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#### 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

## The Return of Queen Chrysalis

Story by Katie Cook

Art by Andy Price

Colors by Heather Breckel

Letters by Robbie Robbins

### How Much is That Pony in the Window

Story & Art by Katie Cook

## Written by Spike

Story by Jeremy Whitley
Art by Andy Price
Colors by Heather Breckel
Letters by Neil Uyetake

edits by Riley Farmer





@IDWpublishing

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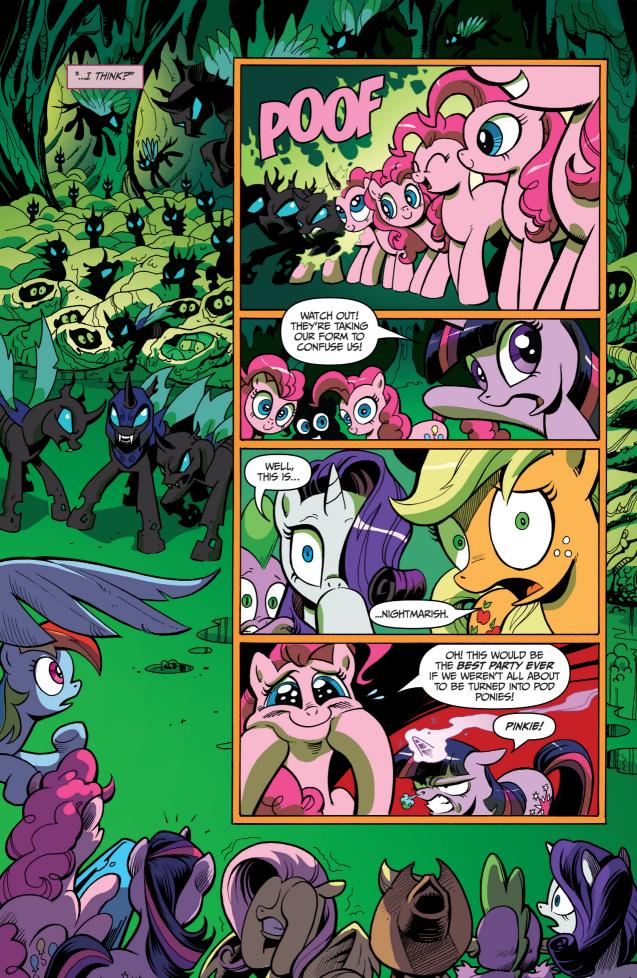


















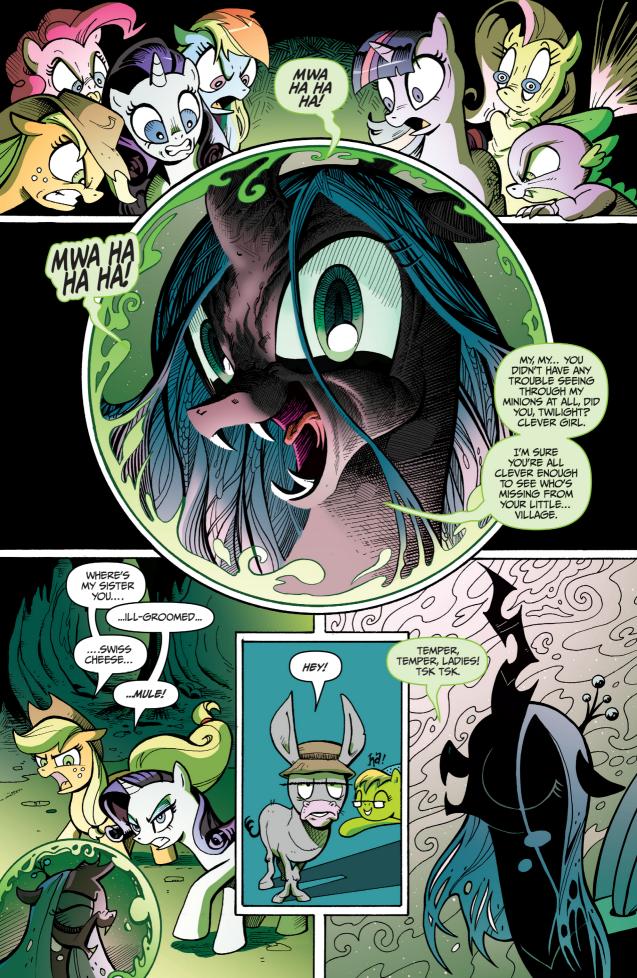
























#### That Pony In The Window? Art and Story by Katie Cook How Much Is That





















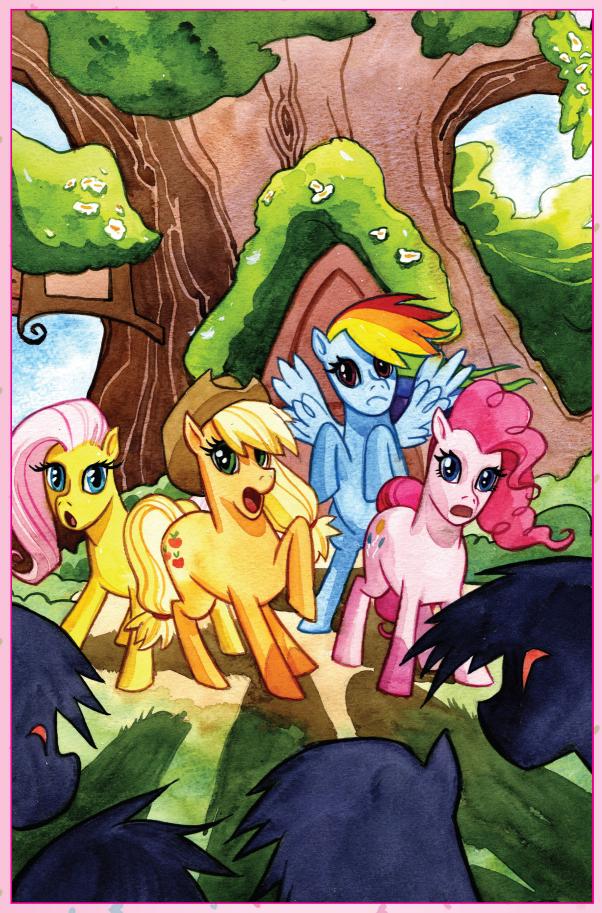
Art by Stephanie Buscema





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AND NOW, A WORD FROM TWO RETIREES CURRENTLY RESIDING IN MIHAYMI... READ ONE TODAY!

# My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic #1 10th Anniversary Special

#### An interview with Tony Fleecs

To celebrate ten years of *My Little Pony*, we sat down with Tony Fleecs. Tony has drawn countless *Pony* covers and stories, and now writes for the new Netflix series. We chatted about how he got his start and what *My Little Pony* means to him!

*IDW:* Thank you for meeting with me and taking the time to talk to me about *My Little Pony!* 

**TF:** Of course! Thank you for having me.

*IDW:* For those readers who might not know, what did you do for the *Friendship Is Magic* comic throughout its run, and can you tell us a bit about how you got to that point?

TF: I mainly draw the My Little Pony comics. I was an interior and cover artist. I was hired by Bobby Curnow, the Pony editor at the time, and I got my start the way many of us started. They would try us out on a cover or two, and then if they were impressed with us, or if we were fast enough, or on

TF:



model enough, then they'd have us draw issues. So my first cover was a two-cover spread with two different ponies looking magical, and I drew the legs completely wrong. And nobody stopped me and it went out there.

*IDW*: What drew you to the property? Just Bobby reaching out or something else?

Yeah, we had been talking about working on another property, but Bobby was like, "The licensor says you're too cartoony," but we had, like, build a decent rapport, sending in samples. We got along all right. So when they started talking about possibly pitching ponies to Hasbro, he came back and asked if I would do a sample image, just a "Here's what Pony comics might look like." I had seen an episode of the show, just like in a hotel at a convention and thought, "Oh this looks completely different than what I remember. And now it looks cool." But I didn't know hardly anything about it before I started working on it. I just drew that piece and then that was part of the pitch packet they sent to Hasbro saying, like, "This is what our comics would look like."

*IDW:* So what kept you sticking around? You said you were only kind of familiar with it before. What about the ponies kept you coming back?

It was around the time when kids' comics were really starting to be a thing. Comics were going into kids' libraries, and it was right around the time when Raina Telgemeier was really taking off, and it seemed like kids were really reading comics. And so because of that, *Pony* was such a big hit for IDW that they just started doing a ton of things. They would say, "Hey, can you do a cover for this?" or "We got this retailer that wants to do a cover," or "This

person can't do this issue of the book, you have one the month before, can you do both of them?"And I would just always say yes. It started off I was doing a couple covers, and then I looked back and it was eight years later. For a long time it was basically my whole career; it was all I was

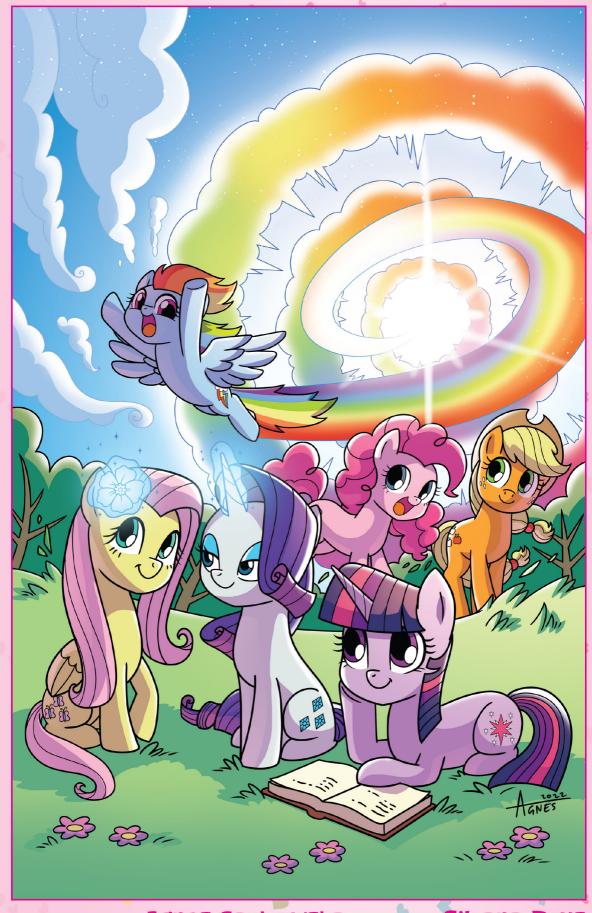
working on. It was also just a rare thing. I have a lot of friends that work in comics and do licensed comics, and nobody has something that they worked on for eight years in a row. The opportunity was there and I was working on the book and I liked interacting with the fans, the kid fans and the grown-up fans, and so I was just happy to keep doing it. At a certain point I was like, "Oh I'm supposed to be also making my own stuff." But for the longest time, I was just happy to crank away and draw ponies.

- *IDW:* A bit of a cheesy question for you... The overarching theme of the G4 ponies is that friendship is magic. What else do you think the ponies teach us?
- TF: Each one of the ponies all have their element of harmony, and their attitude was sort of instructive in how to deal with different sorts of people. Or if you're the type of person to go "Oh, I'm a Rarity," well then you can see her learn these lessons. So not only was it about friendship being magic but it was also teaching kids how to negotiate friendships with different kinds of people. Different friend groups will have "Oh she's definitely the Pinkie Pie, she's definitely the Apple Jack." I always liked that. It was never preachy—even though Twilight Sparkle would say "What I learned this week"—it never felt like you were watching a "knowing is half the battle" style lesson about how to be friends. I feel like they slipped it in with a spoonful of sugar.
- **IDW:** A lot of the characters have changed from their first appearance. Do you have a favorite character arc?
- TF: Fluttershy. I like where she started off and where she sort of evolved to. I loved how they did Spike. He started off as this tiny baby dragon, and then as the show went on, you would get peeks of where he was headed. And then eventually they would evolve him and he would get more responsibilities and now he's got wings. And they were growing him to be this different character than sort of, like, this little kid brother that was hanging around all the time in the beginning.
- *IDW:* Speaking of Spike, the new story in this issue reveals that Spike has been the writer of the comics all along... Any thoughts about that?
- TF: Ah, that's sort of perfect. I feel like Spike not being a pony sort of had this different perspective than the ponies, and I love the idea of him being nostalgic about the ponies and sort of wanting to get it all down. That sounds great.
- **IDW:** I have a few quick, fun questions just because. Do you have a favorite character to draw?
- *TF:* I like drawing the princesses. Princess Celestia and Princess Luna. And Pinkie Pie. She's fun because when you're drawing all the ponies, the ones that can fly are in the air and the ones that can't fly are on the ground. Except for Pinkie because she can just be jumping wherever.
- IDW: If you were in My Little Pony, what kind of pony would you be?
- **TF:** Earth Pony. I'm just about my business, hardworking. You know, I like apples. I like ale. I can identify with that more than flying around or having magic powers.
- *IDW:* All right, and anything to add?
- *TF:* I was very proud to be a part of these comics. I'll see kids at signings who were learning to read by reading our comics and now they're teenagers or almost adults. So much of making comics can seem unimportant. You can feel like "I'm just doing my silly job." But every once in a while, you're like, "Oh, that really made a difference for somebody," and I feel like *My Little Pony* made a difference to people, to kids.





Art by Andy Price



Art by Agnes Garbowska · colors by Silvana Brys





Art by Valentina Pinto



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# CENERATIONS





NEW VILLAINS GRACKLE AND DYRE HAVE A NEFARIOUS SCHEME...
AND ONLY THE FAMILIAR FACES FROM FRIENDSHIP IS MAGIC
AND THE ORIGINAL GI PONIES CAN STOP IT!

BY CASEY GILLY AND MICHELA CACCIATORE!

