

my LITTLE PONY

Friendship
is Magic



AGNES 1/17

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—DID YOU SAY
THE ROTUUBA BUD?
I THINK THAT'S IN A
BOOK ON PLANTS
OF THE WESTERN
PLAINS.

WHILE HER
NOTES ON THIS
ARE QUITE *SCANT*,
SHE VERY CLEARLY
MENTIONS THAT
PLANT.

UNLESS
THERE'S A
"ROTUND" PLANT.
THE INK'S A LITTLE
SMEARED AND MY
ANCESTOR'S WRITING
COULD BE *SLOPPY*
WHEN SHE WAS
EXCITED.

EVERYPONY,
PINKIE PIE SENT
THESE *COOKIES*
TO HELP YOU
THROUGH THAT
MIDDAY ENERGY
CRASH.





FLUTTERSHY, THAT IS DEFINITELY THE CASE. HERE, I'LL CLEAR A LITTLE SPACE.

WAIT, WHAT ARE THOSE?



THEY'RE MORE HANDWRITTEN NOTES.

PROBABLY SOME ADDED OBSERVATIONS FOR THAT PARTICULAR VOLUME, CATTAIL. JUST ADD THEM TO THE PILE.



UM, NO. THEY'RE DEFINITELY NOT FIELD NOTES.



THEY'RE LETTERS TO SOMEONE NAMED AQUA VINE. AND THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM.

THEY'RE LOVE NOTES.



MAGE SPENT SOME OF THE LAST YEARS OF HER LIFE LOOKING FOR A FLOWER CALLED THE MAGENTA BLOOM. THESE ARE FROM THAT TIME.



BY THE DATES, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE NEVER SENT THEM. THERE ARE NOTES FROM HIM, AND ANSWERS FROM HER... BUT NO REPLIES.

THAT'S SO SAD.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS AQUA VINE. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY EVER SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN. I DO KNOW MAGE NEVER HAD ANY FOALS. HER SISTER WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK POSSESSION OF THE NOTEBOOKS AND PASSED THEM DOWN, EVENTUALLY TO ME.



IT SEEMS IT WAS MAGE MEADOWBROOK WHO WAS OBSESSED WITH THIS MAGICAL MAGENTA BLOOM.

HOW COULD SHE NOT BE? LOOK AT WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO. I THINK IT COULD CURE AT LEAST THE BLUE FLU AND JUVENILE CROUP! PLUS, IT COULD EASILY ENHANCE ALMOST ANY UNICORN MAGIC SPELL!

IT COULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF EQUESTRIAN MEDICINE FOREVER!



WE SHOULD DELIVER THESE NOTES. AQUA VINE MIGHT HAVE A DESCENDANT OF HIS OWN WHO MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THIS PIECE OF HIS OR HER FAMILY HISTORY.



HER HISTORY? THIS FLOWER WOULD MAKE HISTORY!

IT SEEMS LIKE MAGE WAS PRETTY CLOSE TO FINDING IT. SHE'D NARROWED IT DOWN TO AN AREA OUTSIDE OF FILLYDELPHIA.



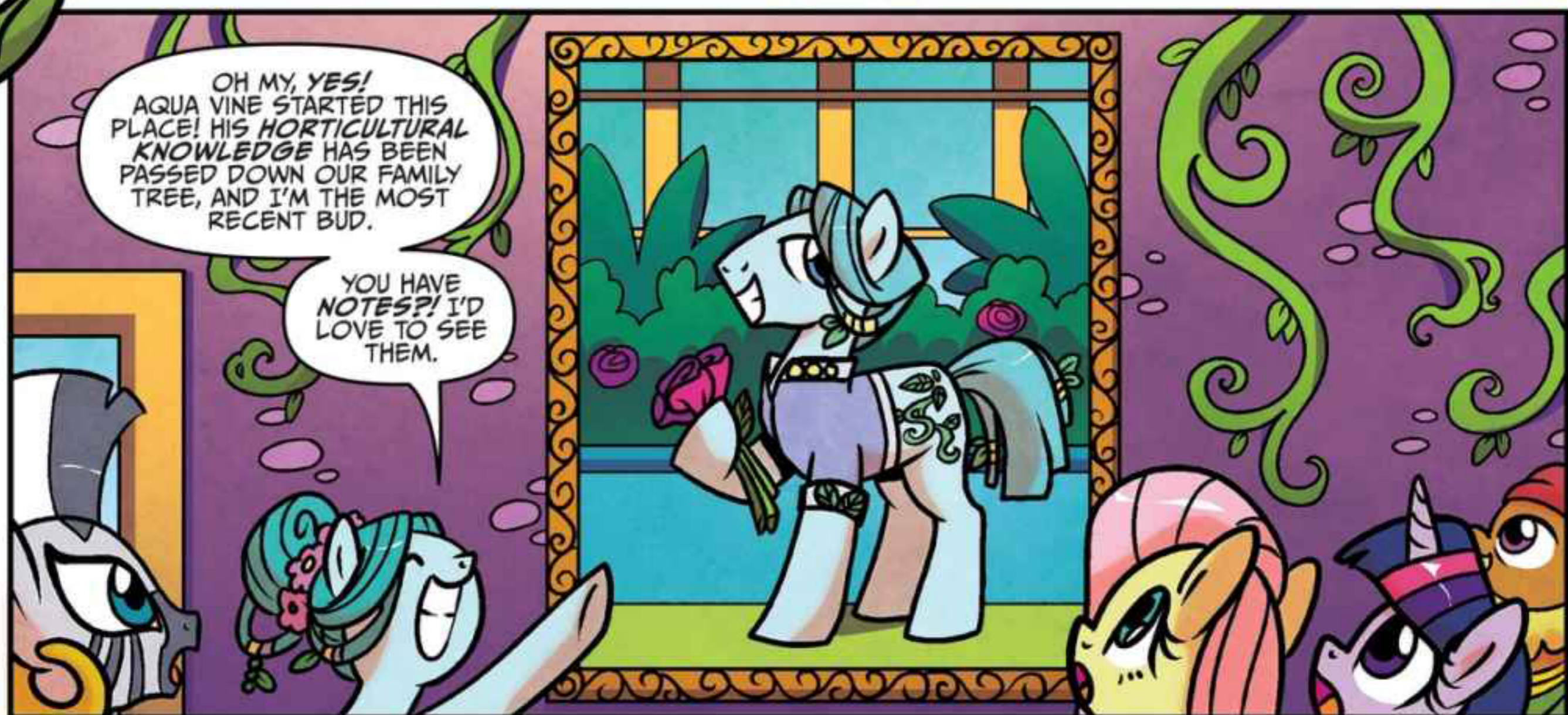
IT SEEMS WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO BOTH, DELIVER THE LETTERS AND FIND THE GROWTH.

FROM FILLYDELPHIA IS WHERE AQUA VINE HAILS, AND MAGE THOUGHT THE FLOWER WAS ON THESE NEARBY TRAILS.



LET'S GO CHANGE THE WORLD!







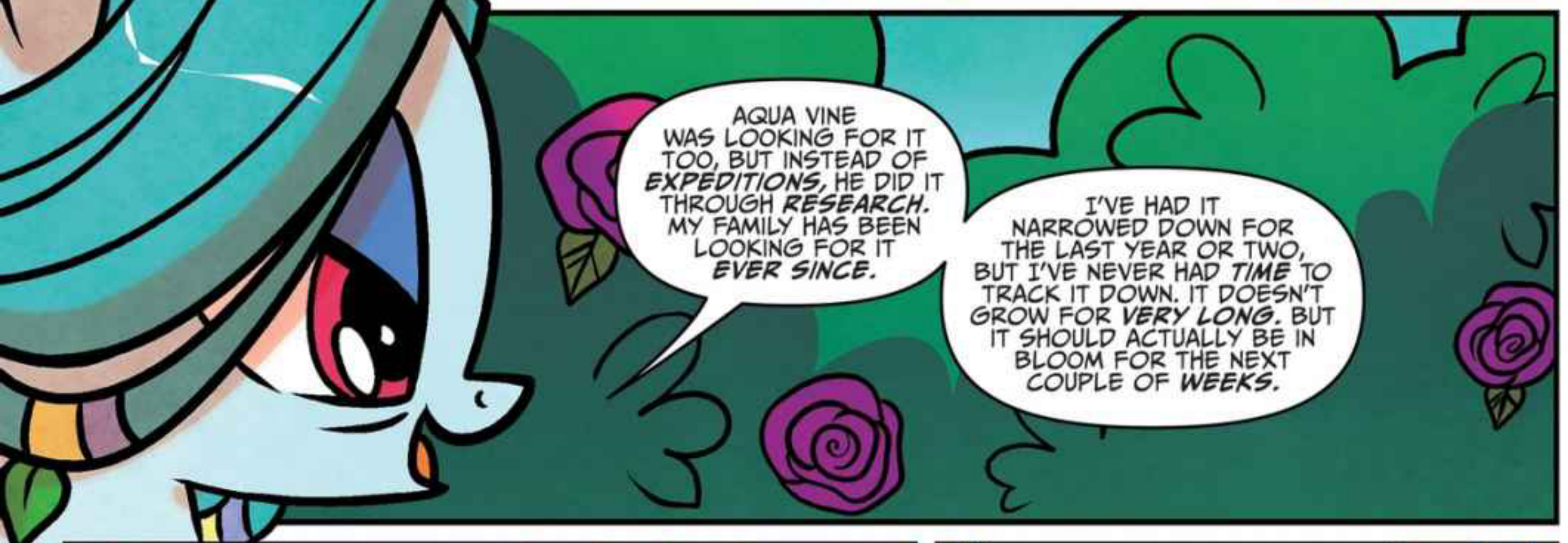
WELL, THANK YOU. THIS IS A NICE BIT OF FAMILY HISTORY TO ROOT THROUGH. I MUST SAY, I'M QUITE IMPRESSED YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO JUST DO THIS.

WE WERE ALSO HOPING TO FOLLOW UP ON HER QUEST FOR THE MAGENTA BLOOM.



OH, THE BLOOM? I KNOW ABOUT THAT.

WAIT! YOU WHAT—?!



AQUA VINE WAS LOOKING FOR IT TOO, BUT INSTEAD OF EXPEDITIONS, HE DID IT THROUGH RESEARCH. MY FAMILY HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR IT EVER SINCE.

I'VE HAD IT NARROWED DOWN FOR THE LAST YEAR OR TWO, BUT I'VE NEVER HAD TIME TO TRACK IT DOWN. IT DOESN'T GROW FOR VERY LONG, BUT IT SHOULD ACTUALLY BE IN BLOOM FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.



THEN LET'S GO FIND IT. PRINCESS CELESTIA SAYS THERE ARE MOMENTS WHERE EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE!

IF YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS—

—WE WOULD VERY MUCH LOVE TO KNOW, AND A FAVOR WE WOULD OWE.

YOU KNOW, I'D LOVE TO. AND YOU'VE COME AT A GREAT TIME.



I'VE BEEN MEANING TO GO ON AN EXPEDITION FOR THE BLOOM FOR AGES. I'VE JUST NEVER HAD THE CHANCE BEFORE. BETWEEN THE GREENHOUSE AND MY FAMILY, I HAVEN'T HAD THE TIME.

I WAS GOING TO TRY TO FIND SOME COMPANIONS FOR THE TRIP. YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE SUCH AN EXPEDITION ON BY YOURSELF. BUT IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, I CAN GET MY BROTHER TO WATCH THE SHOP.

I JUST NEED TO CLOSE UP THE SHOP UNTIL HE GETS HERE.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME HELP?

I WOULD INDEED! MORE LEAVES ON THE VINE!



—FINDING IT COULD CHANGE MEDICINE AND MAGIC FOREVER.

YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL, TWILIGHT. I READ MAGE'S NOTES ABOUT THE FLOWER LAST NIGHT. THEY WERE THOROUGH, BUT SHE CAME TO SOME WRONG CONCLUSIONS. SHE WAS WRONG ABOUT WHERE THE BLOOM WOULD BE.

SHE READ ITS REACTION TO SALT WATER THE WRONG WAY. SHE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FAR AWAY FROM IT, SO SHE WENT INLAND. THE BLOOM ACTUALLY THRIVES ON IT. SHE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE COAST.

IF YOU'VE KNOWN ABOUT THE BLOOM FOR SO LONG, WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE TO GET IT BEFORE?

STORIES ABOUT THE BLOOM HAVE BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS. IT'S BEEN A FAMILY LEGEND. BUT IT BLOOMS FOR SUCH A SHORT SPAN, AND MY BUSINESS AND MY FAMILY TAKE A LOT OF TIME.

I HOPE THE FLOWER DOES EVERYTHING YOU THINK, BUT WE VINES HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED ITS PROPERTIES FAMILY MYTH AS WELL.



WHAT DO YOU THINK, ZECORA? IS THIS THE FLOWER TO CURE THEM ALL?

I THINK IT SHALL BE SEEN THAT THE TRUTH IS SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN.



I'M NOT SAYING IT WOULD BE AS INFLUENTIAL AS PRINCESS CELESTIA DISCOVERING THE ELEMENTS OF HARMONY, BUT MAYBE IT WOULD BE MENTIONED IN THE SAME SENTENCE—

EXCUSE ME, TWILIGHT, BUT ALL THIS TALK OF MY ANCESTOR IS MAKING ME WONDER ABOUT CATTAIL'S.

OH?



DO YOU HAVE ANY STORIES OF MAGE MEADOWBROOK? IF AQUA VINE WAS AS TAKEN WITH HER AS HE SEEMED, I'D LOVE TO KNOW MORE.

HMMMM. WELL, THERE IS A FAMOUS ONE ABOUT HER...





...THERE WAS A TOWN CALLED BRIDLEBERG. IT WAS IN THE THROES OF A HORRIBLE PLAGUE, AND MOST OF THE ADULTS AND ALL OF THE CHILDREN WERE STRICKEN.

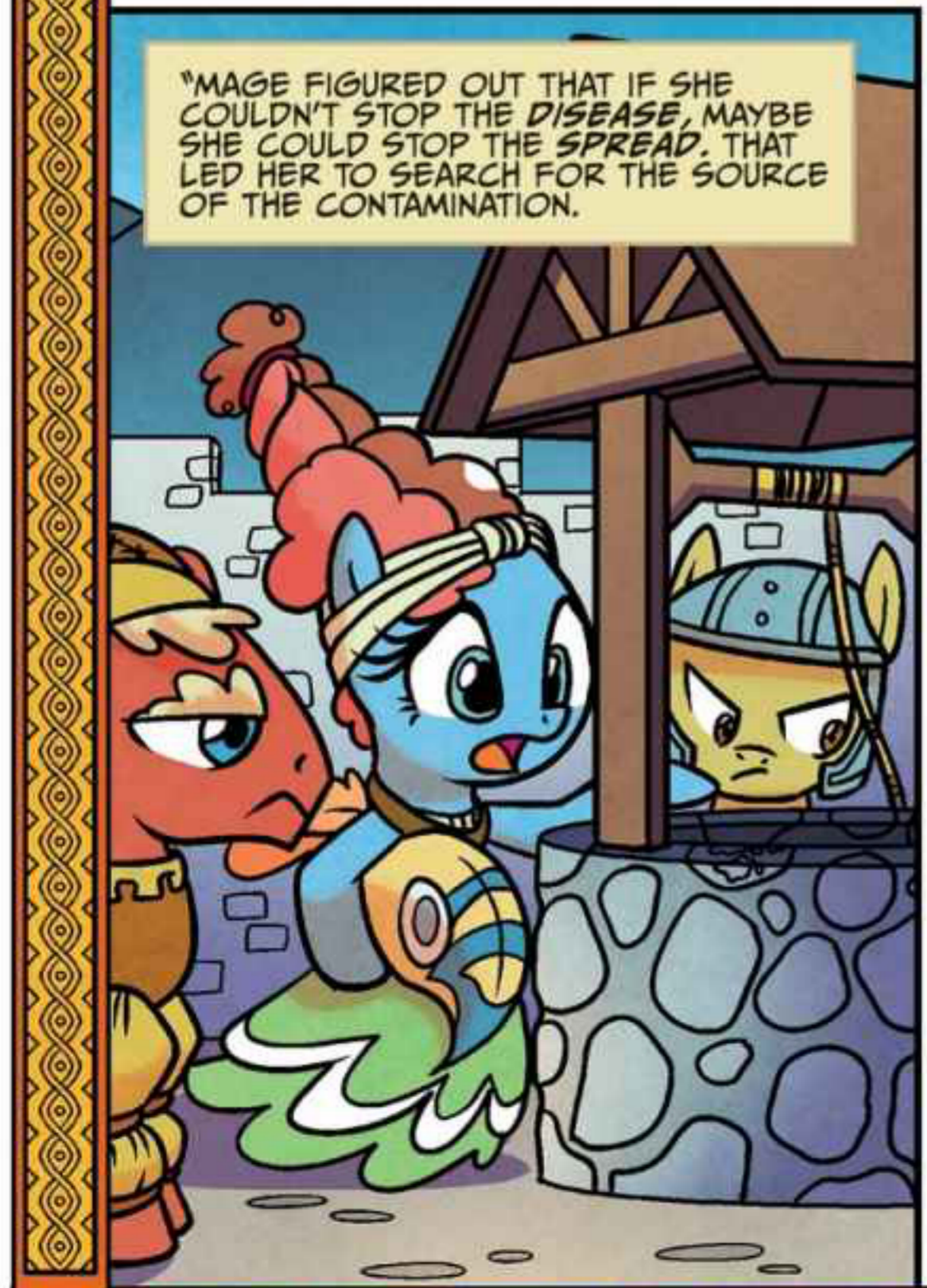
"BRIDLEBERG WAS IN QUARANTINE. GUARDS WERE SET UP TO KEEP PONIES OUT OF THE CITY LEST THEY GET SICK, BUT MAGE WOULDN'T HEAR OF THAT. THERE WERE PONIES WHO NEEDED HELP.

"HER HELP.

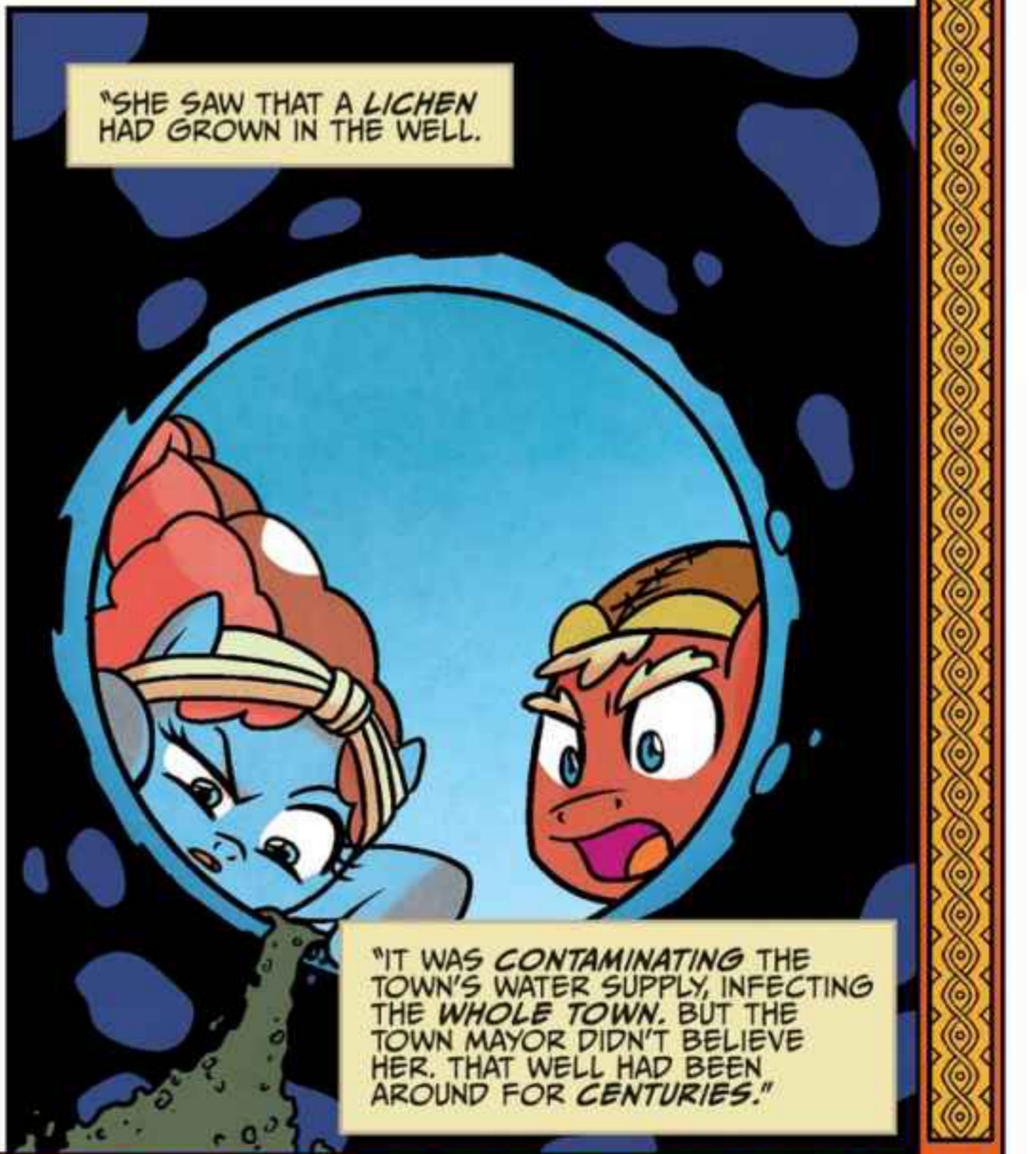


"SHE HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT, AND THE PONIES WERE SICK AND GETTING SICKER. NOTHING SHE WAS TRYING WAS MAKING ANYONE BETTER.

"BUT SHE WOULDN'T BE STOPPED.



"MAGE FIGURED OUT THAT IF SHE COULDN'T STOP THE DISEASE, MAYBE SHE COULD STOP THE SPREAD. THAT LED HER TO SEARCH FOR THE SOURCE OF THE CONTAMINATION.



"SHE SAW THAT A LICHEN HAD GROWN IN THE WELL.

"IT WAS CONTAMINATING THE TOWN'S WATER SUPPLY, INFECTING THE WHOLE TOWN. BUT THE TOWN MAYOR DIDN'T BELIEVE HER. THAT WELL HAD BEEN AROUND FOR CENTURIES."



"THE TOWN WAS *SAVED*. AND THE STORY WENT THAT THEY DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SAY *THANK YOU* BEFORE SHE WAS ON HER WAY.

"I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRER HER *PERSISTENCE!*"

"BUT MAGE MANAGED TO *DECONTAMINATE* THE WELL ANYWAY.



SHE'S WHO I WANT TO BE LIKE. THE WAY SHE HELPED AND CARED FOR PONIES.

I UNDERSTAND THAT—



—AQUA VINE IS WHY I WENT INTO *HORTICULTURE*. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN IN OUR FAMILY, BUT THE STORIES OF AQUA HIMSELF... HE INSPIRED ME TO BE—

—TO BE—

OH, DRAT!



I'VE LOST THE TRAIL! I THOUGHT IT WAS RIGHT AROUND HERE.

I'M AFRAID I MAY HAVE GOTTEN US LOST.



SO? LET'S GO ASK FOR DIRECTIONS.





HERE WE ARE! THE COASTAL CLIFFS. IT'S KNOWN AS THE COAST OF WINDS.

I CAN SEE WHY.



THE TUMULTUOUS WINDS CAUSE THE SEEDS AND POLLEN TO WEDGE IN THE POROUS MOUNTAIN ROCK. IT FEEDS OFF OF POOLS OF WATER THAT COLLECT FROM THE SPRAY. IT DOESN'T NEED MUCH SUNLIGHT AND THE SALT WATER SEEMS BETTER FOR IT.

IT'S AN AMAZING PLANT.



SO, MAGE WAS MAKING HAY, BUT SADLY GOING THE WRONG WAY.

IT SEEMS SO. IT WAS AN EASY MISTAKE TO MAKE. BUT *MAYBE* IF SHE'D EVER SENT EVEN *ONE* OF THOSE LETTERS TO AQUA VINE—



WE'VE GOT IT NOW! OR AT LEAST, WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE IT!

TWILIGHT, NO!



OOOF! THE SALT SPRAYS!



YAAAA!

THAT WAS CLOSE!

I—I CAN'T REACH IT.

THE OCEAN WINDS AND THESE CLIFFS MAKE FOR SOME FIERCE WINDS. NO PEGASUS PONY CAN FLY TO IT. WE'LL HAVE TO CLIMB THE CLIFF.



IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A TRAIL UP THE BACK.

LET'S GO! HISTORY WAITS FOR NO PONY!

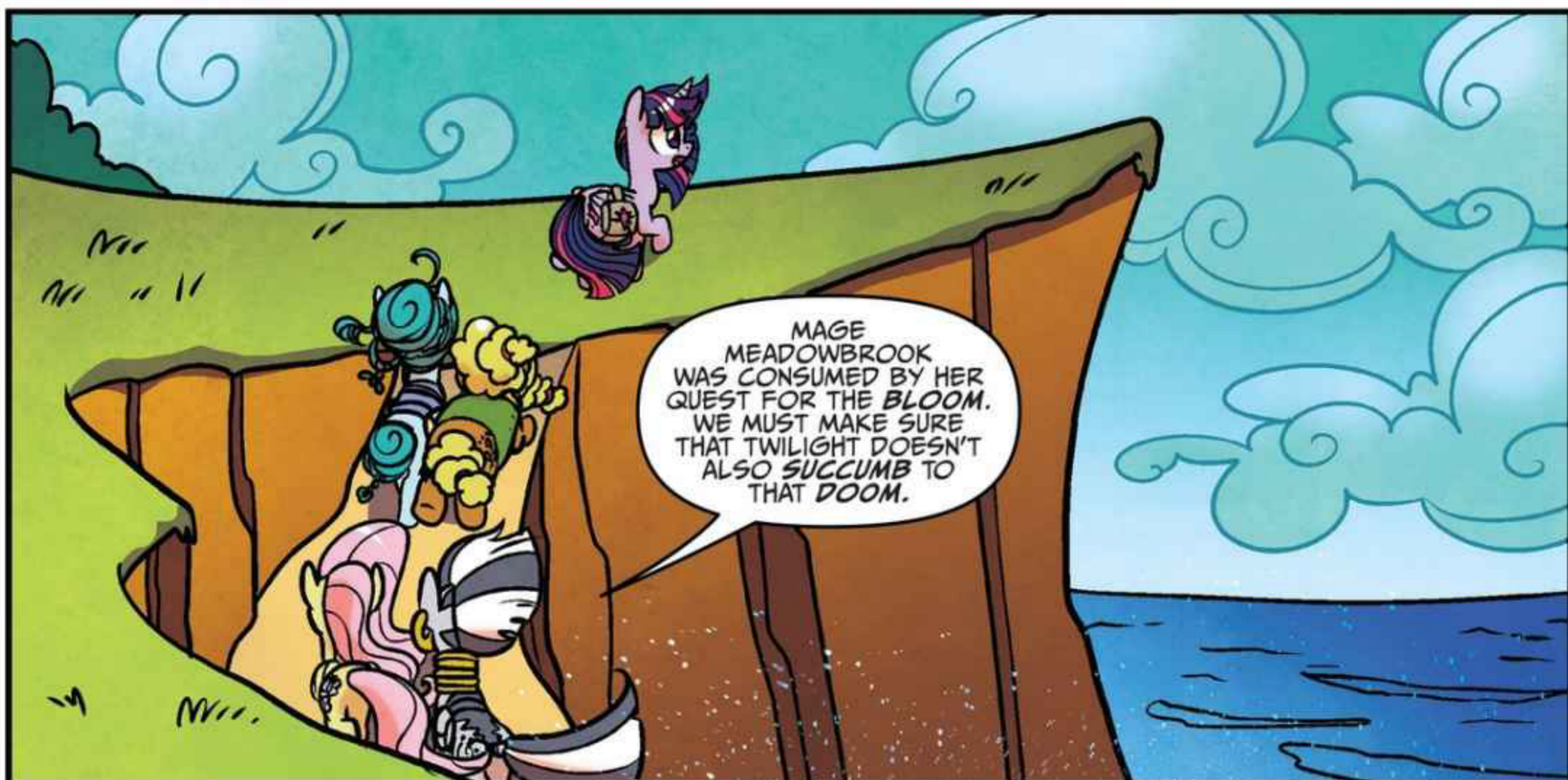


ZECORA, DOES TWILIGHT SEEM... FIXATED ON THE BLOOM?

FLUTTERSHY, THAT DOES SEEM TO BE. I'M AFRAID THE FLOWER'S POSSIBILITIES ARE ALL SHE CAN SEE.



SHE WANTS TO LEAVE SOMETHING LASTING, LIKE MAGE DID.



MAGE MEADOWBROOK WAS CONSUMED BY HER QUEST FOR THE BLOOM. WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT TWILIGHT DOESN'T ALSO SUCCUMB TO THAT DOOM.



TWILIGHT, WATCH IT. THESE CLIFFS CAN GIVE WAY—



THE SALT IS WORSE UP HERE! AND THE POLLEN! I CAN'T SEE!



OH NO!



DON'T COME OUT HERE! I CAN'T—

—I CAN'T FLY STRAIGHT!

I'M NOT. I'M JUST GOING TO TRY TO CALM THINGS DOWN FROM HERE.



I THINK I CAN—KNOCK BACK THE WINDS—LONG ENOUGH—



ALMOST THERE!

HURRY! I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP!



BOOF!

GOT HER!



WHAT WAS I THINKING?



I WAS SO FOOLISH!



I GOT SO CAUGHT UP IN THAT FLOWER AND WHAT IT COULD DO... WHO IT COULD HELP... WHAT SECRETS IT MIGHT HAVE...

...I JUST WANTED TO LEAVE SOMETHING BEHIND. LIKE MAGE'S JOURNALS. OR ALL THAT PRINCESS CELESTIA HAS DONE. I COULDN'T THINK STRAIGHT. AND I ALMOST GOT MYSELF HURT OR WORSE.



IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU—ALL OF YOU—I MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE IT.

FRIENDS ARE HERE TO KEEP YOU GROUNDED, TWILIGHT.

AND NOW—



—I GOT SO CAUGHT UP IN THE BLOOM, MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE A STEP BACK. ASK PRINCESS CELESTIA TO SEND AN OFFICIAL EXPEDITION. WE DON'T HAVE TO BE THE ONES TO GET IT.

TWILIGHT, DO NOT FRET, IT'S NOT TIME TO GIVE UP YET.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET IT THEN?



WE'RE GOING TO DO IT THE WAY MAGE MEADOWBROOK DIDN'T.

WE'RE GOING TO LET OUR FRIENDS IN.

SUNRISE—



SO, EVERYPONY'S CLEAR ON THE PLAN, RIGHT?



TAKE TO THE SKY, TWILIGHT! OUR MISSION MUST TAKE FLIGHT!

WE'VE GOT YOU!



I'LL TRY TO CALM THINGS DOWN A BIT.



THE POLLEN AND THE SALT—I STILL CAN'T SEE VERY WELL. CATTAIL?



IT'S ABOUT TWENTY LENGTHS BELOW YOU, MAYBE FIVE TO YOUR LEFT!



ALMOST!
KEEP GOING!

AM I
THERE
YET?



I SEE IT!
I SEE IT!



QUICKLY!
THESE WINDS
ARE PICKING
UP!



GOT IT!
PULL ME
BACK UP!



DON'T WORRY,
WE'VE GOT YOU! BUT
THAT YOU ALREADY
KNEW.

ALMOST
THERE!







AND THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE FRIENDS, ISN'T IT? TO KEEP YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH.



THAT'S WHERE MAGE MEADOWBROOK WENT OFF THE TRAIL AND THE THING WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THIS TALE. FRIENDSHIPS AND FAMILY, THOSE SHOULD NOT BE PUSHED AWAY, THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT NEED TO STAY.

AND SOMETIMES, THOSE RELATIONSHIPS EVEN TAKE ROOT AND BLOOM LATER, DON'T THEY?



THEY DO INDEED.

End