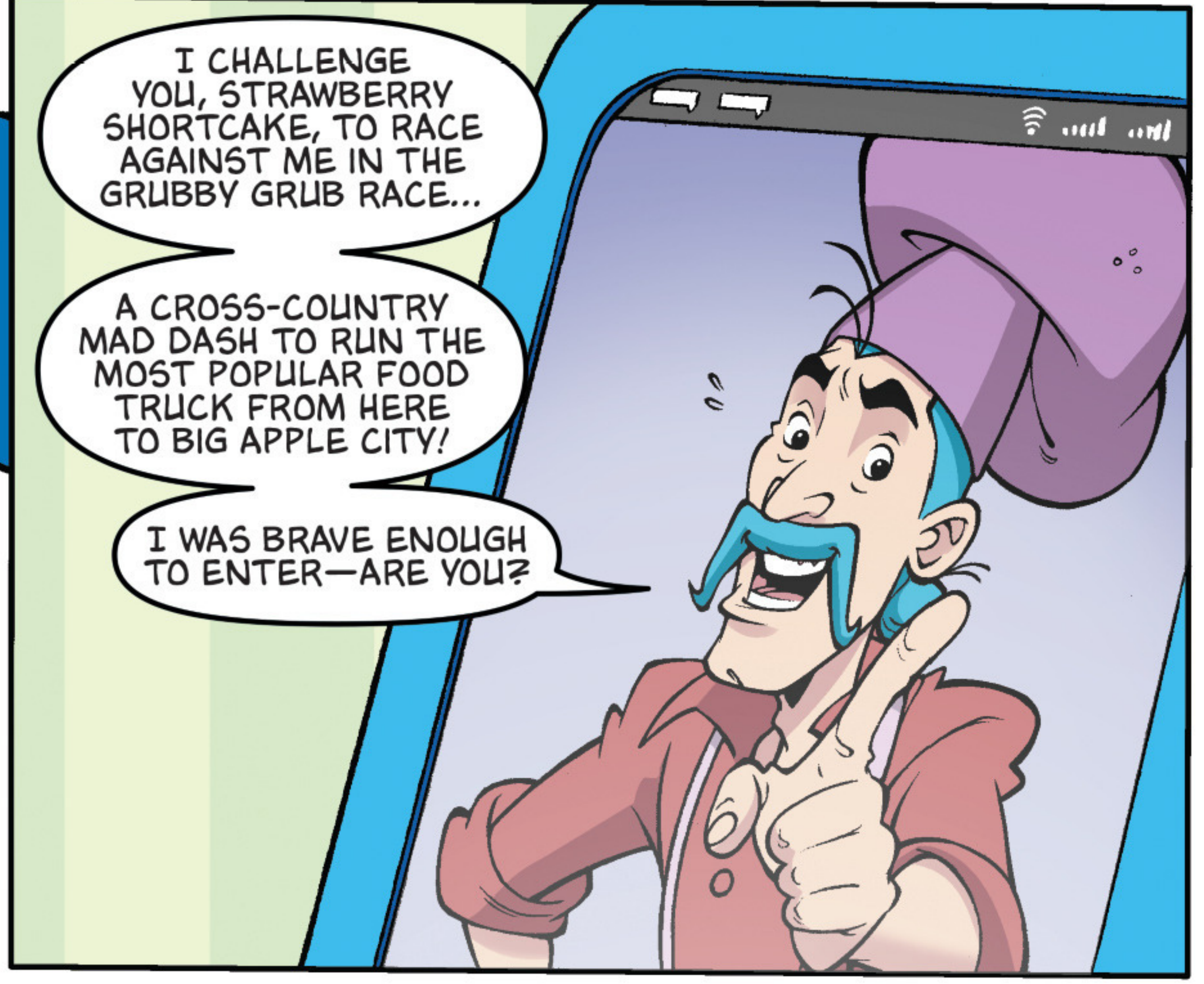
SO WHY STOP NOW?



NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO PROVE WHICH ONE OF US IS REALLY THE BEST, THE FASTEST—

THE FASTEST? IS THAT EVEN A GOOD THING?

—THE MOST RESOURCEFUL CHEF IN BERRY BITTY CITY.



I CHALLENGE YOU, STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE, TO RACE AGAINST ME IN THE GRUBBY GRUB RACE...

A CROSS-COUNTRY MAD DASH TO RUN THE MOST POPULAR FOOD TRUCK FROM HERE TO BIG APPLE CITY!

I WAS BRAVE ENOUGH TO ENTER—ARE YOU?



LOOK AT HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THIS VIDEO... THIS IS SERIOUS STUFF.

IF YOU DON'T ENTER, HE'LL NEVER STOP TALKING ABOUT IT.

OF COURSE HE WON'T. THAT'S WHY HE BROUGHT IT UP.

I'VE SEEN THAT SHOW, IT DOES LOOK LIKE FUN—



SHE ACCEPTS!

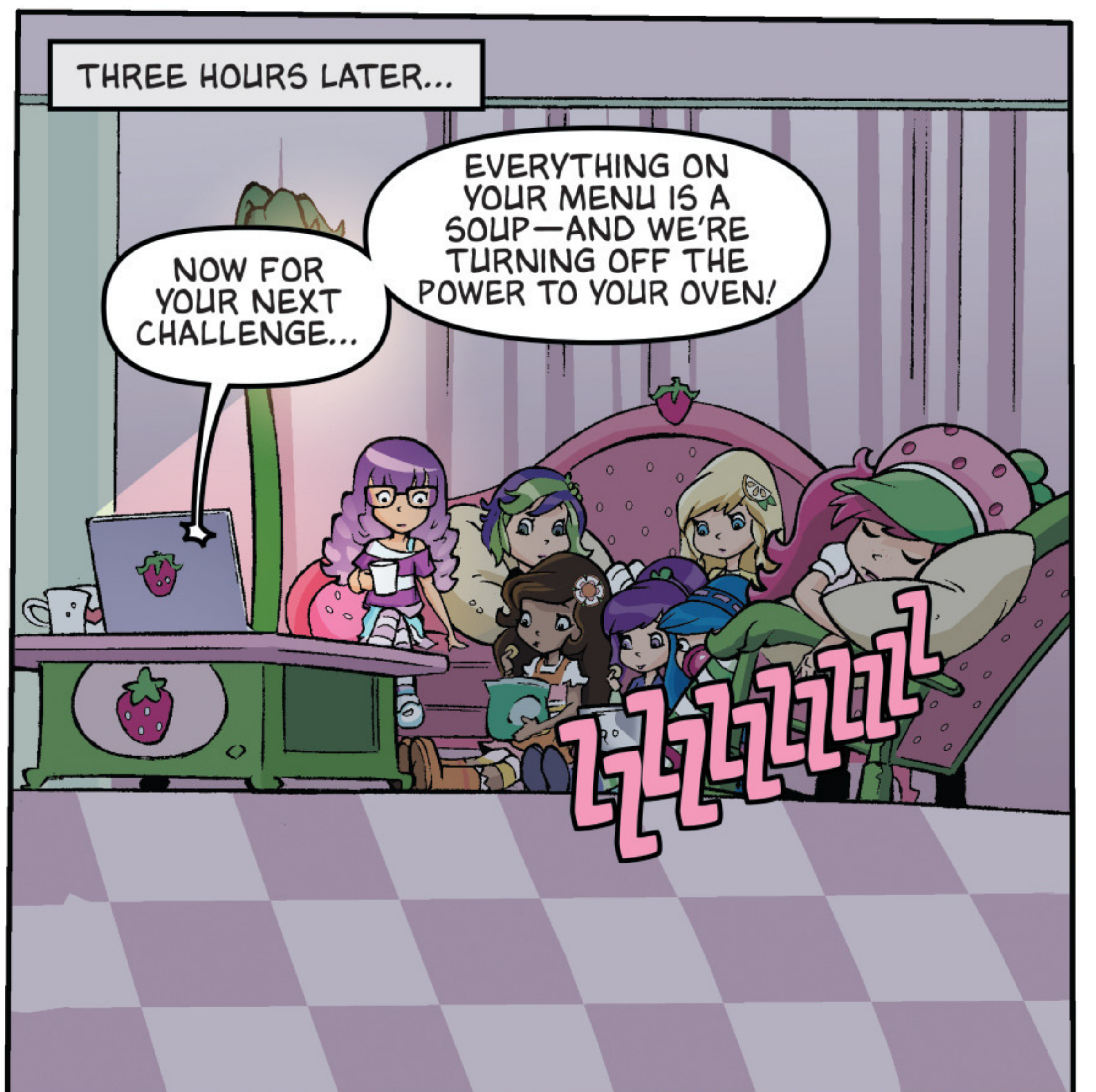
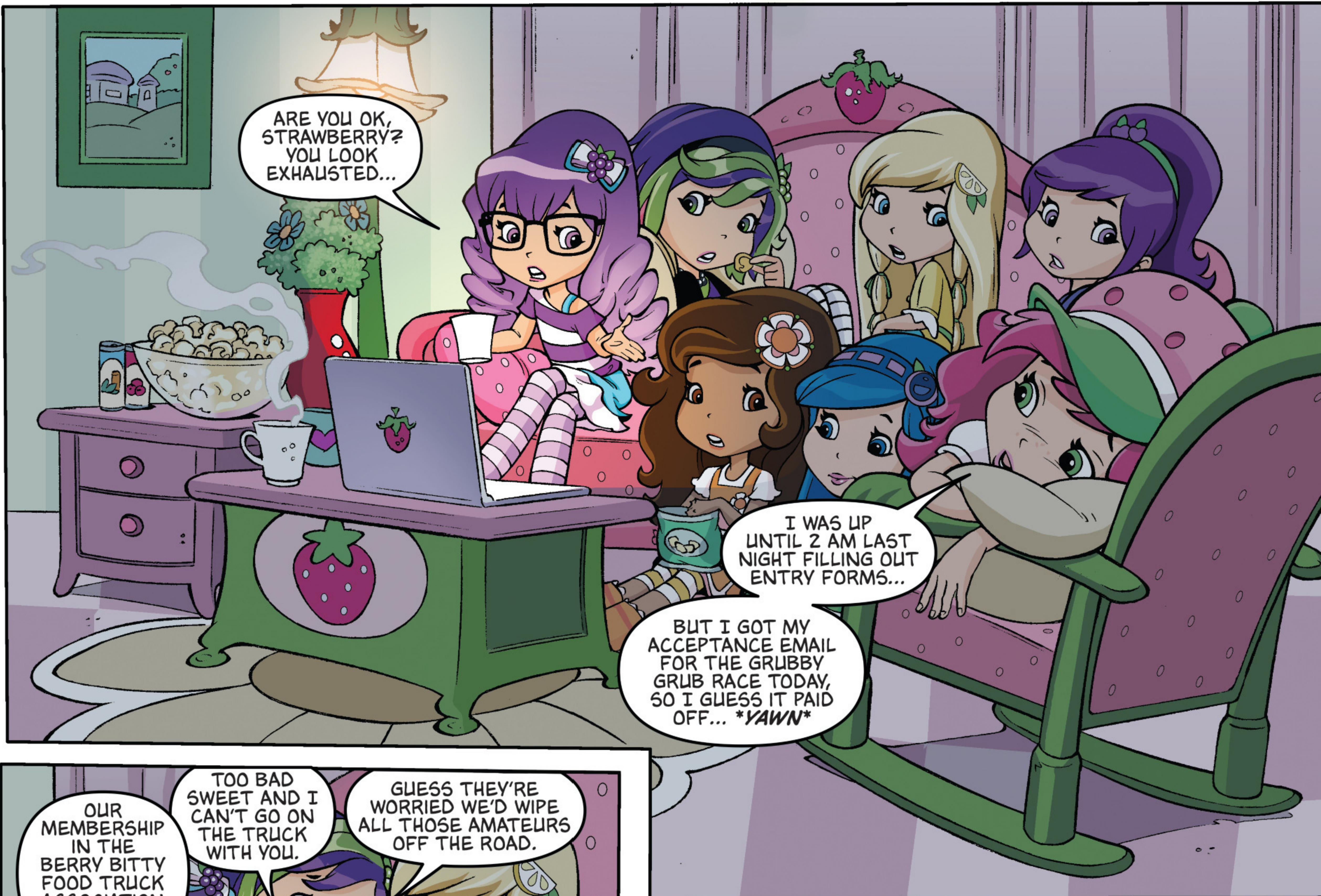
WHOA!



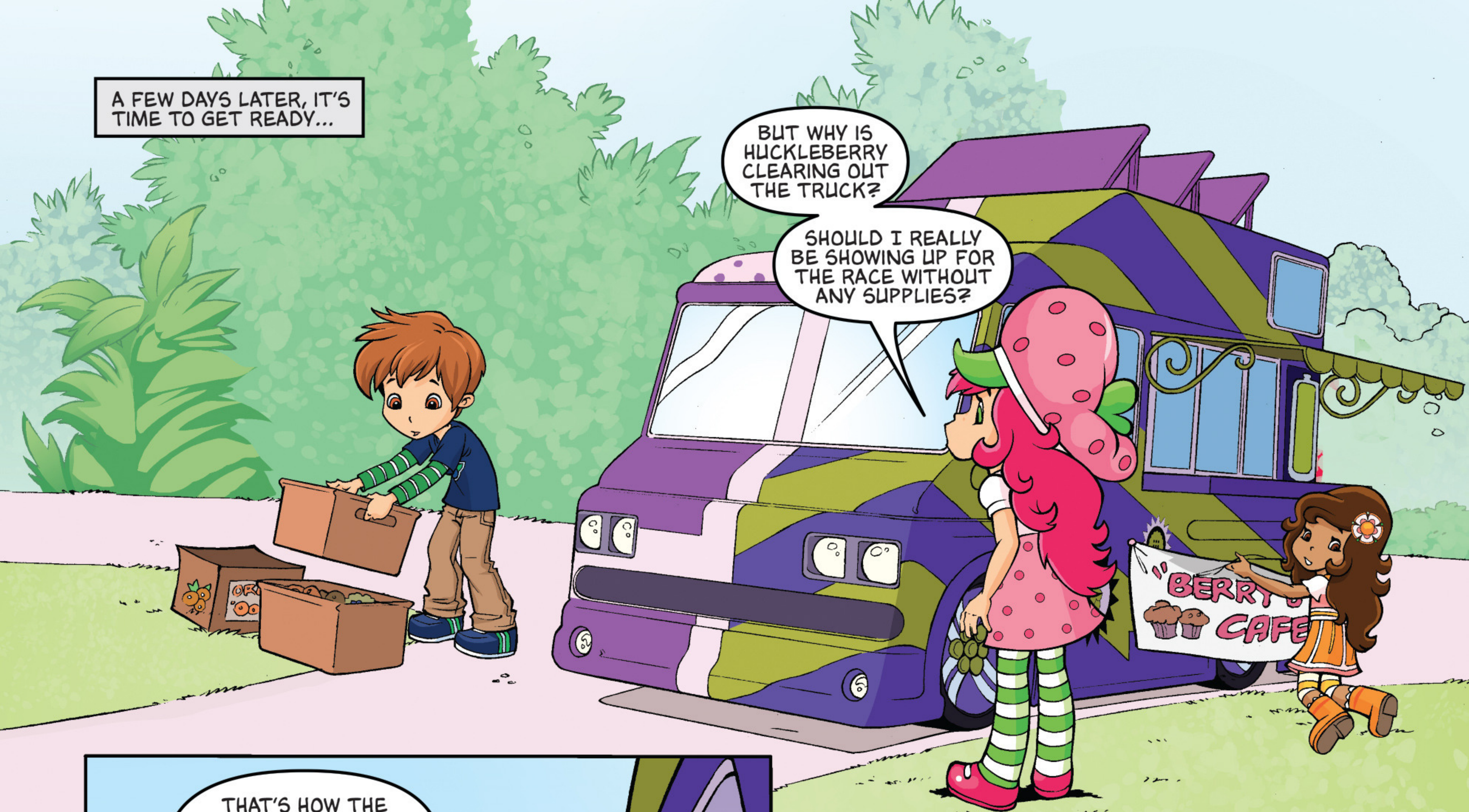
I DIDN'T SAY—

NO WORRIES! YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING.

YOU'D BETTER GET STARTED—



A FEW DAYS LATER, IT'S TIME TO GET READY...



BUT WHY IS HUCKLEBERRY CLEARING OUT THE TRUCK?

SHOULD I REALLY BE SHOWING UP FOR THE RACE WITHOUT ANY SUPPLIES?



THAT'S HOW THE SHOW WORKS. THEY BRING SUPPLIES TO THE TRUCK SO EVERYONE IS WORKING WITH THE SAME INGREDIENTS.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER FROM THE EPISODES?

WELL...

ALMOST FINISHED!



DOING WHAT, APPLE?

YOU CAN'T HAVE SWEET AND SOUR GRAPES WITH YOU BECAUSE THEY'RE PROS, BUT YOU CAN CALL THEM FOR ADVICE.

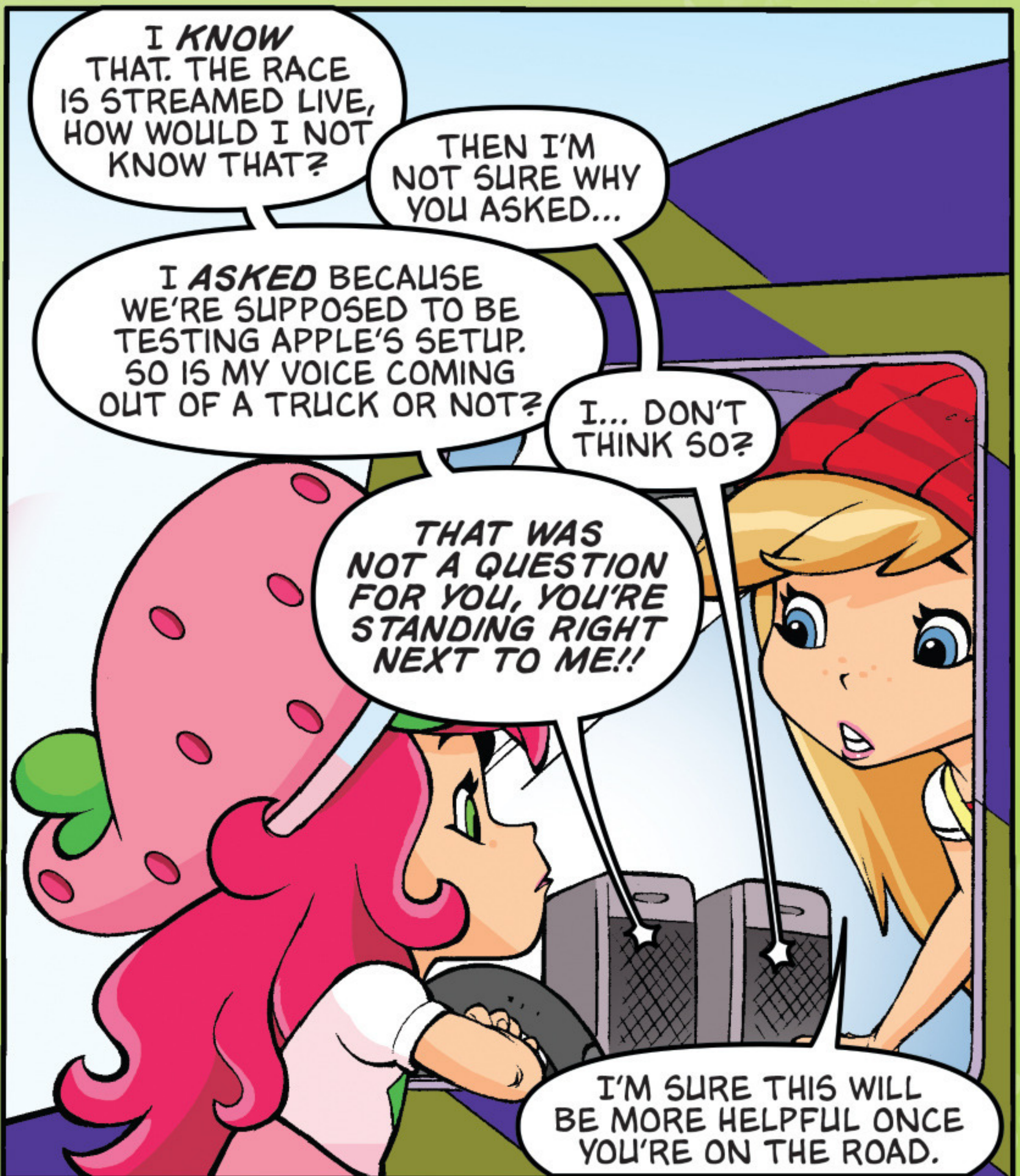
I'VE MODIFIED THE TRUCK'S STEREO TO HANDLE THEIR CALLS DIRECTLY THROUGH THE SPEAKERS.



THAT'S REALLY—

IS SOMEONE GOING TO TALK TO ME ALREADY???

I DON'T THINK THE RACE HAS STARTED YET...



I KNOW THAT THE RACE IS STREAMED LIVE, HOW WOULD I NOT KNOW THAT?

THEN I'M NOT SURE WHY YOU ASKED...

I ASKED BECAUSE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TESTING APPLE'S SETUP. SO IS MY VOICE COMING OUT OF A TRUCK OR NOT?

I... DON'T THINK SO?

THAT WAS NOT A QUESTION FOR YOU, YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO ME!!

I'M SURE THIS WILL BE MORE HELPFUL ONCE YOU'RE ON THE ROAD.

WHEN THE TRUCK IS READY,
IT'S OFF TO THE RACES!

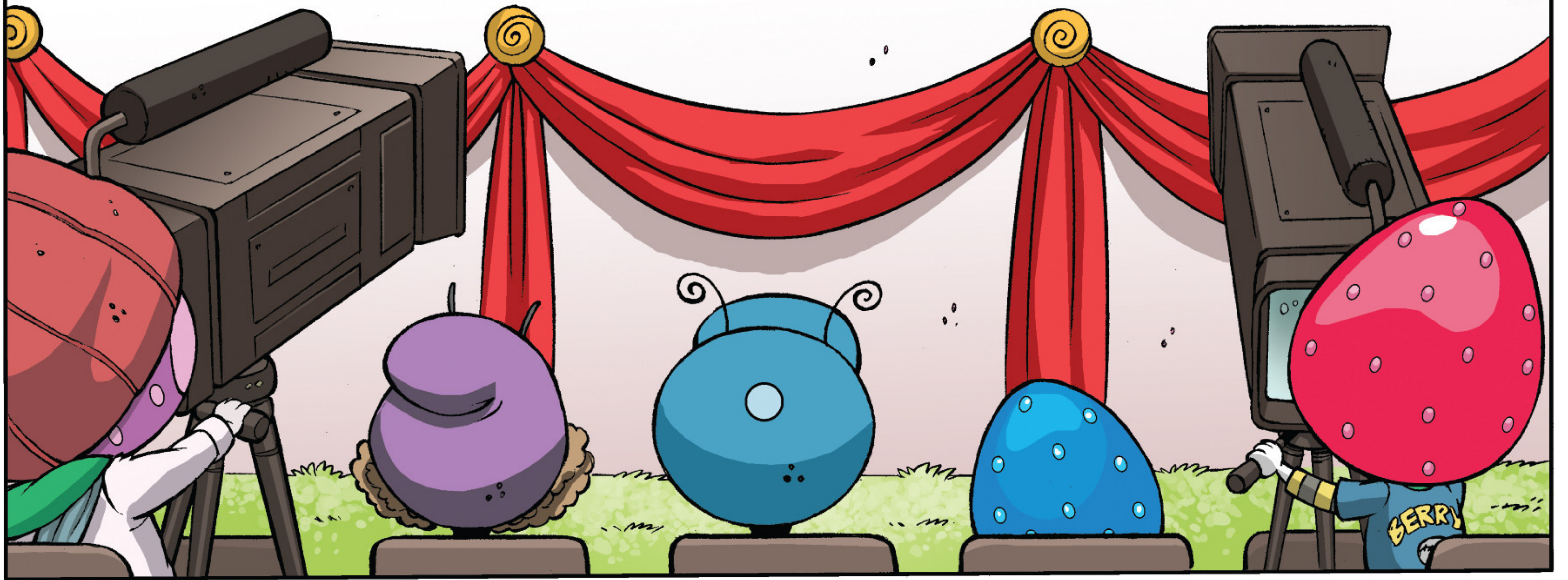
STARTING IN PORT ORCHARD...

"THE GRUBBY GRUB RACE"

WELCOME TO THE MOST GRUELING COMPETITION YOU'VE EVER ENTERED! AS YOU KNOW, I'M YOUR HOST DALTON BROWNBUG.

WE LIKE TO CALL THIS THE "GRUBBY GRUB RACE" BECAUSE IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FOOD—

—AND THINGS ARE GOING TO GET A LITTLE MESSY.



ALL OF YOUR TRUCKS HAVE BEEN OUTFITTED WITH OUR FOOD AND SUPPLIES.

YOU'LL BE RACING TO EACH NEW LOCATION, AND IF THE LOCALS LIKE YOUR FOOD, THEY'LL GIVE YOU A GRUB TOKEN.

TO WIN, COLLECT THE MOST TOKENS WHILE WORKING AROUND MY DEVISS CHALLENGES—



—STARTING WITH THIS ONE!

ONE OF YOUR PORT ORCHARD MENU ITEMS MUST INCLUDE BOTH APPLES AND MARSHMALLOWS—THAT YOU *DIDN'T* GET FROM THE MARKET! WE'LL BE WATCHING...

GO!



IDW
ISSUE
8

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TO BE CONTINUED IN...

ISSUE #8 OF STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

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