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PINKIE? SILENT? THAT'S UNUSUAL.





















SHE'S LEAVING.
MARBLE IS LEAVING,
AND I WON'T SEE HER
FOR TWO YEARS. WE'LL
BARELY EVEN BE
ABLE TO WRITE.

AND WHO KNOWS
IF SHE'LL EVER COME
BACK? MAYBE SHE'LL LIKE IT
THERE. MAYBE SHE'LL MEET
SOMEPONY, MAKE A LIFE
THERE, AND NOT NEED
ME ANYMORE.













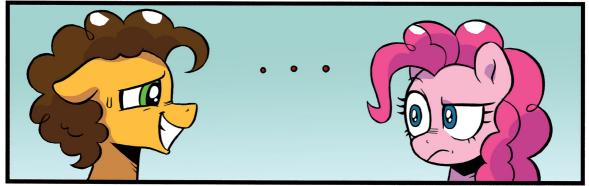






























































An Interview With artist Robin Easter

y Little Pony: Friendship is Magic #99 saw Pinkie & Cheese take center stage! Artist Robin Easter brought the wonderful world of Equestria to life, including some new characters—meet Acacia, Spruce, Oak, and Birch, the latest additions to the Pie family!

- Q: Robin, the script read, "Cheese Sandwich has tiny Pie Cousins hanging off of him," but was otherwise fairly loose in terms of direction! How did you decide to approach the design of these new characters? Do you find it's easier to work with specific instructions, or do you enjoy the freedom more?
- A: As soon as I saw that line, I knew it would be a fun challenge to tackle! I love looser direction like this because it gives me room to play around with concepts that might not come up otherwise, like how we may never know if the Pie side of Pinkie's family is really related to the Apples. I wanted to play with that idea for the cousins by making them tree farmers (or more accurately, lumberjacks!).
- Q: Can you tell us a bit about Acacia, Spruce, Oak, and Birch?
- A: Acacia is the oldest and quietest of the cousins. She likes making wood sculptures with sticks she collects while doing chores. Oak and Birch are twins, but they're very different ponies. They're too young to help with most of the chores, but Oak loves helping his mom replant trees while Birch causes trouble around the farm. Spruce is still just a baby, so Acacia usually helps keep him busy during the day. He is very curious and tends to wander off, so the Pies are always sure to keep an eye on him.
- Q: This was your first time drawing an issue of My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic; what was your favorite part of the process?
- A: Hard to say! Probably inking, it's so satisfying to watch everything fall into place. It's amazing how much a crisp black line brings to a page.
- Q: What do you enjoy most about drawing Ponies?
- A: Drawing the ponies themselves! I've been a fan of this franchise longer than I can even remember, so all the characters have a very special place in my heart. They're also just so expressive and distinct, it's a joy to draw the little differences between them all.
- Q: And finally—who's your favorite character?!
- A: A tough choice, but I think I have to go with Pinkie Pie! Everyone should have a Pinkie in their life, she always knows how to make your day brighter.

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