

IDW  
ISSUE  
**68**  
COVER A

# my LITTLE PONY

Friendship  
is Magic



Price  
18"

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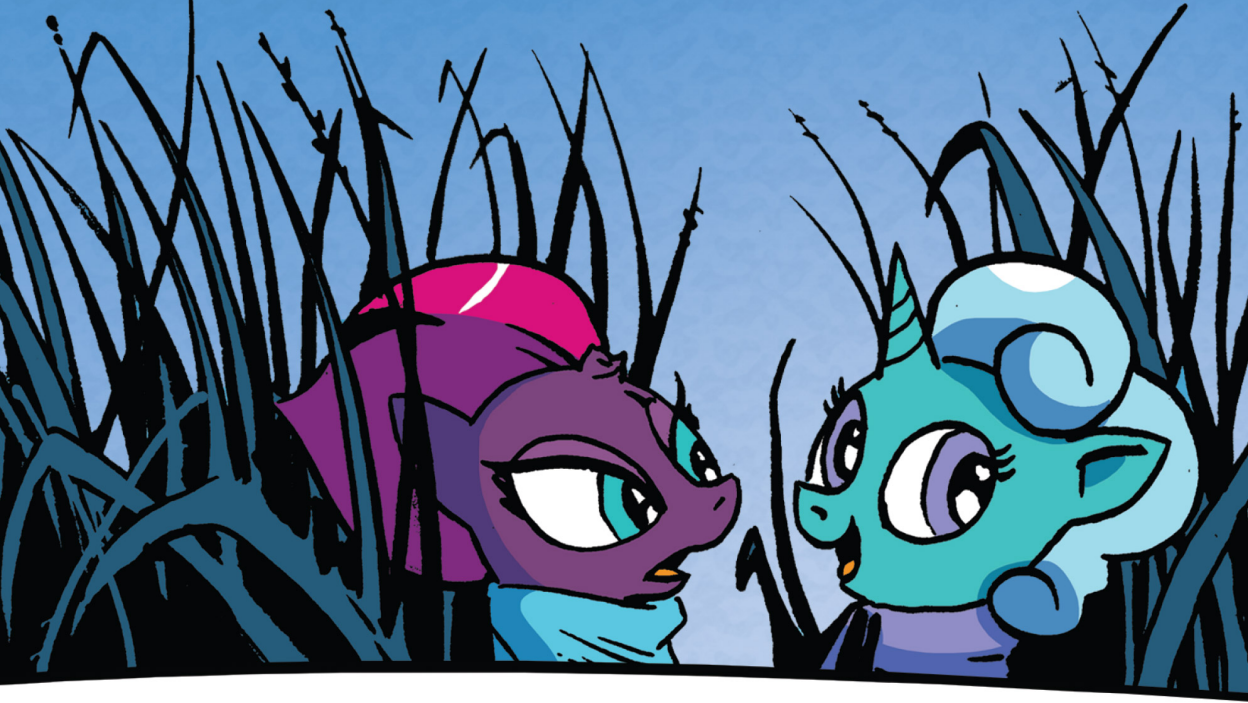
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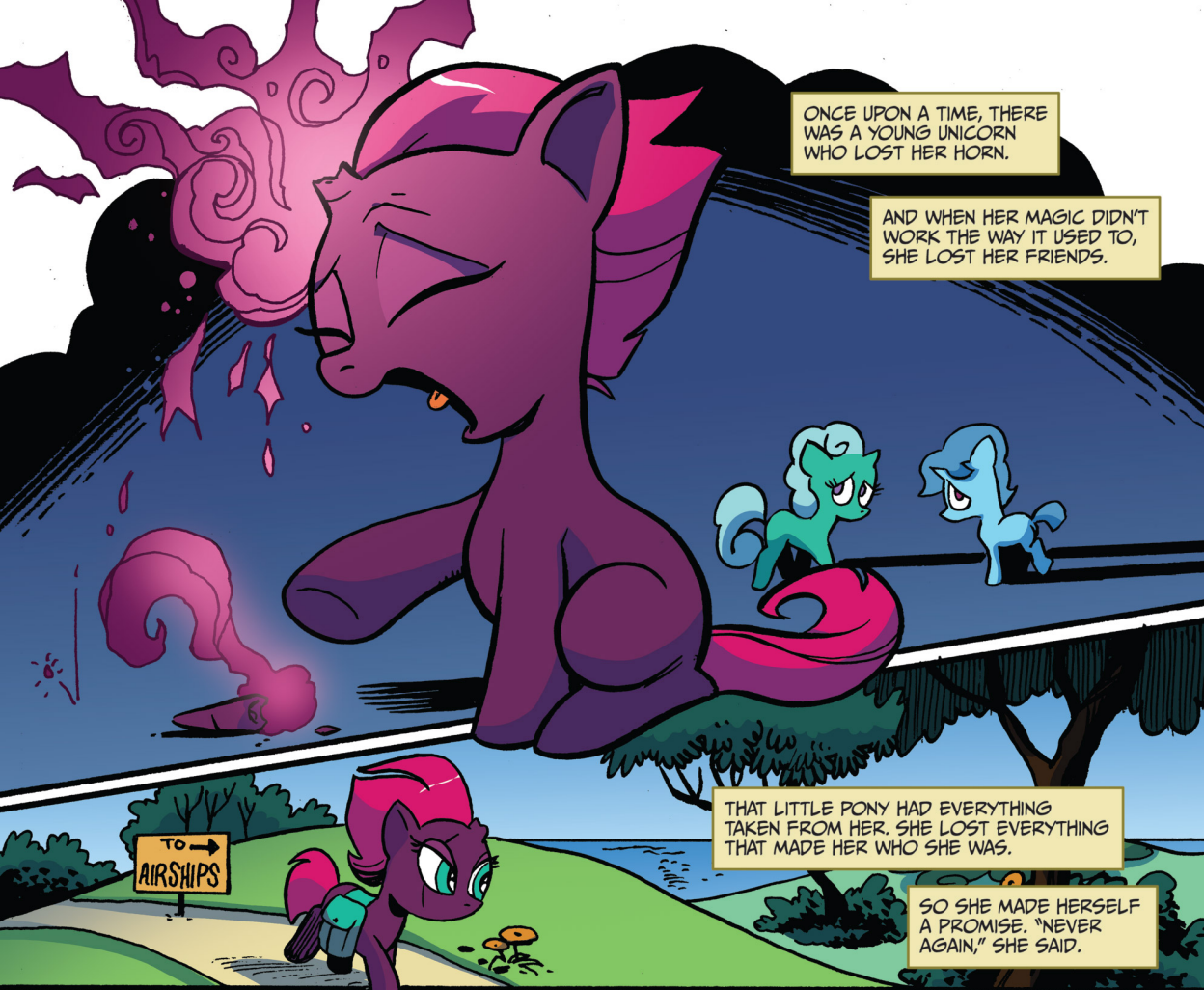
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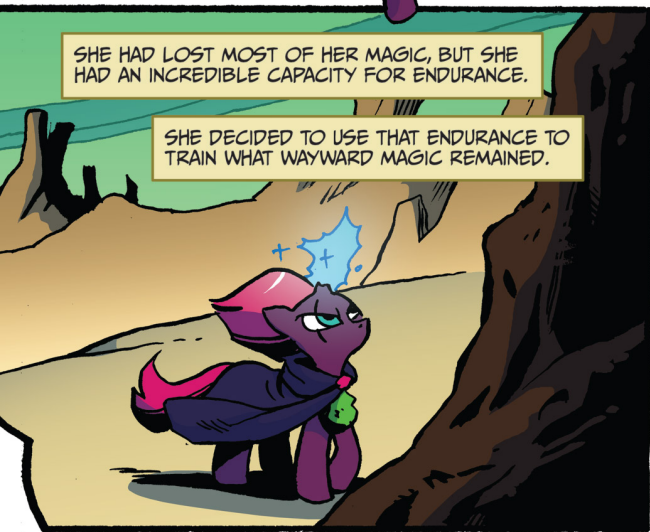


ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A YOUNG UNICORN WHO LOST HER HORN.

AND WHEN HER MAGIC DIDN'T WORK THE WAY IT USED TO, SHE LOST HER FRIENDS.

THAT LITTLE PONY HAD EVERYTHING TAKEN FROM HER. SHE LOST EVERYTHING THAT MADE HER WHO SHE WAS.

SO SHE MADE HERSELF A PROMISE. "NEVER AGAIN," SHE SAID.



SHE HAD LOST MOST OF HER MAGIC, BUT SHE HAD AN INCREDIBLE CAPACITY FOR ENDURANCE.

SHE DECIDED TO USE THAT ENDURANCE TO TRAIN WHAT WAYWARD MAGIC REMAINED.




IF FATE HAD LEFT HER ONLY THE CAPABILITY FOR DESTRUCTION, THEN SHE WOULD BECOME A FEARSOME WARRIOR.

IF THOSE FRIENDS COULDN'T LOVE HER ANYMORE, THEY WOULD FEAR HER.



SHE FOUND A LEADER AS RUTHLESS AS SHE WAS.


SHE MADE HERSELF INTO A WEAPON. SHE LEARNED EVERY DIRTY TRICK IN THE BOOK.



JUST SO SHE COULD END UP RIGHT  
BACK WHERE SHE STARTED.



I TWISTED MYSELF. I DID  
TERRIBLE THINGS IN THE NAME  
OF BECOMING STRONGER.



AND WHEN THE MOMENT  
CAME, I FROZE. I WAS  
STILL THAT HELPLESS  
LITTLE FILLY IN THE CAVE.



IN THE END, IT WAS  
ALL FOR NOTHING.

FIZZY!



GET AWAY FROM HER!

HER LIGHT IS BLINDING. EVEN WITH MY EYES CLOSED, I SEE IT.

**ROAR**

GO ON NOW! GET!

HALF-BLIND AND CONFUSED, THE BEAR STUMBLES AWAY AS FAST AS IT CAN.

WE'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU IN A BIT.

WELL, THAT WAS INTENSE.

USUALLY IF YOU CAN MAKE A LOUD NOISE OR A BRIGHT LIGHT, IT STARTLES THEM ENOUGH TO RUN AWAY.

SINCE THE DAY I LOST MY HORN, I'VE FANTASIZED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I FOUND MYSELF BACK HERE AGAIN.

DID IT GET YOU ANYWHERE WITH THE CLAWS? YOU LOOK OKAY. DO YOU FEEL OKAY?

FIZZY, WHAT'S WRONG?

BUT THIS IS A SCENARIO I NEVER IMAGINED.

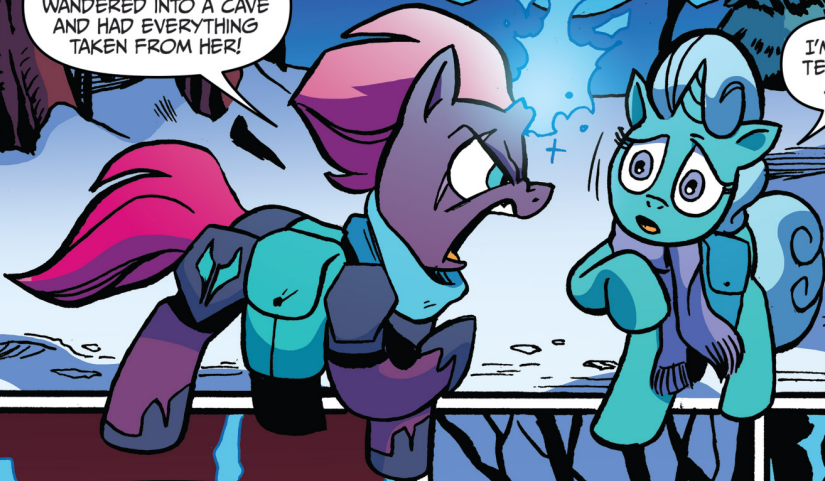
# MY NAME IS TEMPEST SHADOW



THIS IS WORSE THAN ANYTHING I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

I AM NOT THAT TINY LITTLE PONY THAT WANDERED INTO A CAVE AND HAD EVERYTHING TAKEN FROM HER!

I'M SORRY, TEMPEST! I JUST—



THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.

I WAS THE COMMANDER OF THE STORM KING'S ARMY! I STRUCK FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF CREATURES FROM EVERY LAND. PONIES QUAKE AT THE MENTION OF MY NAME!

I'M SORRY! I WANTED TO SAVE YOU!



SHE HAS TO LEARN.

I SURVIVED HAVING MY HORN BROKEN! I MADE MYSELF STRONGER! I DEFEATED ARMIES AND PRINCESSES!

I'M SORRY! I'M— OOF!



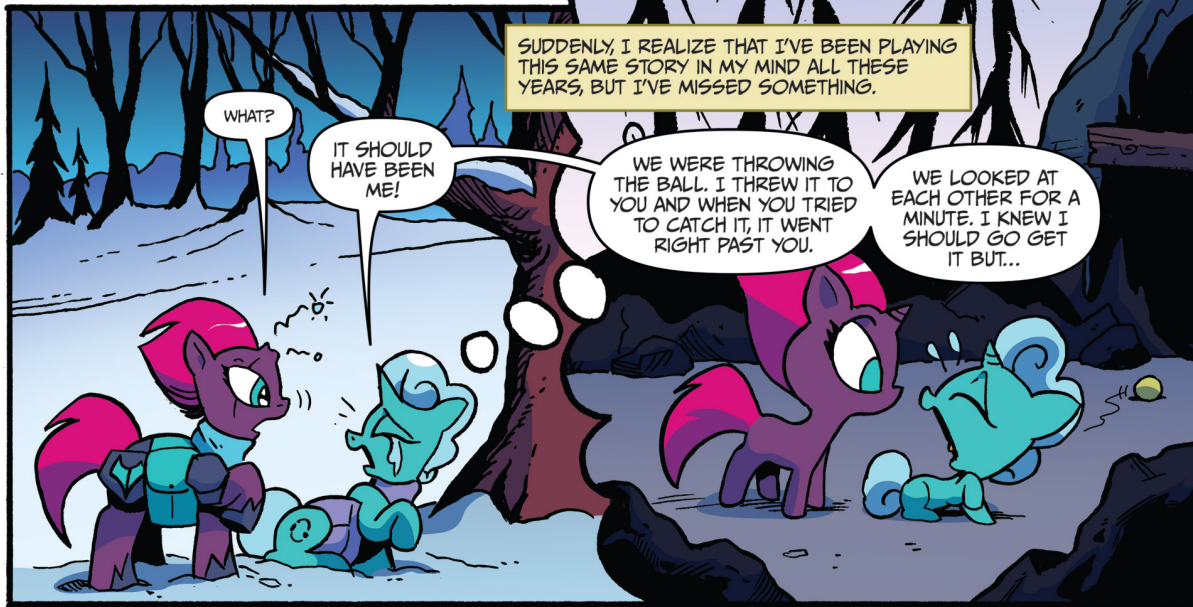
SHE NEEDS TO OPEN UP HER EYES.

YOU DO NOT GET TO SAVE ME NOW!

I'M SORRY, FIZZY! I THREW THE BALL! I SHOULD HAVE GONE IN!







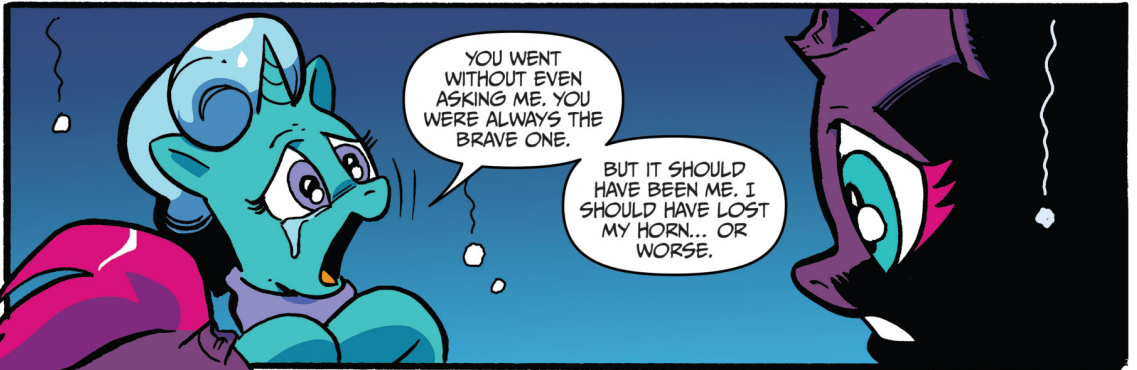
SUDDENLY, I REALIZE THAT I'VE BEEN PLAYING THIS SAME STORY IN MY MIND ALL THESE YEARS, BUT I'VE MISSED SOMETHING.

WHAT?

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME!

WE WERE THROWING THE BALL. I THREW IT TO YOU AND WHEN YOU TRIED TO CATCH IT, IT WENT RIGHT PAST YOU.

WE LOOKED AT EACH OTHER FOR A MINUTE. I KNEW I SHOULD GO GET IT BUT...



YOU WENT WITHOUT EVEN ASKING ME. YOU WERE ALWAYS THE BRAVE ONE.

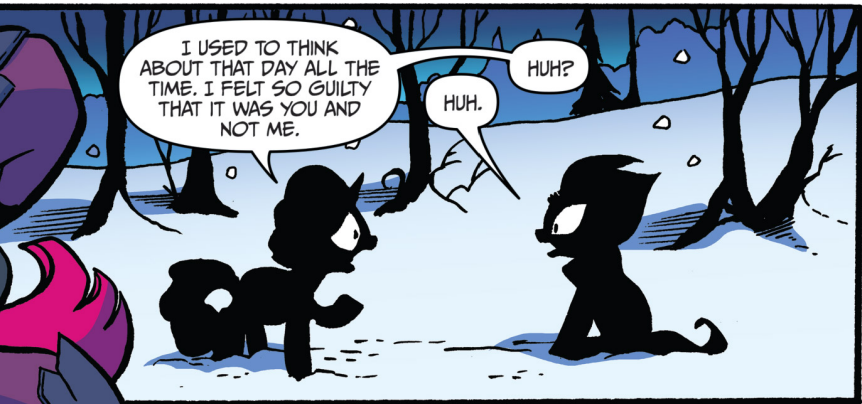
BUT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME. I SHOULD HAVE LOST MY HORN... OR WORSE.



I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT CAVE EVERY DAY SINCE... SINCE IT HAPPENED.

AND I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED THAT GLITTER DROPS HAD THROWN THE BALL... THAT SHE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO GET IT.

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT ANYBODY GOING TO GET IT BUT ME.



I USED TO THINK ABOUT THAT DAY ALL THE TIME. I FELT SO GUILTY THAT IT WAS YOU AND NOT ME.

HUH.

HUH?



HOW CAN I DESCRIBE EXACTLY WHAT I FELT IN THAT MOMENT?

IT'S LIKE ALL THIS TIME, I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT A PAINTING OF A HOUSE.

AND THEN I LOOKED AT IT FROM THE SIDE AND IT TURNED OUT IT HAD ANOTHER DIMENSION. IT WAS A HOUSE THE WHOLE TIME.

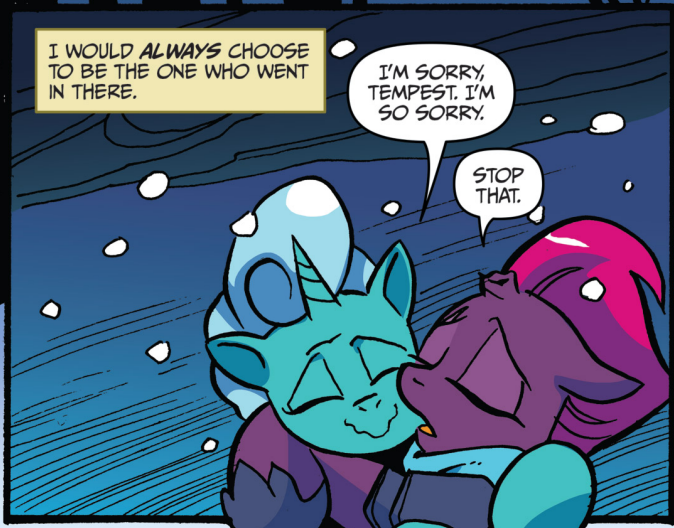
I ALWAYS LOOKED AT THE CAVE AS SOMETHING TERRIBLE THAT *DID* HAPPEN TO ME.

BUT IF I HAD THE OPTION OF TURNING THE TABLES... OF SENDING ONE OF MY FRIENDS IN THERE...

...OF GLITTER DROPS LOSING HER HORN INSTEAD OF ME...



TEMPEST?



I WOULD *ALWAYS* CHOOSE TO BE THE ONE WHO WENT IN THERE.

I'M SORRY, TEMPEST. I'M SO SORRY.

STOP THAT.



IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

THANK YOU, TEMPEST.

WHAT?

YOU CALL ME FIZZY.

NOW, COME ON— WE HAVE A BEAR TO CATCH.



WAIT, ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU TURNED CELESTIA AND LUNA TO STONE?

CADANCE TOO... THOUGH I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE WHY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE WOULD HAVE DONE TO STOP US.

WHAT?!



CADANCE IS THE BEST! SHE MIGHT BE MORE POWERFUL THAN CELESTIA.

YEAH, I DON'T SEE IT.

WHEN SOMBRA WAS TRYING TO COME BACK, SHE SHIELDED THE WHOLE CRYSTAL EMPIRE FROM HIM FOR DAYS!

WHAT'S A SOMBRA?



HE WAS AN EVIL PONY THAT TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE.

YOU ALL GET NEARLY CONQUERED A LOT, DON'T YOU?

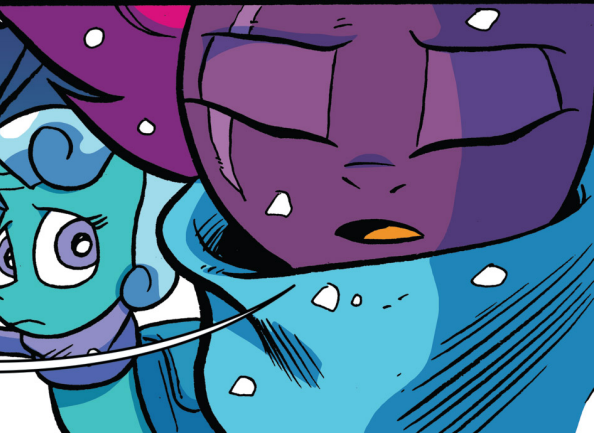
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!

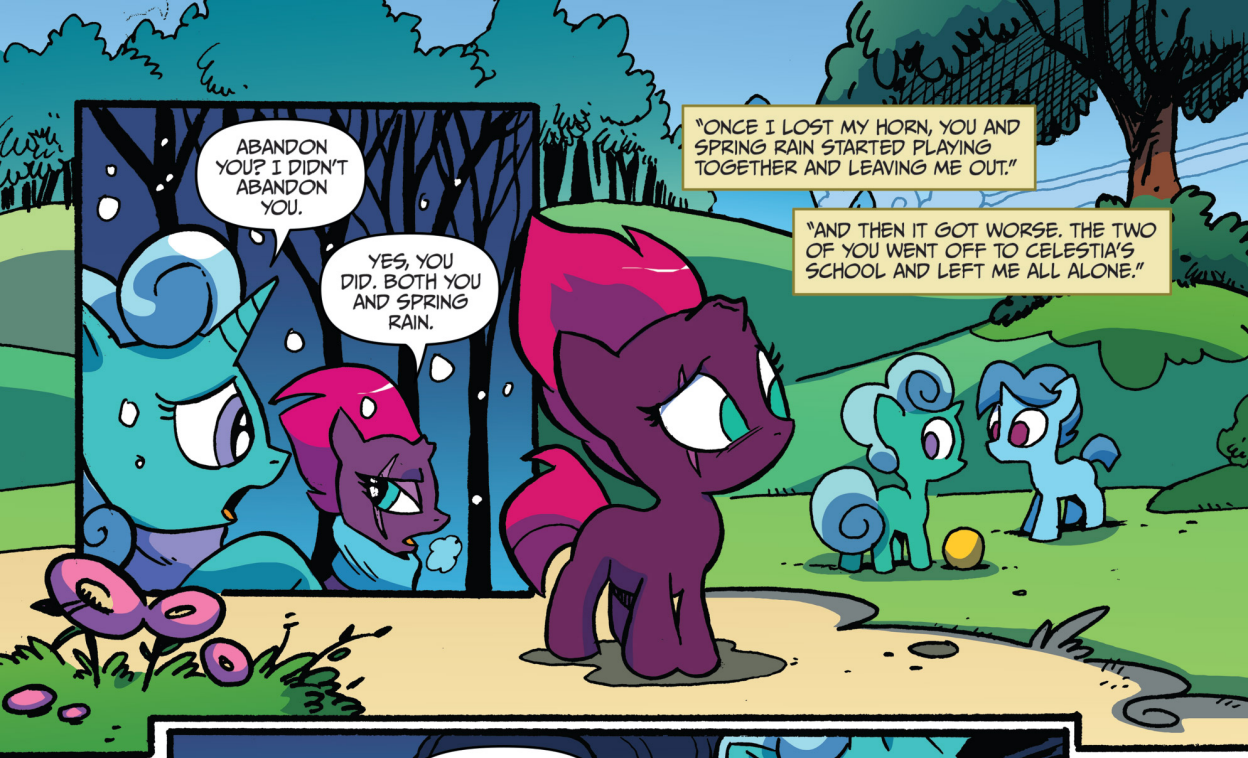


IT WAS GOOD TO TALK TO MY FIRST FRIEND AS... A FRIEND, AGAIN.

BUT THERE WERE STILL QUESTIONS I NEEDED TO HAVE ANSWERED.

GLITTER DROPS... WHY'D YOU ABANDON ME?





ABANDON YOU? I DIDN'T ABANDON YOU.

YES, YOU DID. BOTH YOU AND SPRING RAIN.

"ONCE I LOST MY HORN, YOU AND SPRING RAIN STARTED PLAYING TOGETHER AND LEAVING ME OUT."

"AND THEN IT GOT WORSE. THE TWO OF YOU WENT OFF TO CELESTIA'S SCHOOL AND LEFT ME ALL ALONE."



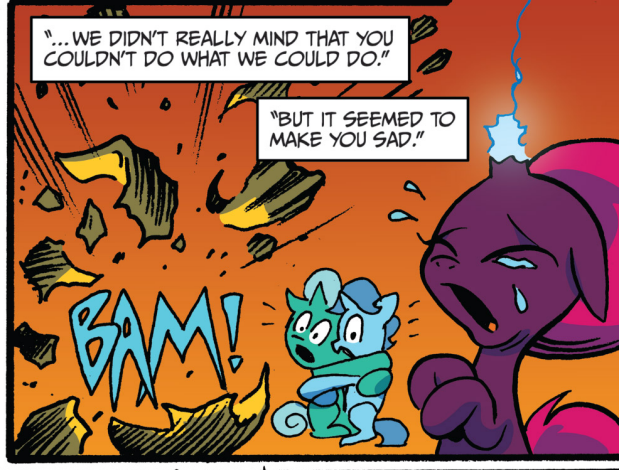
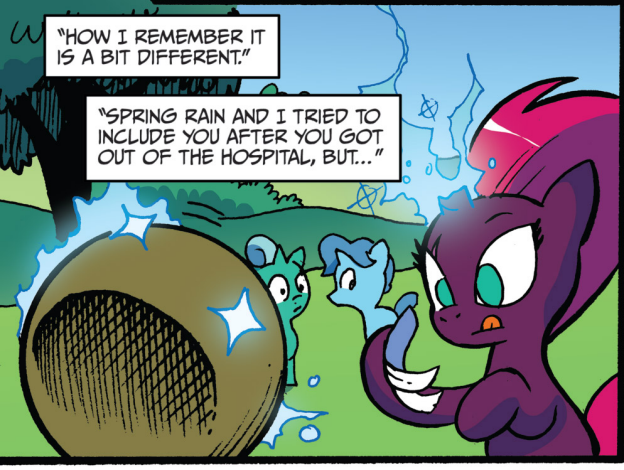
HUH. WHEN YOU SAY IT THAT WAY, IT DOES SOUND LIKE WE ABANDONED YOU.

"HOW I REMEMBER IT IS A BIT DIFFERENT."

"SPRING RAIN AND I TRIED TO INCLUDE YOU AFTER YOU GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, BUT..."

"...WE DIDN'T REALLY MIND THAT YOU COULDN'T DO WHAT WE COULD DO."

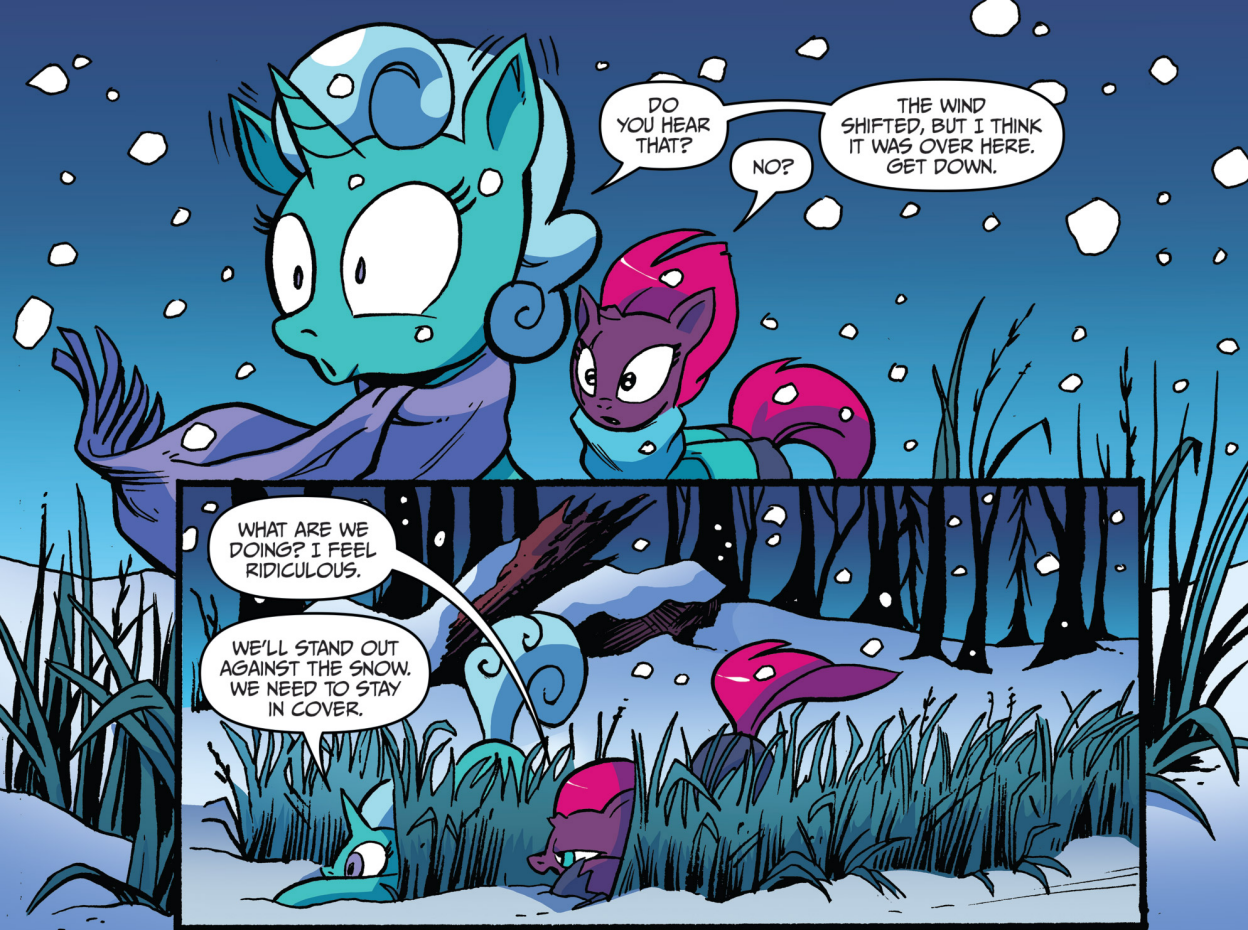
"BUT IT SEEMED TO MAKE YOU SAD."



AND WE BOTH ALREADY FELT GUILTY ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED. WE DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU EVEN SADDER.

BUT THEN WHEN YOU LEFT FOR SCHOOL, I NEVER HEARD FROM YOU.

OH, WELL, THAT'S A LITTLE—  
—WAIT!



DO YOU HEAR THAT?

NO?

THE WIND SHIFTED, BUT I THINK IT WAS OVER HERE. GET DOWN.



WHAT ARE WE DOING? I FEEL RIDICULOUS.

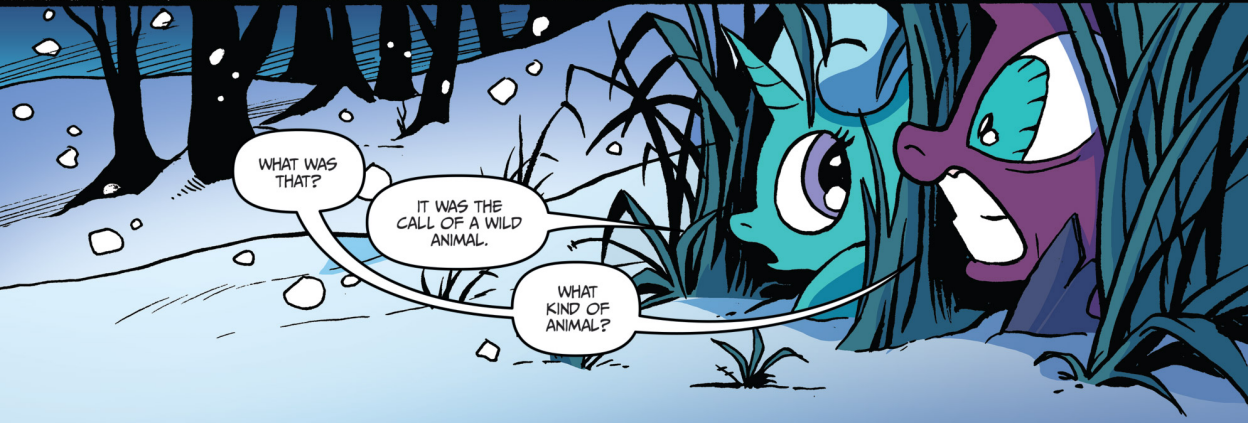
WE'LL STAND OUT AGAINST THE SNOW. WE NEED TO STAY IN COVER.



STOP RIGHT HERE.

WHY?

TRUST ME, THIS IS MY JOB. LOOK AND LISTEN.



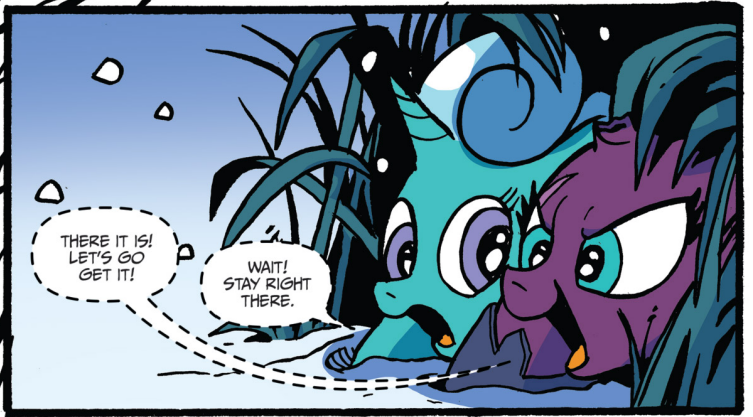
WHAT WAS THAT?

IT WAS THE CALL OF A WILD ANIMAL.

WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL?



WURRR-OOOO!



THERE IT IS!  
LET'S GO  
GET IT!

WAIT!  
STAY RIGHT  
THERE.

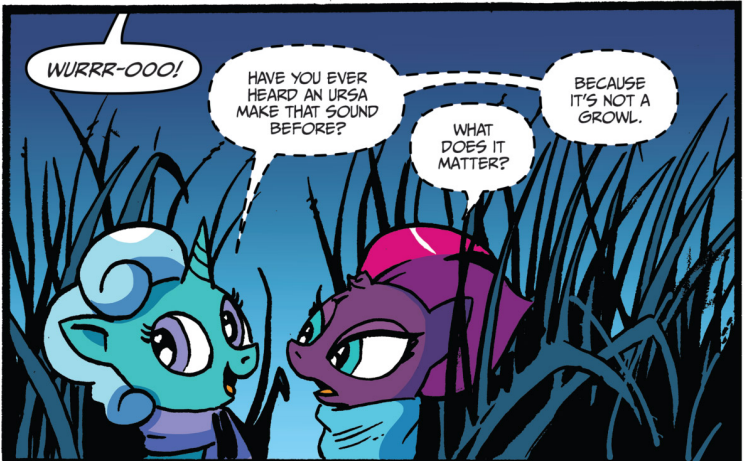


WHY ARE  
WE WAITING?  
IT'S GOING TO  
GET AWAY.

THEN  
WHY ARE WE  
HERE?

WE'RE NOT  
HERE TO CATCH  
IT, FIZZY.

LOOK AND  
LISTEN.



WURRR-OOO!

HAVE YOU EVER  
HEARD AN URSA  
MAKE THAT SOUND  
BEFORE?

WHAT  
DOES IT  
MATTER?

BECAUSE  
IT'S NOT A  
GROWL.



WURRR-OOO!

WHAT IS IT  
DOING?

IT'S  
CALLING OUT TO  
ITS MOTHER. IT'S  
LOST.



WURRRR-OOOH!

AND THERE IT WAS. I WASN'T LOOKING AT A VILLAIN OR A HUNTER.

I WAS LOOKING AT A KID. LOST. ALONE.

ABANDONED BY ITS FRIENDS.



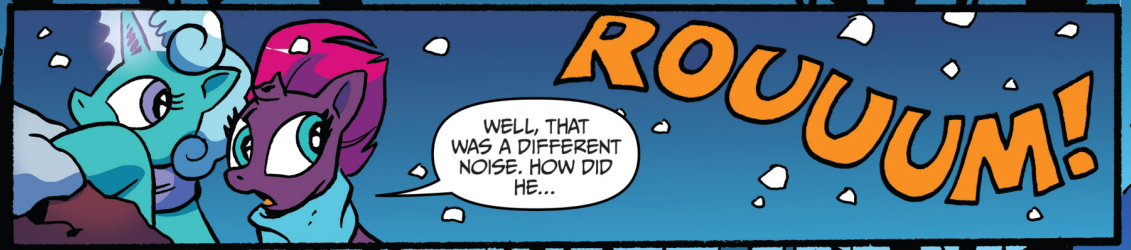
THE MOUNTAINS WHERE THE BEARS LIVE ARE NORTHWEST OF HERE. HE MUST HAVE WANDERED AWAY WHILE THEY WERE LOOKING FOR FOOD.

WHAT DO WE DO? IF HE STAYS OUT IN THIS, HE'LL FREEZE.

I HAVE AN IDEA. STAY WITH ME AND STAY LOW.



WHHHHHIIIRRRR



**ROUUUM!**

WELL, THAT WAS A DIFFERENT NOISE. HOW DID HE...



WURRRR-OOOH!

THAT'S WHEN IT HIT ME THAT THE STRANGE SOUND I HEARD WASN'T COMING FROM THE LITTLE URSA—

—IT WAS COMING FROM A MAMA BEAR.

RUUUUUUMMMM!



GLITTER DROPS, YOU MAY WANT TO OPEN YOUR EYES.

I CAN'T. THIS TAKES A LOT OF CONCENTRATION.

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER BEAR.

I KNOW, FIZZY, AND IT'S VERY BIG.



NO WAY.

I REALIZED AT THAT MOMENT I'D BEEN UNDERESTIMATING MY FRIEND. SHE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ANYONE'S COMMANDER—

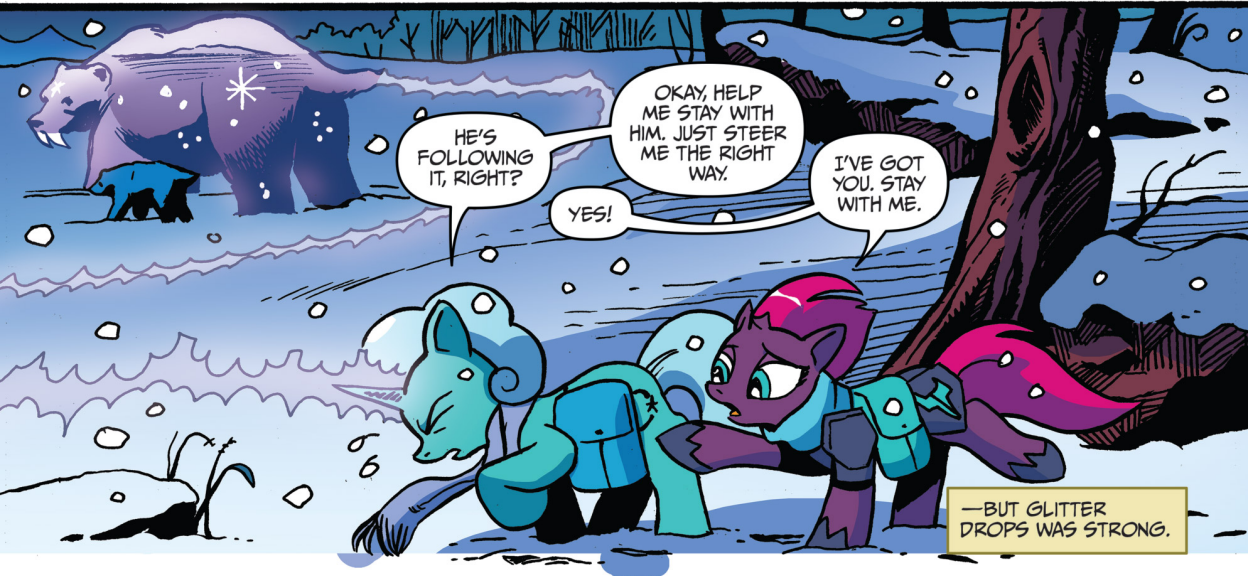


HE'S FOLLOWING IT, RIGHT?

YES!

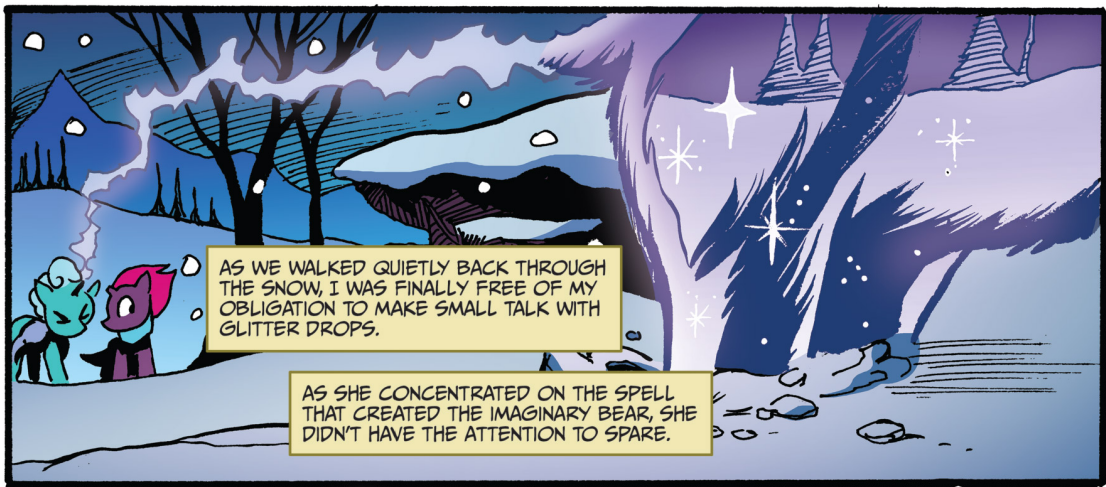
OKAY, HELP ME STAY WITH HIM. JUST STEER ME THE RIGHT WAY.

I'VE GOT YOU. STAY WITH ME.



—BUT GLITTER DROPS WAS STRONG.





AS WE WALKED QUIETLY BACK THROUGH THE SNOW, I WAS FINALLY FREE OF MY OBLIGATION TO MAKE SMALL TALK WITH GLITTER DROPS.

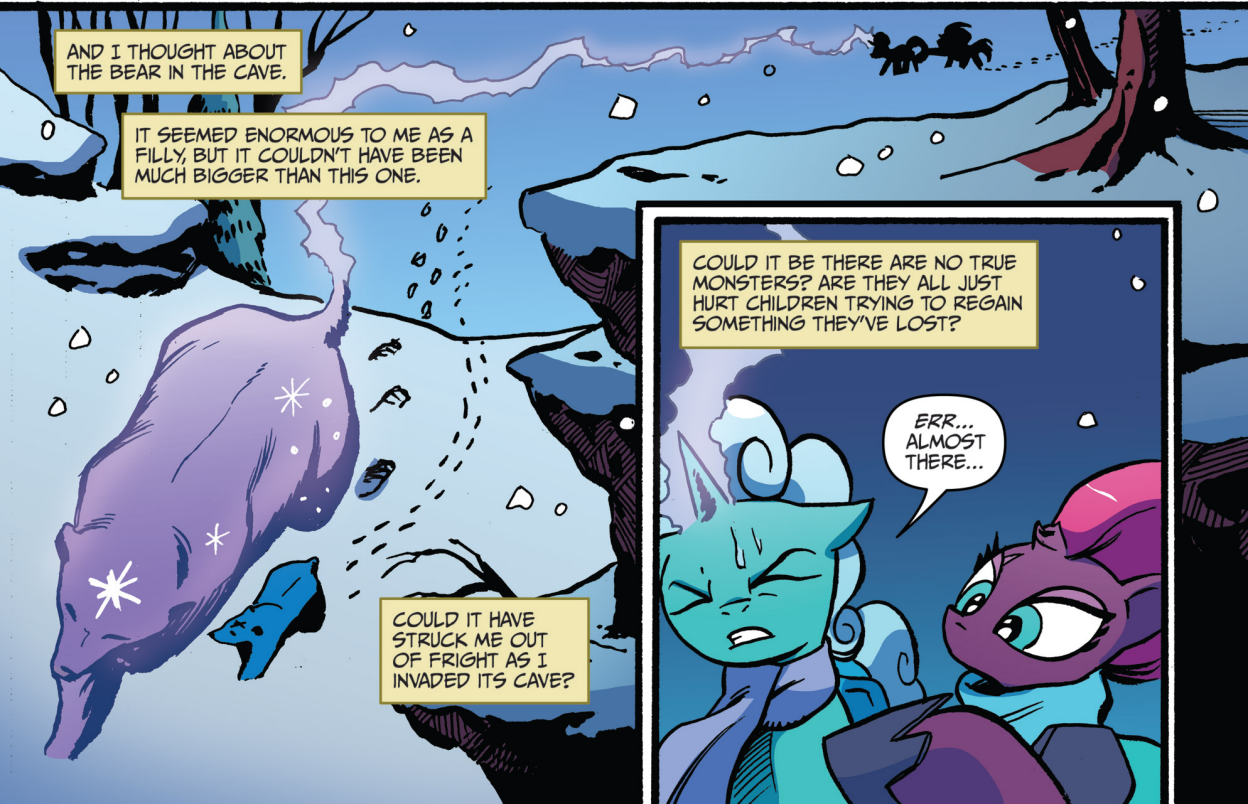
AS SHE CONCENTRATED ON THE SPELL THAT CREATED THE IMAGINARY BEAR, SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE ATTENTION TO SPARE.



THE FUNNY THING IS, NOW I WANTED TO TALK. MY MIND WAS RACING.

THE CREATURE I'D SEEN AS A VICIOUS BEAST, INTENT ON HURTING ME, WAS JUST A HURT CHILD, HURTING OTHERS TO TRY TO KEEP CONTROL.

JUST LIKE ME.  
  
IT HAD LOST SOMETHING AND WOULD DO WHATEVER IT HAD TO TO GET IT BACK.



AND I THOUGHT ABOUT THE BEAR IN THE CAVE.

IT SEEMED ENORMOUS TO ME AS A FILLY, BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MUCH BIGGER THAN THIS ONE.

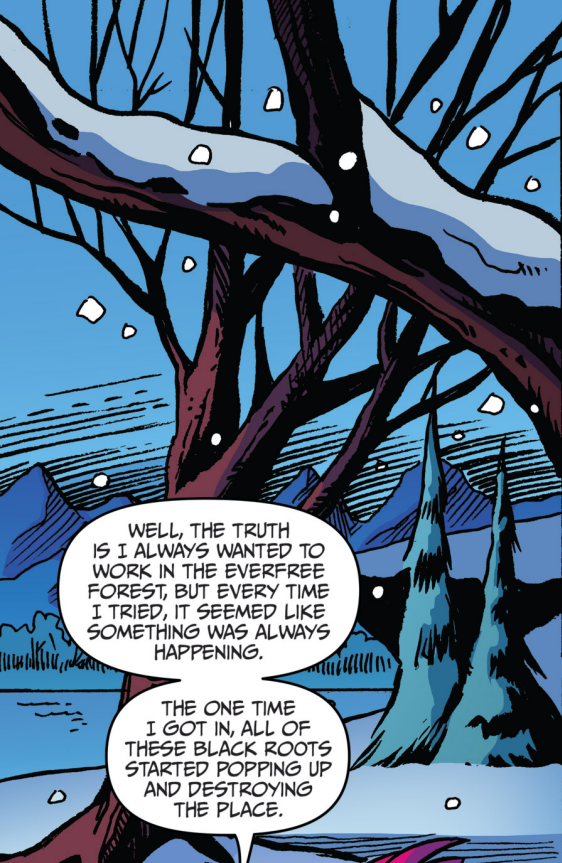


COULD IT BE THERE ARE NO TRUE MONSTERS? ARE THEY ALL JUST HURT CHILDREN TRYING TO REGAIN SOMETHING THEY'VE LOST?

ERR... ALMOST THERE...

COULD IT HAVE STRUCK ME OUT OF FRIGHT AS I INVADED ITS CAVE?





WELL, THE TRUTH IS I ALWAYS WANTED TO WORK IN THE EVERFREE FOREST, BUT EVERY TIME I TRIED, IT SEEMED LIKE SOMETHING WAS ALWAYS HAPPENING.

AND THAT TOWN ON ITS BORDER, PONYVILLE. WHAT'S THEIR DEAL? THERE'S ALWAYS SOME BIG DRAMA HAPPENING THERE.

IT'S LIKE THE PLACE IS CURSED.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

THE ONE TIME I GOT IN, ALL OF THESE BLACK ROOTS STARTED POPPING UP AND DESTROYING THE PLACE.



THIS IS NICE. I LIKE THIS.

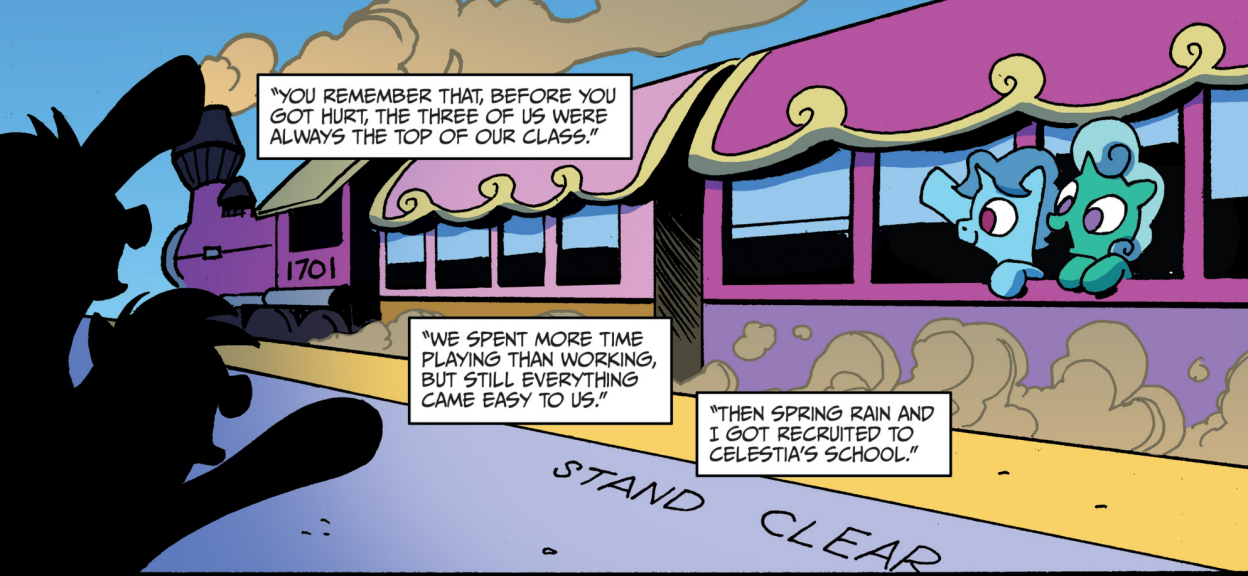
DROPSY, I STILL HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION. WHY DID YOU GUYS ABANDON ME?



WE DIDN'T ABANDON YOU, FIZZY, WE WENT TO SCHOOL.

BUT YOU DIDN'T WRITE. YOU DIDN'T COME HOME.

OH, THAT. WELL... THE EXPLANATION FOR THAT IS... NOT GREAT.

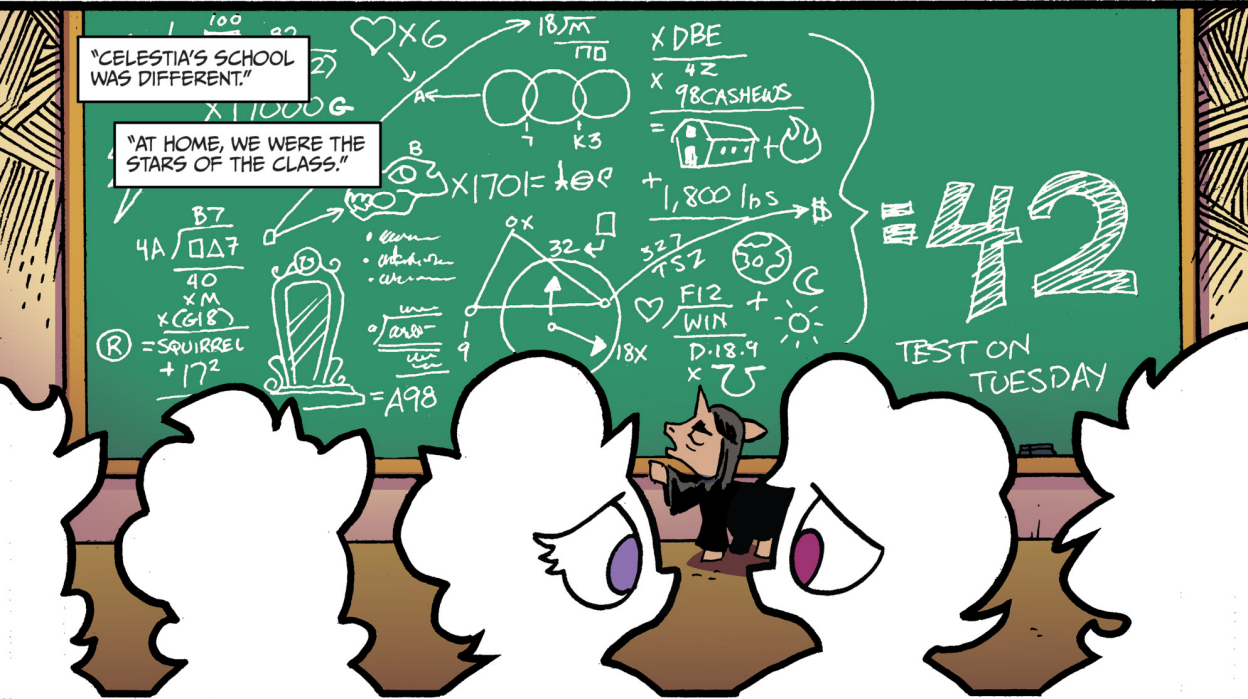


"YOU REMEMBER THAT, BEFORE YOU GOT HURT, THE THREE OF US WERE ALWAYS THE TOP OF OUR CLASS."

"WE SPENT MORE TIME PLAYING THAN WORKING, BUT STILL EVERYTHING CAME EASY TO US."

"THEN SPRING RAIN AND I GOT RECRUITED TO CELESTIA'S SCHOOL."

STAND CLEAR



"CELESTIA'S SCHOOL WAS DIFFERENT."

"AT HOME, WE WERE THE STARS OF THE CLASS."

42

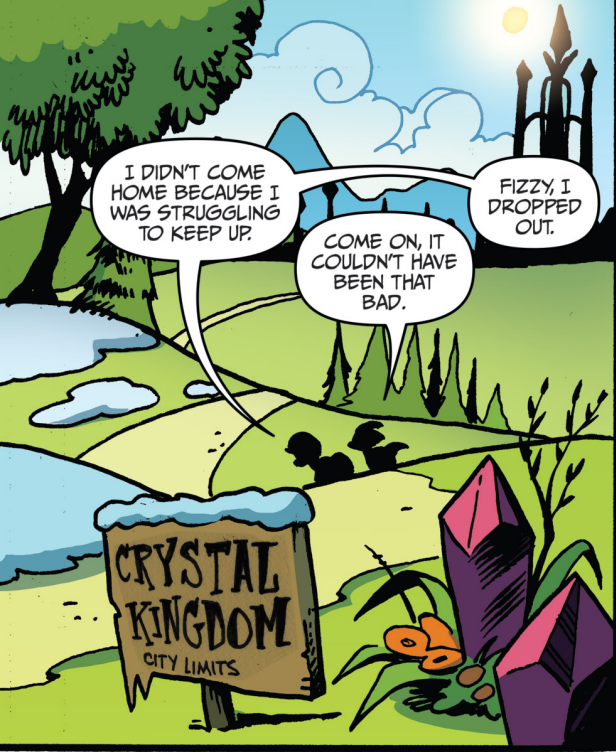
TEST ON TUESDAY



"BUT THERE... WELL..."



"...WE COULDN'T KEEP UP!"



I DIDN'T COME HOME BECAUSE I WAS STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP.

COME ON, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT BAD.

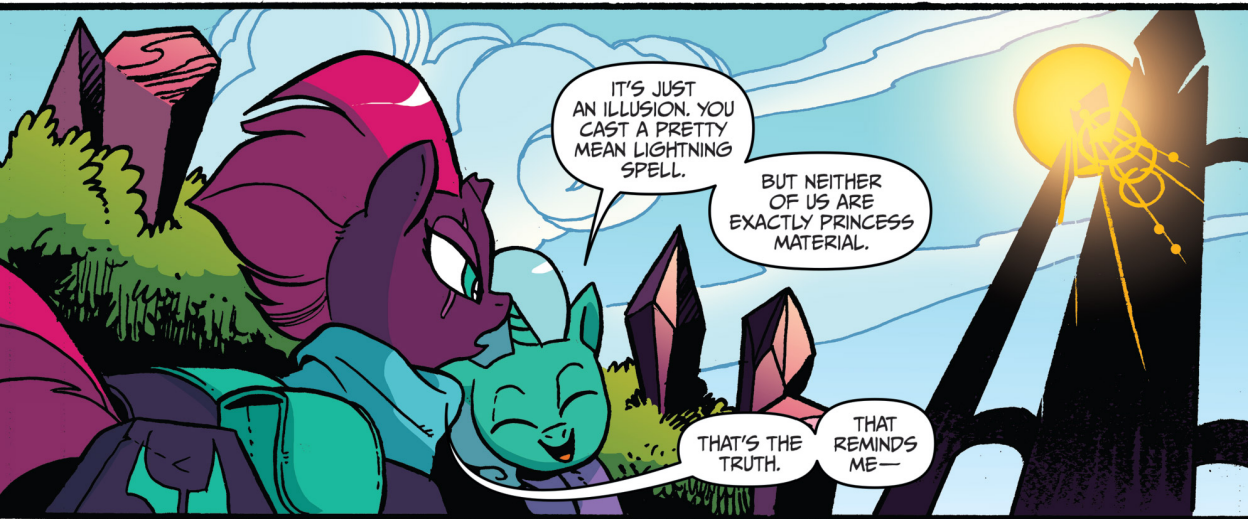
FIZZY, I DROPPED OUT.



WHAT?!

I COULDN'T LEARN ALL OF THE SPELLS. I DIDN'T HAVE THE MEMORY FOR IT AND I KEPT BLOWING THINGS UP.

BUT I JUST SAW THAT SPELL YOU CAST. THAT GIANT BEAR WAS AMAZING.



IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION. YOU CAST A PRETTY MEAN LIGHTNING SPELL.

BUT NEITHER OF US ARE EXACTLY PRINCESS MATERIAL.

THAT'S THE TRUTH.

THAT REMINDS ME—



—I HAVE TO REPORT BACK TO PRINCESS HEARTS AND TIARAS HERE.

WHY DON'T YOU LIKE CADANCE?

I'VE NEVER HAD ANY USE FOR LOVE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO WITH IT.



WELL, FIZZLEPOP BERRYTWIST, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING WITH IT.

BUT IF YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF ALONE AND ANGRY AGAIN—

"—REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE A FRIEND HERE THAT LOVES YOU."

TEMPEST, YOU'RE BACK ALREADY?

OKAY, CADANCE, HOW'D YOU DO IT?

HOW'D I DO WHAT?

YOU KNOW WHAT! HOW'D YOU KNOW ABOUT ME AND GLITTER DROPS?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SHE WAS MY FRIEND WHEN I WAS YOUNG. SHE WAS ONE OF THE TWO FRIENDS FROM...

YES?

YOU KNOW THIS ALREADY! WHY AM I TELLING YOU?!

TEMPEST, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME?

YES, THERE IS.

WELL, GO AHEAD. DON'T HOLD BACK JUST BECAUSE I'M A PRINCESS.

I JUST WANTED TO SAY...



... THANK YOU.  
IT HURTS TO SAY, BUT I HAVE TO SAY IT.



SO, IT WENT WELL THEN?

YES, WE FOUND THE URSA THAT WAS CAUSING THE DESTRUCTION AND RETURNED IT TO ITS HOME.

EXCELLENT, BUT...



... WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS ASKING ABOUT.



YES, IT WENT WELL.

WE TALKED THROUGH A LOT OF THINGS AND... UMMM... WELL—

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME, JUST...



... REMEMBER THIS THE NEXT TIME YOU WISH THERE WAS A PRINCESS OF MILITARY AIR SUPREMACY.

SHE'S NEVER GONNA LET THAT GO. GREAT.



**IDW**

#1 • CVRA

DE CAMPI  
MCNEIL  
LEE  
MUDRON

# my LITTLE PONY

## FRIENDS FOREVER



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Great cinnamon sticks! Pinkie Pie, **WHAT** are you doing?

I've memorized **all** the recipes in the Sugarcube Corner cookbook!

I am gonna **DESTROY** everyone else at the Equestria Super Chef Competition!

**IT'LL BE TOTAL DESSERT DOMINATION!!**

**THIS!**



IS GONNA BE THE **greatest day even**



But **HOW** can I get to the Hedge Maze Center without all this **KNOWLEDGE** sloshing out of my brain?



Pinkie, are you planning to **CLEAN UP** this mess?

**LATER!**

Cooking stardom awaits!

TIP TIP



Now, where in the blazes is the **BACKSTAGE ENTRANCE**?

*IF* that's even what Granny Smith's note says. Her hoofwriting's like watchin' a spider do the polka after fallin' in an ink-puddle.



And why is Pinkie Pie walking like the sky is about to fall?

Oh well. Better get this pie delivered while it's still--

*must... not... spill... recipes..!*



**SPROING**

**WHUMP**



Oh--

OH--  
OH  
NO!



Pardon me!

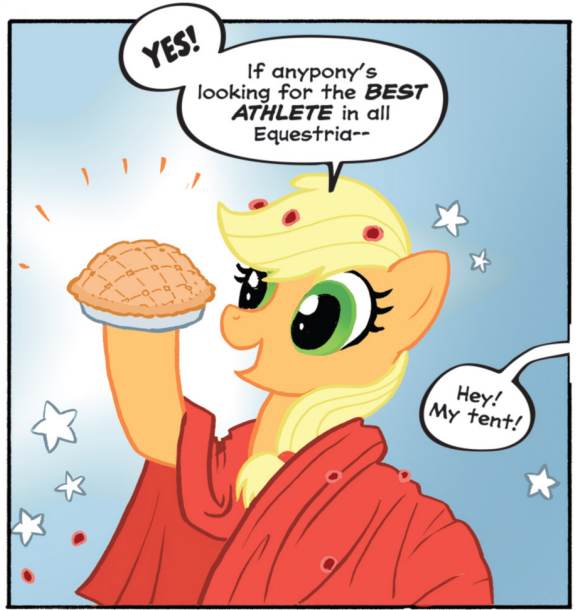
Comin' through!

'Scuse me!



Come to Applejack, little pie!

Just a mite further--



Fillies and gentlecolts,  
put your hooves together  
for the **NINTH ANNUAL  
EQUESTRIA SUPER  
CHEF** contestants!

This year's theme is  
**DESSERTS**, and with only  
**THREE ROUNDS** to decide  
which pony trots off with  
the **50,000 bit** prize--



# THE PIE'S THE LIMIT!

By Alex de Campi & Carla Speed McNeil!

Colors by Jenn Manley Lee & Bill Mudron!

So who's signin' fer  
this pie? I can't read  
Granny Smith's  
hoofwritin--

Hey! I need  
a hoof with  
these lights!

ugh!£

Just go over to  
Table Five and wait!  
I'll be right with you.



And, as always, providing you in the  
back with a magical close-up & personal  
view of the action, it's our very own

**JUMBO DON!**

Friends,  
you can call  
me Don.

**LADIES**, you  
can call me  
**ANYTIME.**

And **NOW**,  
let's meet our  
contestants!





From Manehattan, it's...

# SUMMER VAN DER HOOFF!

EXCLUSIVE cuisine for EXCLUSIVE ponies, darlings!



From Las Pegasus, it's...

# BLADE SPARXX!

Hey bros! You ready to FIRE up your appetites?!



From Dodge City, it's...

# TOFFEE TRUFFLE!

Sweet treats from MY family to YOURS!



From right here in Ponyville, it's hometown girl...

Oooh! OOOH!

Here she is! I'm so excited I could FAINT!

C'mon, Pinkie! Do us PROUD!



# ...PINKIE PIE!

**IDW**

#1 • CVRA

DE CAMPI  
MCNEIL  
LEE  
MUDRON

# my LITTLE PONY

## FRIENDS FOREVER



# TO BE CONTINUED IN...

MY LITTLE PONY: FRIENDS FOREVER #1