

my LITTLE PONY

Legends of Magic





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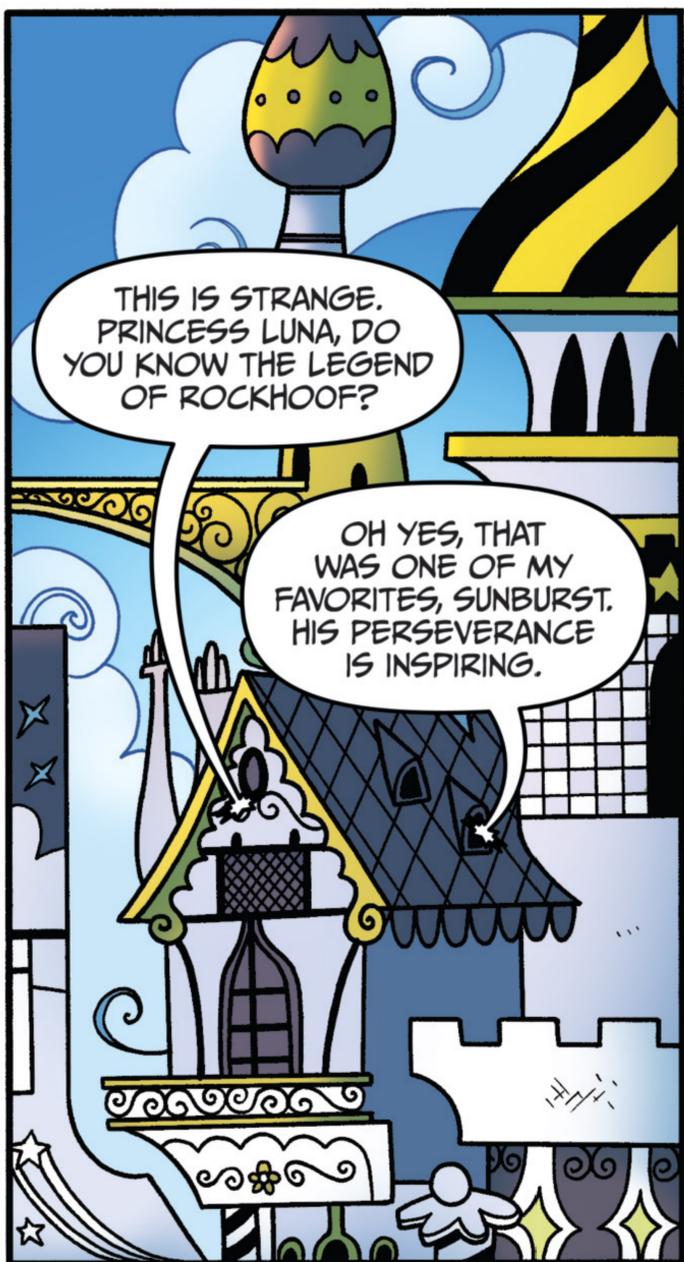


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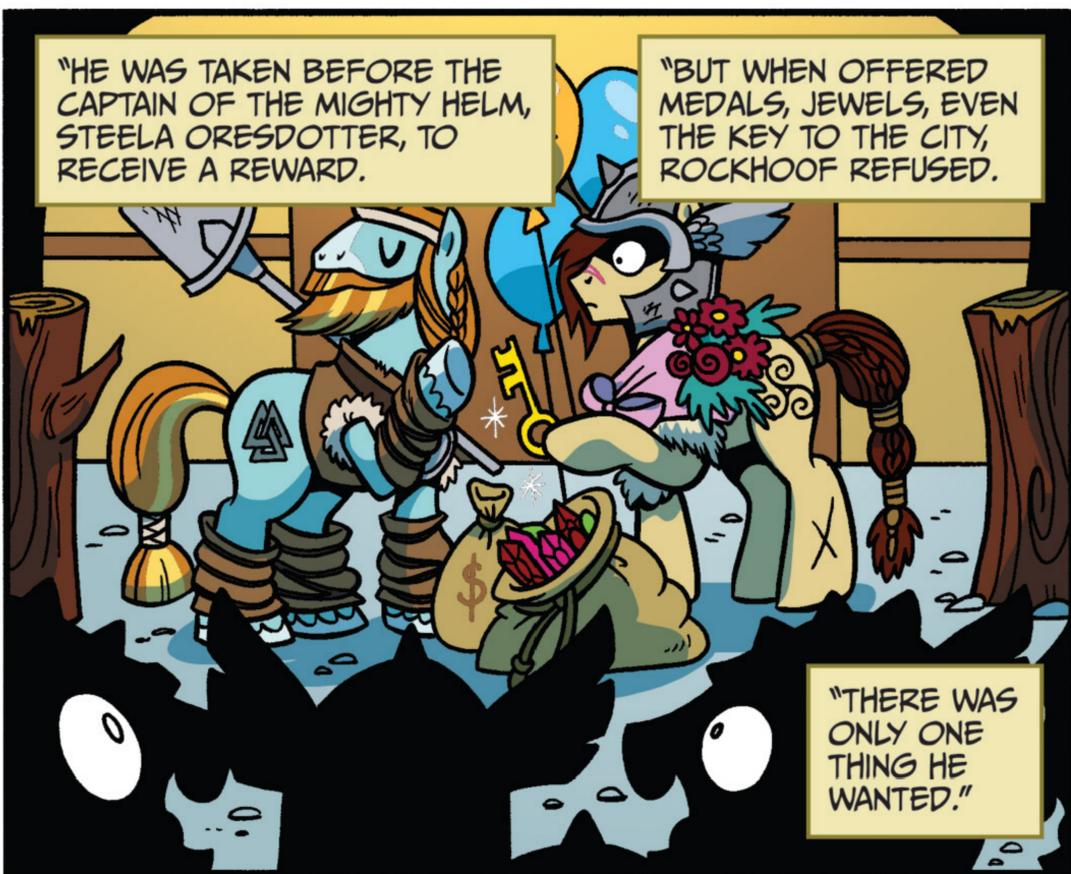






"THE MIGHTY HELM CARRIED ROCKHOOF THROUGHOUT THE TOWN ON THEIR SHOULDERS.

"AND EVERYWHERE HE WAS CARRIED, THE PONIES STREAMED FROM THEIR HOUSES TO COME AND SEE THE PONY WHO HAD SAVED THEIR CITY FROM A VOLCANO WITH NOTHING BUT A SHOVEL.



"HE WAS TAKEN BEFORE THE CAPTAIN OF THE MIGHTY HELM, STEELA ORESDOTTER, TO RECEIVE A REWARD.

"BUT WHEN OFFERED MEDALS, JEWELS, EVEN THE KEY TO THE CITY, ROCKHOOF REFUSED.

"THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING HE WANTED."



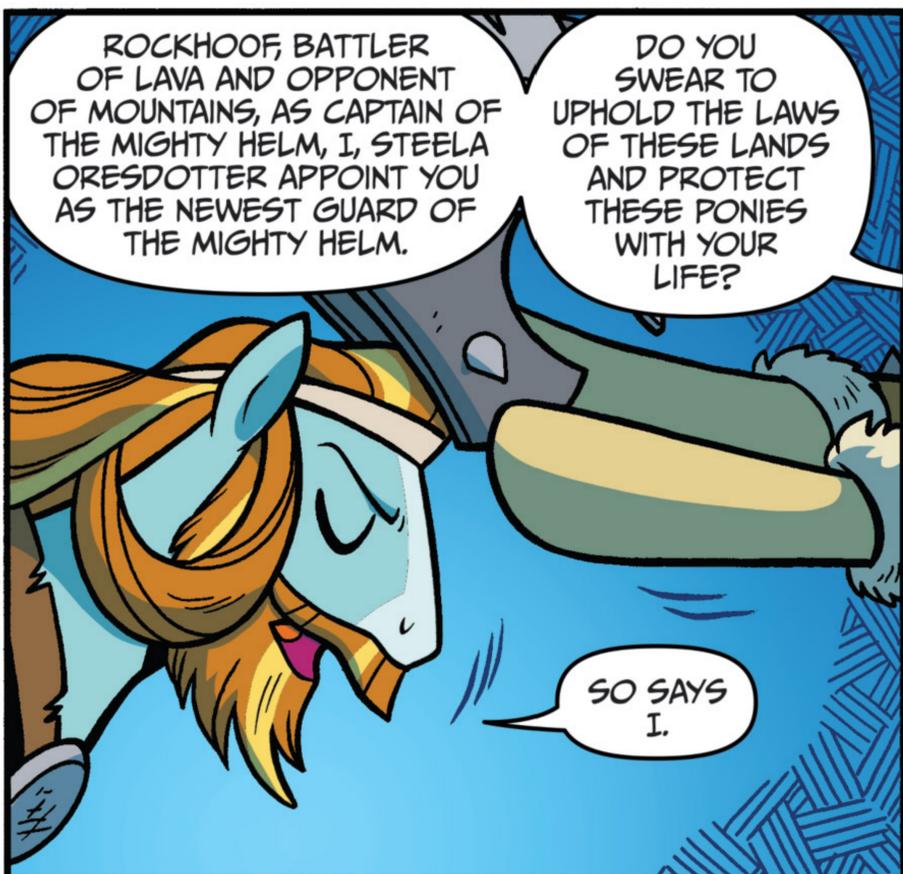
NAME IT AND IT SHALL BE YOURS.

THEN SO YOU SHALL BE! PONIES, FETCH US A HELMET AND SWORD FOR THE BRAVE SOLDIER!

CAP'N! I WISH ONLY TO BE A GUARDSMAN OF THE MIGHTY HELM.

THUMP

TOSS



ROCKHOOF, BATTLER OF LAVA AND OPPONENT OF MOUNTAINS, AS CAPTAIN OF THE MIGHTY HELM, I, STEELA ORESDOTTER APPOINT YOU AS THE NEWEST GUARD OF THE MIGHTY HELM.

DO YOU SWEAR TO UPHOLD THE LAWS OF THESE LANDS AND PROTECT THESE PONIES WITH YOUR LIFE?

SO SAYS I.



THEN WEAR YOU THIS HELMET AND TAKE YOU THIS SWORD—

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MA'AM. I'D KEEP ME SHOVEL IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU.

A SHOVEL FOR A WEAPON? IT IS STRANGE, BUT... VERY WELL. PROTECT YOU THIS LAND WITH YOUR SHOVEL SO LONG AS YOU ARE ABLE.

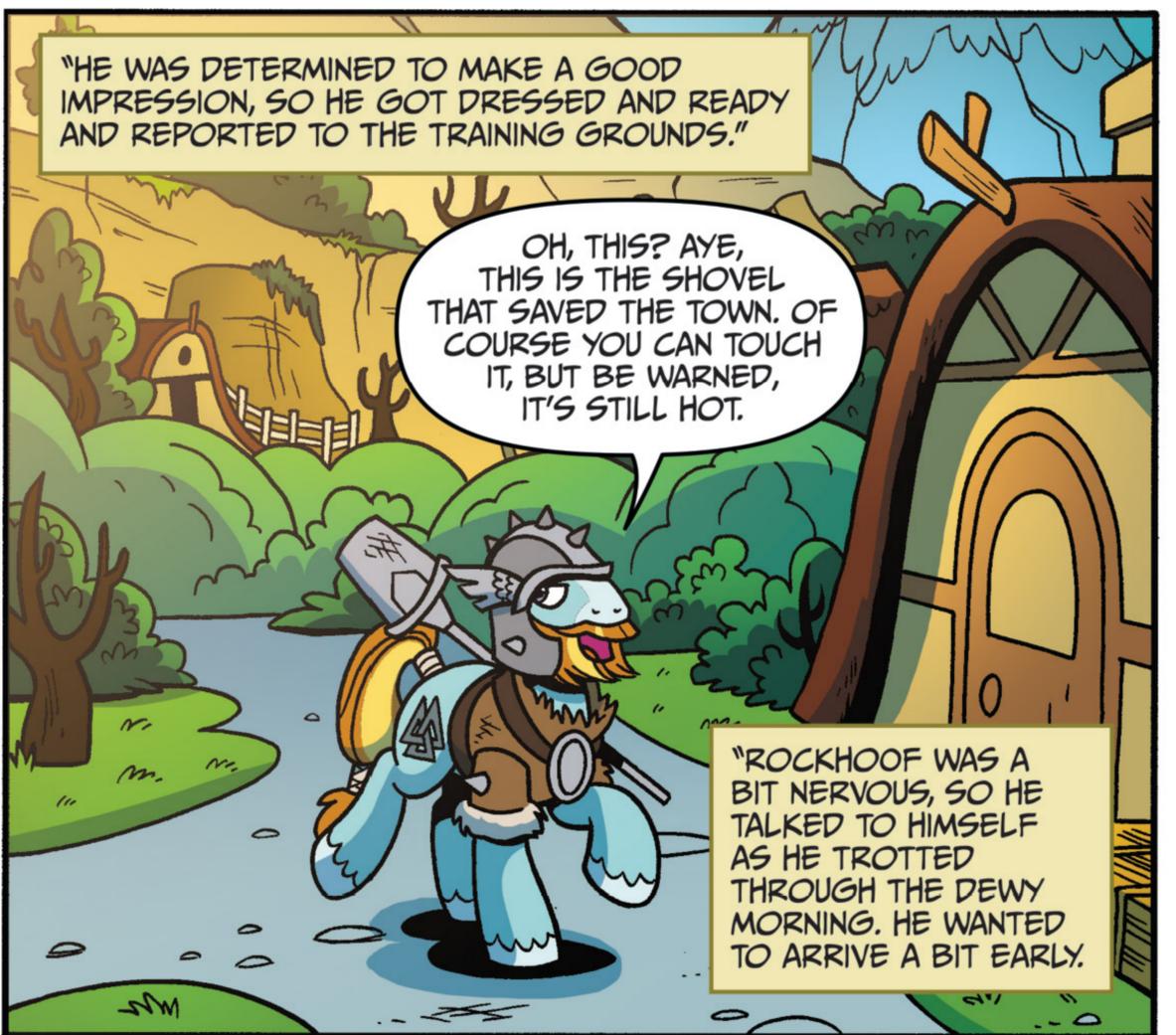
AYE, MA'AM.



"THE NEXT DAY, ROCKHOOF AWOKE EARLY TO GET TO TRAINING."

IT'S TIME!

"AFTER ALL, HE WAS ABOUT TO LIVE HIS FIRST DAY DOING THE THING HE HAD WANTED TO DO AS LONG AS HE COULD REMEMBER."



"HE WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION, SO HE GOT DRESSED AND READY AND REPORTED TO THE TRAINING GROUNDS."

OH, THIS? AYE, THIS IS THE SHOVEL THAT SAVED THE TOWN. OF COURSE YOU CAN TOUCH IT, BUT BE WARNED, IT'S STILL HOT.

"ROCKHOOF WAS A BIT NERVOUS, SO HE TALKED TO HIMSELF AS HE TROTTED THROUGH THE DEWY MORNING. HE WANTED TO ARRIVE A BIT EARLY."



"AS IT TURNS OUT, HE ARRIVED VERY EARLY!"

WORRY NOT! I'LL PREPARE FOR TRAINING WITH STRETCHES!



"OF COURSE, WHEN ONE RISES EARLY AND SITS AFIELD ALONE FOR SEVERAL HOURS..."

WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS? ROCKHOOF?!

"... THINGS DO TEND TO HAPPEN. SLEEPY THINGS."



REPORTING FOR DUTY, MA'AM.

NOT FOR ANOTHER HOUR YOU'RE NOT. I SUGGEST YOU PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER BEFORE THEN.



"AND ROCKHOOF DID JUST THAT."

"WHEN THE REST OF THE GUARD PONIES ARRIVED FOR TRAINING, HE SHOWED WHAT HE HAD BEEN TRAINING FOR."

"HE OUTRAN EVEN THE FASTEST OF THEIR NUMBER."



"HE PROVED ON THE OBSTACLE COURSE THAT HE WAS AS DEFT AS ANY GUARD PONY."



"AND WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR COMBAT PRACTICE, EVERY PONY WAS SURE THAT ROCKHOOF'S SHOVEL WOULD BE HIS UNDOING."

"BUT ROCKHOOF STOOD UP AND FACED HIS OPPONENT AS IF THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR WEAPONS."



"HE DISARMED HIS OPPONENT AND WON THE DAY."



WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO, ROCKHOOF?

HOME, FRIEND. MUST REST FOR THE SECOND DAY OF TRAINING.

NONSENSE, ROCKHOOF, COME TO DINNER WITH US. WE'D LOVE TO EAT WITH THE OPPONENT OF MOUNTAINS.

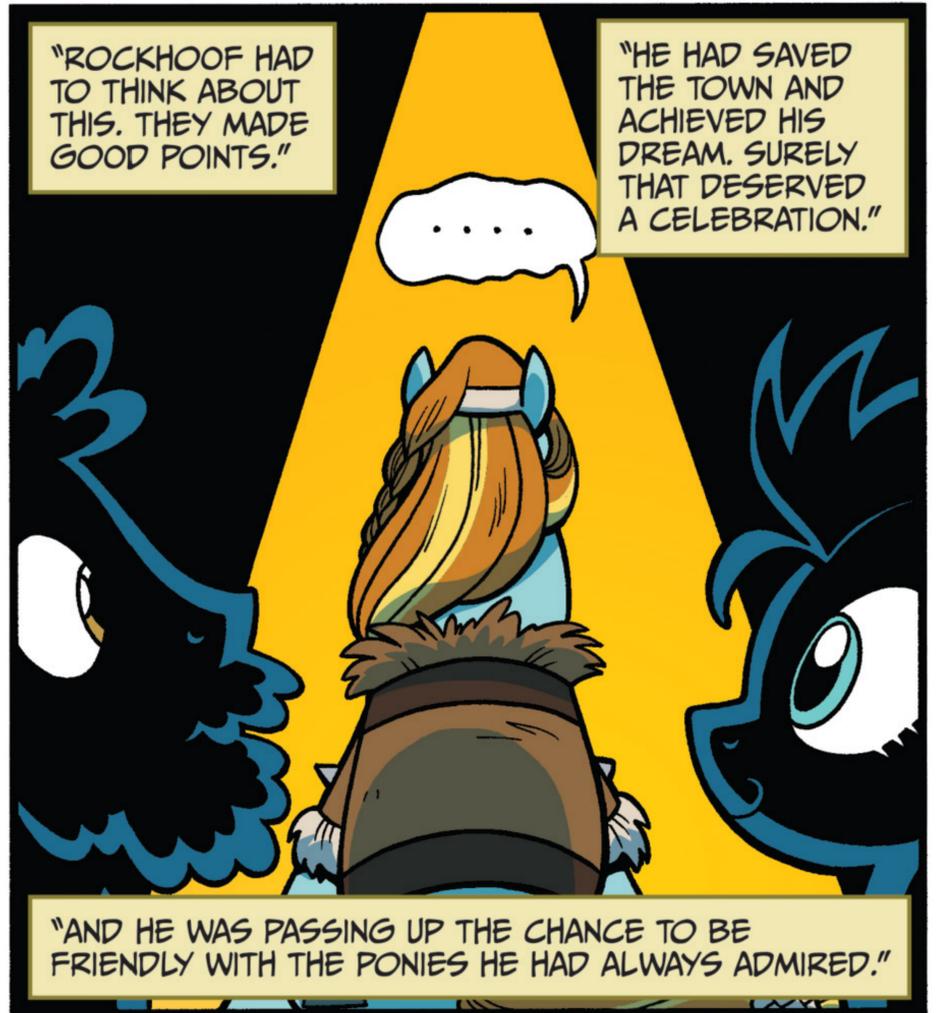


"ROCKHOOF HAD PLANNED TO EAT THE SAME HEALTHY MEAL HE'D PREPARED FOR YEARS TO GET TO JOIN THE HELM AND TURN IN EARLY!"

NEIGH, FRIENDS. I MUST KEEP UP WITH MY ROUTINE.

COME NOW! IF YOU DON'T CELEBRATE YOUR FIRST DAY IN THE MIGHTY HELM, WHEN WILL YOU CELEBRATE?

THE TAVERN ACROSS TOWN HAS A MASSIVE OAT BOWL CHALLENGE! IF YOU EAT THE WHOLE BOWL OF OATS, YOUR MEAL IS FREE.



"ROCKHOOF HAD TO THINK ABOUT THIS. THEY MADE GOOD POINTS."

....

"HE HAD SAVED THE TOWN AND ACHIEVED HIS DREAM. SURELY THAT DESERVED A CELEBRATION."

"AND HE WAS PASSING UP THE CHANCE TO BE FRIENDLY WITH THE PONIES HE HAD ALWAYS ADMIRLED."



DID YOU SAY CHALLENGE?

YAY!

YAY!

"AND SO ROCKHOOF TOOK A DAY OFF. THIS WAS SOMETHING HE HAD NOT DONE SINCE DECIDING TO JOIN THE MIGHTY HELM AND WAS LONG OVERDUE."

CHEW! CHEW! CHEW! CHEW!



"BUT ROCKHOOF, AS IS WELL KNOWN, LOVED CHALLENGES."



CHEW! CHEW! CHEW! CHEW!

"AND EATING AN ENTIRE BOWL FULL OF OATS DID SEEM LIKE QUITE THE CHALLENGE."



"AND IT WAS A CHALLENGE HE WAS UP TO."

THAT WAS AMAZING, ROCKHOOF!

ALL HAIL ROCKHOOF! ENEMY TO VOLCANOES AND OATS!



"OTHER THAN A BIT OF A STOMACH ACHE, ROCKHOOF FELT GOOD. AS GOOD AS HE HAD EVER FELT."

TELL THEM, HOOFY! IT WAS ALL WITH ONE SHOVEL, WASN'T IT?

AYE! THE SAME SHOVEL I CARRY WITH ME NOW!

THEY SAY IF YOU FEEL IT, IT'S STILL A BIT HOT!



"ROCKHOOF WAS A MEMBER OF THE MIGHTY HELM, JUST LIKE HE HAD ALWAYS WANTED."

"EVEN BETTER, THEY LIKED HIM. HE HAD MADE IT. HE WAS THE HERO OF HIS TOWN!"



"THE NEXT MORNING WHEN ROCKHOOF AWOKED, HE DID NOT FEEL QUITE AS SPRY AS THE DAY BEFORE."



"IN FACT, HE FELT LIKE HE HAD JUST EATEN AN ENTIRE BOAT FULL OF OATS."



NICE OF YOU TO JOIN US, ROCKHOOF, BUT YOU'RE LATE.



SORRY, CAP'N. ROUGH MORNING. WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

SEE THAT IT DOESN'T.

"AND FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, ROCKHOOF HAD MEANT IT WHEN HE SAID IT."



"AND ONCE HE STARTED RUNNING, HE WAS STILL FIRST IN THE PACK."



THERE YOU GO, HOOFY!

THAT'S OUR BOY.

"AND EVEN THOUGH HE WASN'T QUITE AS QUICK THIS TIME, HE STILL WON HIS TRAINING FIGHT."



"ROCKHOOF KNEW HE NEEDED TO GO HOME AND GO BACK TO HIS USUAL ROUTINE."



"AS MUCH AS HE MAY HAVE WANTED TO BE FRIENDLY, HE WANTED TO BE A GUARD OF THE MIGHTY HELM MORE."



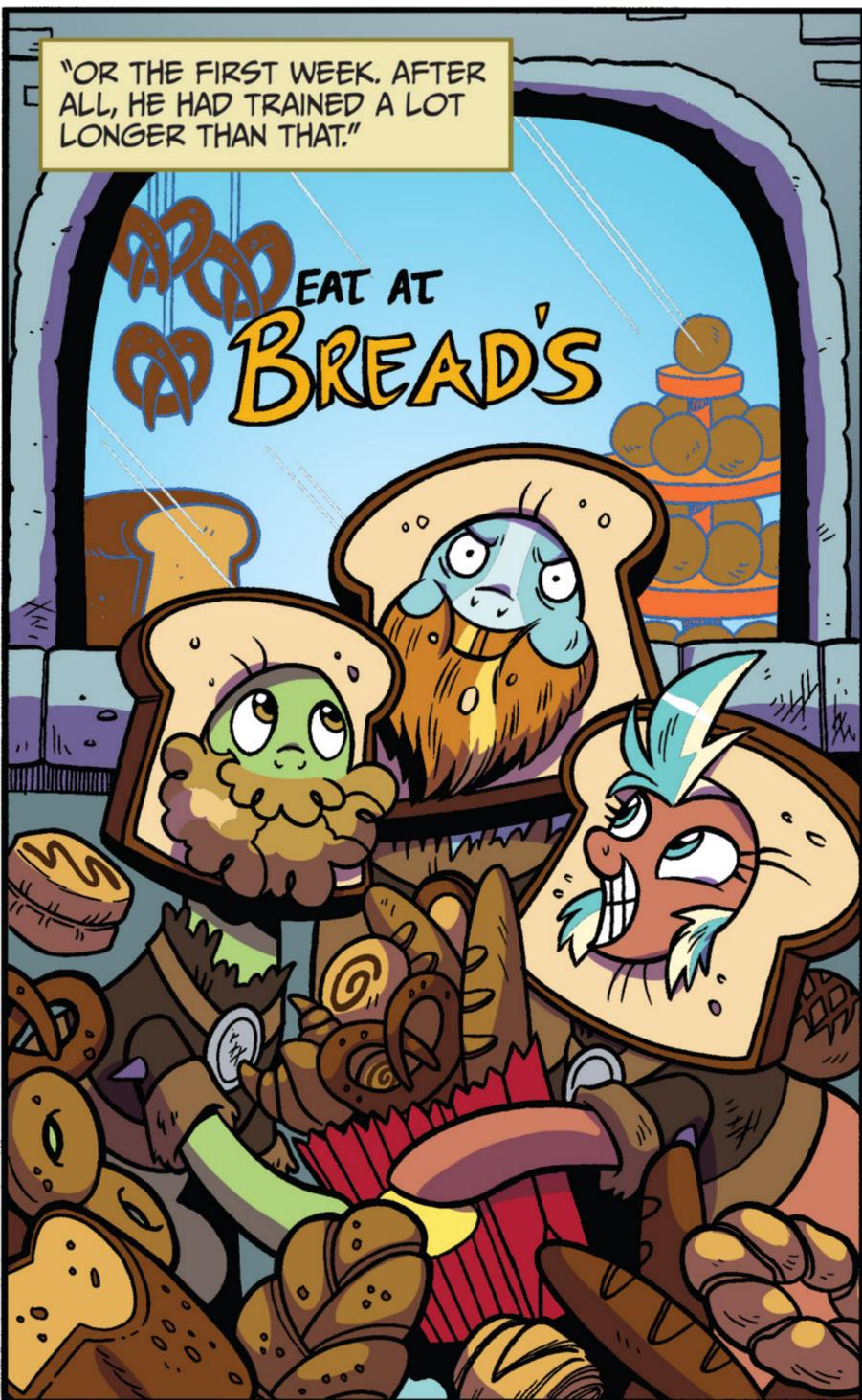
"BUT SURELY ONE MORE NIGHT OF FUN WITH FRIENDS WOULDN'T AFFECT THAT!"

THE PIT OF CORN!
EAT
YOUR WAY OUT!



ASPARAGUS GUS'S

"AND IF ONE MORE NIGHT WOULDN'T HURT, SURELY TWO WOULD BE FINE."



"OR THE FIRST WEEK. AFTER ALL, HE HAD TRAINED A LOT LONGER THAN THAT!"

EAT AT
BREAD'S



"OR THE FIRST MONTH!"

Kale-Abraction

"SURE, HE MAY HAVE SLOWED DOWN A LITTLE. PERHAPS HE LOST A RACE EVERY NOW AND THEN."

"BUT HE HAD FRIENDS WHO REALLY LIKED HIM AND WHAT WAS THE POINT OF BEING SUCCESSFUL IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE TO SHARE IT WITH?"



"UNTIL ONE DAY, THE TOWN SUDDENLY HAD NEED OF A HERO AGAIN."

THAT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.

IT COULD BE ANYTHING. IT DOESN'T MEAN AN ERUPTION AGAIN FOR SURE.



I HAVE A LETTER FOR CAPTAIN STEELA!

OVER HERE!



DO HEARBY REQUEST THAT THE MIGHTY HELM AND ITS HERO—

ROCKHOOF!



ROCKHOOF!
ROCKHOOF!
ROCKHOOF!

AT YOUR SERVICE, CAP'N.



YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, ROCKHOOF, ARE YOU SICK?

NO, MA'AM. JUST A BIT OF A LONG NIGHT'S ALL.

ARE YOU FIT TO SERVE?

FIT AS A FORK, MA'AM.



WELL, THE BARON THINKS YOU'RE THE HERO TO INVESTIGATE THE VOLCANO. PICK TWO OTHER GUARDS AND HEAD UP TO SEE WHAT'S AMISS.

YES, MA'AM.



COME ON, BOYS, WE GOT THIS.

HOOFY, YOU THINK WE'RE REALLY THE BEST CHOICE?

RIGHT, YOU KNOW WE WERE OUT QUITE LATE LAST—

NONSENSE! GET YOUR SWORDS AND LET'S GO!



"TO SAY THAT ROCKHOOF'S FRIENDS WERE NERVOUS WOULD HARDLY DO IT JUSTICE. BUT ROCKHOOF MARCHED TO THE BASE OF THE VOLCANO, JUST AS HE HAD THE DAY OF THE ERUPTION."

TIME TO WORK, GUARD PONIES!

"ROCKHOOF CLIMBED FOR ALL HE WAS WORTH. HIS FRIENDS ON THE OTHER HAND—"

I DON'T KNOW. THAT LOOKS AWFUL STEEP.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD COME BACK WITH PROPER CLIMBING EQUIPMENT.

"—TOOK EVERY CHANCE TO FIND A REASON WHY THEY COULD NOT DO THE TASK THEY WERE GIVEN."



THE ROCKS SEEM AWFULLY LOOSE HERE.

YES, WE SHOULD COME BACK AFTER THE FALLING ROCK SEASON IS OVER.

"THE FARTHER ALONG THEY GOT, THE MORE REASONS THEY HAD."



SEE, BATS WAS THE ONE THING I SWORE WOULD KEEP ME FROM FINISHING THIS QUEST.

RIGHT! BATS MEAN EVERYTHING IN THE VOLCANO IS OKAY, THOUGH, RIGHT?



"THOUGH, TO BE FAIR, THEY WERE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO CAUSED DELAYS."

"HIS TIME IN THE MIGHTY HELM HAD NOT BEEN AS RIGOROUS AS WHEN HE HAD TRAINED TO PROVE HIMSELF!"

EXHAUSTED. USED TO CLIMB THIS EVERY DAY. SO TIRED.

huff huff



"BUT IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, ROCKHOOF MADE IT TO THE TOP OF THE VOLCANO."

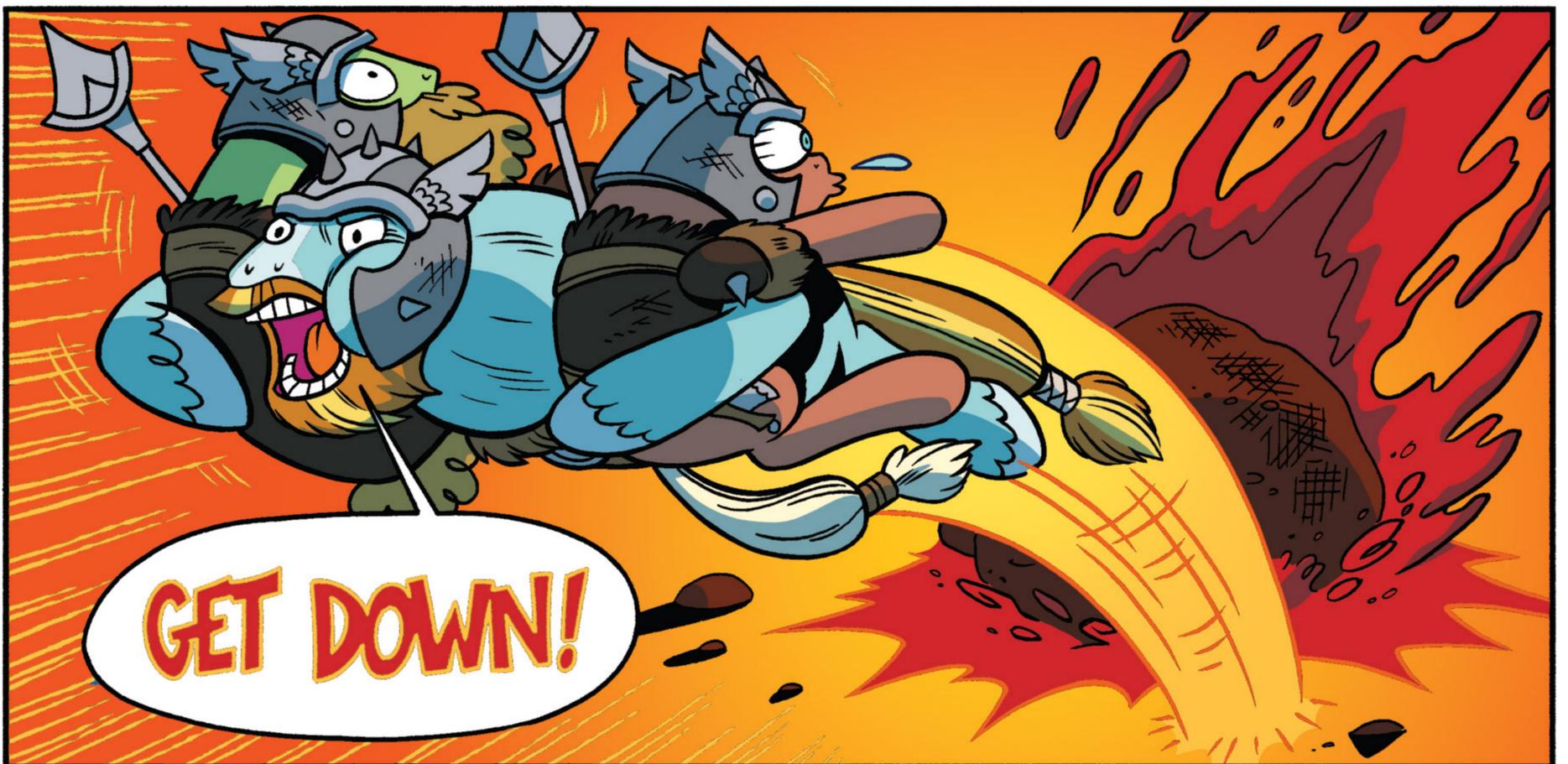
DON'T DO IT, ROCKHOOF! DON'T GO IN!

WE'LL JUST TELL CAPTAIN STEELA WE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING AND HEAD BACK.

NEIGH, WE HAVE A JOB TO DO AND WE'RE—



WHAT IN EQUESTRIA?!



GET DOWN!

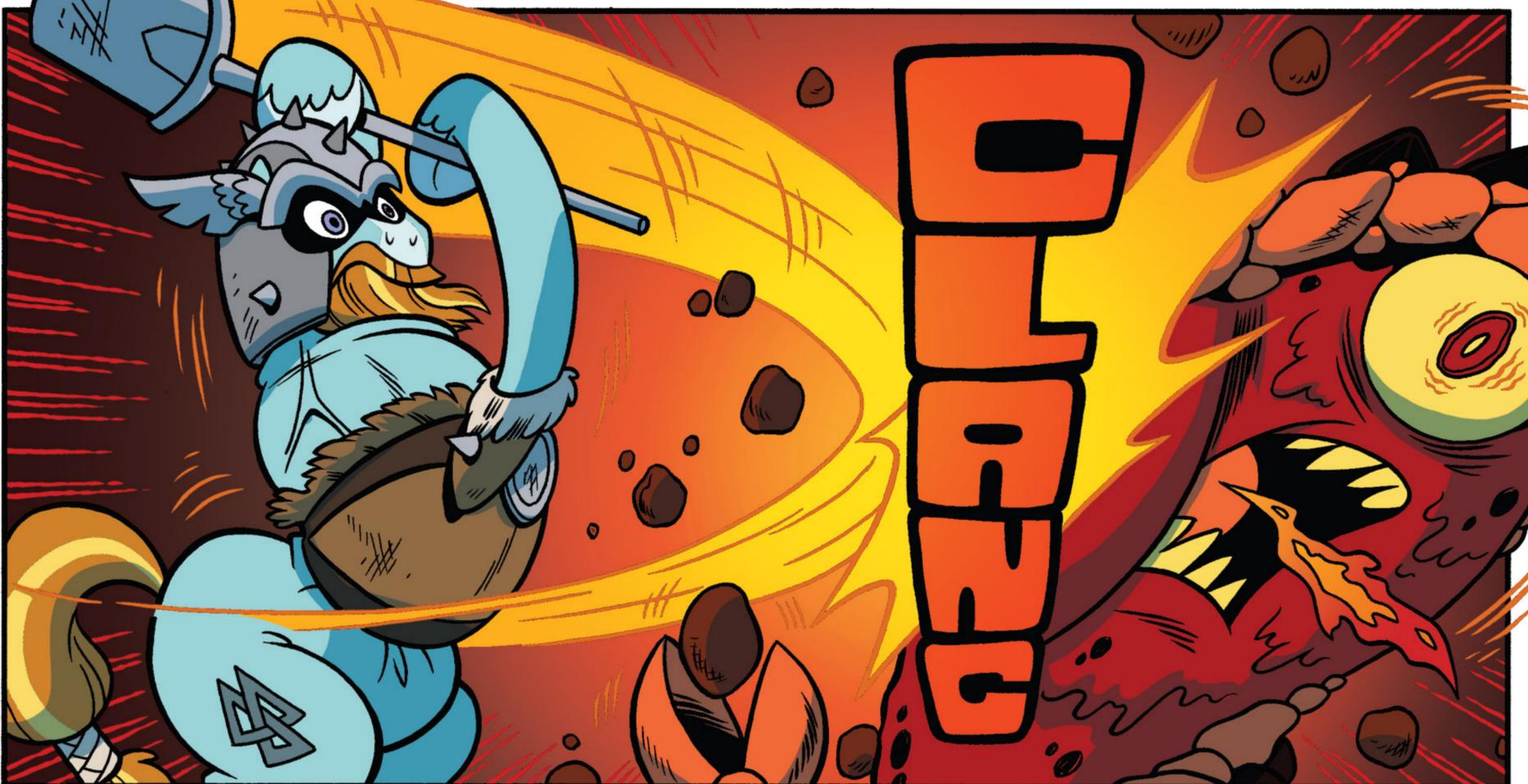
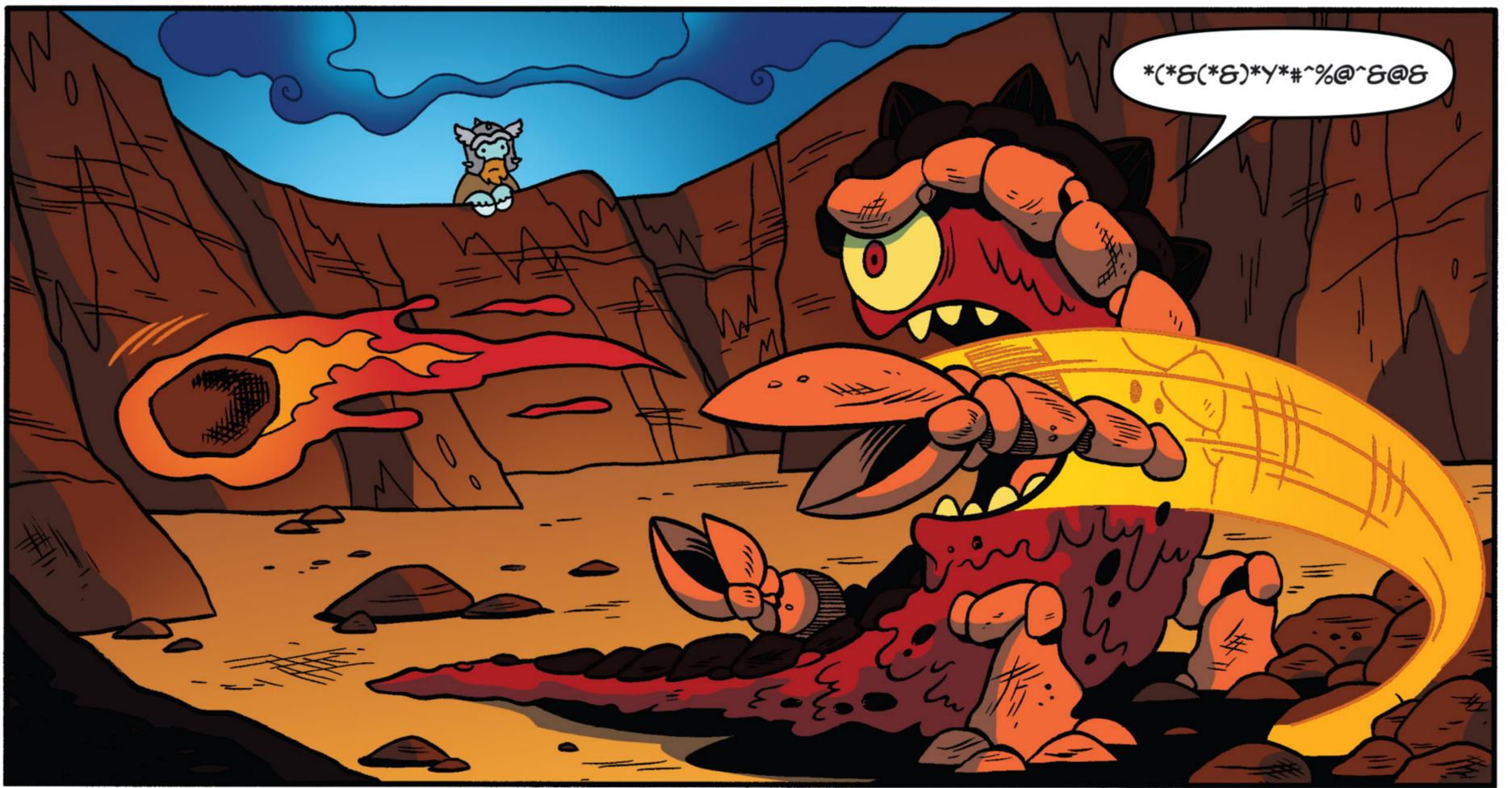


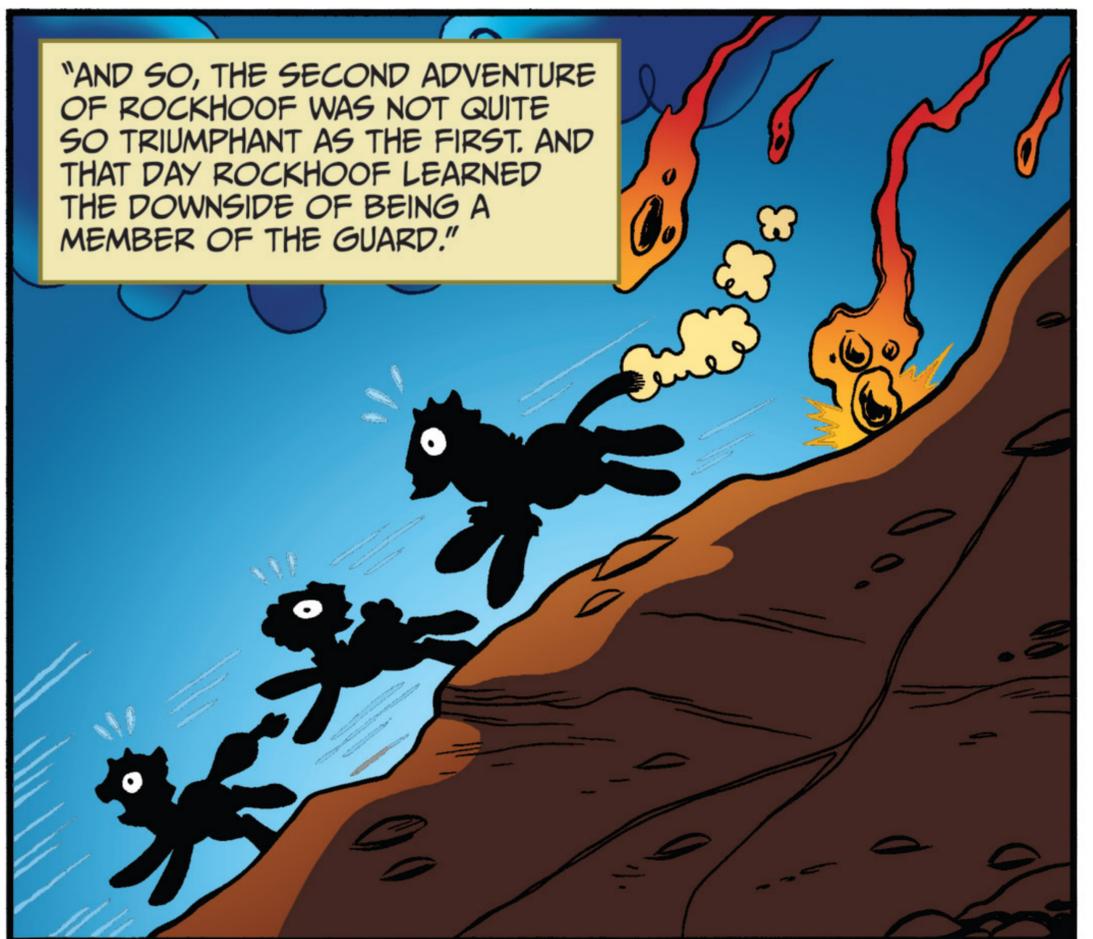
WE NEED TO GO DOWN THERE AND SET THIS STRAIGHT.

NO, WE DON'T! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M NOT FIREPROOF.

WE'RE ONLY HERE TO INVESTIGATE. WE REPORT BACK AND LET SOMEONY ELSE DEAL WITH...

...WHAT WAS IT ANYWAY?







"YOU HAVE TO REPORT TO A CAPTAIN WHEN YOU FAIL."

SO, WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME, HERO OF OUR TOWN, IS THAT I SENT YOU UP THERE TO FIX THE SITUATION, YOU FOUND A CHERUFE—



AND YOU DECIDED TO MAKE IT WORSE ?!



AYE, MA'AM. I'M AFRAID IT IS SO.

LOOK, SINCE YOU JOINED THE MIGHTY HELM, YOU'VE GONE FROM BEING EARLY TO LATE. YOU'VE GONE FROM BEING BOLD TO LAZY. YOU DIDN'T EVEN FINISH THE LAST RACE.

I MEANT TO—



IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU MEANT TO DO. WE'RE IN CHARGE OF PROTECTING THE PONIES OF THIS TOWN. YOU'RE EITHER IN OR OUT.

I'M IN.



DON'T TELL ME, HERO. PROVE IT.

I'LL GO BACK—

NO, YOU WON'T. NOT UNTIL YOU'RE FIT TO FIGHT. AND IF YOU CAN'T GET BACK IN SHAPE, I EXPECT YOU TO TURN IN YOUR HELMET.



"ROCKHOOF WAS DEVASTATED. HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?"

"ROCKHOOF HAD FOUGHT TO GET WHERE HE WAS. HE HAD DEVOTED ALL OF HIS TIME TO IT. HE HADN'T WANTED ANYTHING ELSE."

"NOW HE WAS ON THE EDGE OF LOSING IT ALL. BUT HE WASN'T GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN."



"SO HE WENT BACK TO HIS OLD ROUTINE."



"BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH. HE DOUBLED IT."



HE HAD ACHIEVED HIS DREAMS AND HE HAD NO ONE TO BLAME FOR HIS FAILURE BUT HIMSELF."

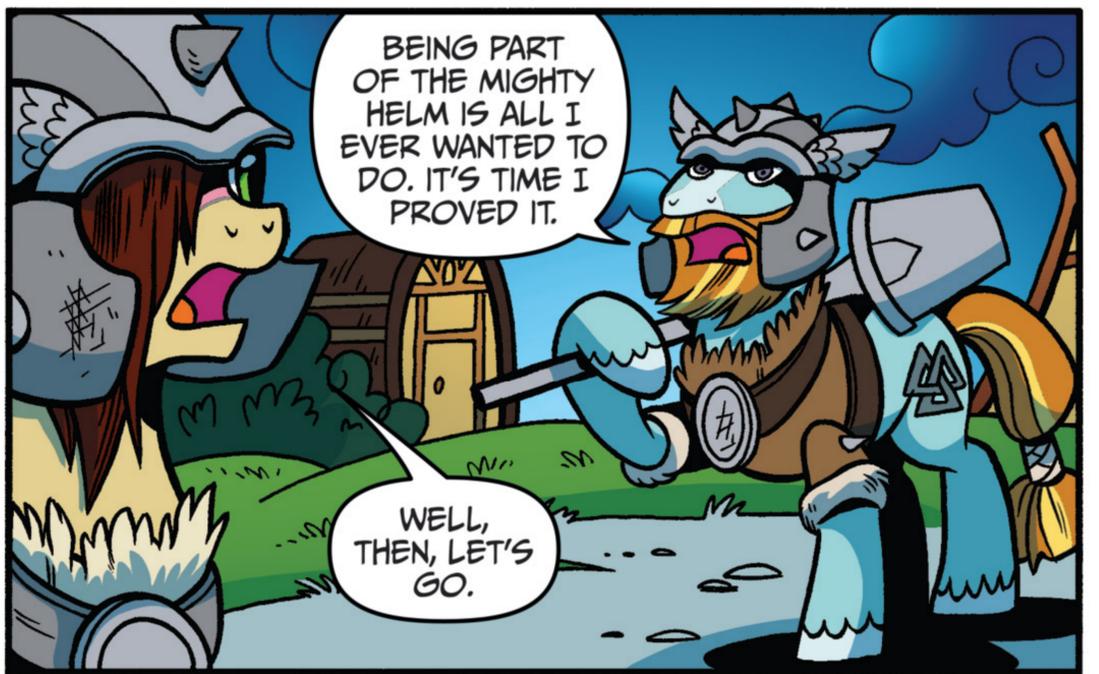


"SO HE WOULD HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO GET IT BACK."



THIS IS GETTING WORSE. I'M GOING TO GO DEAL WITH IT MYSELF.

I'M COMING TOO!



BEING PART OF THE MIGHTY HELM IS ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO. IT'S TIME I PROVED IT.

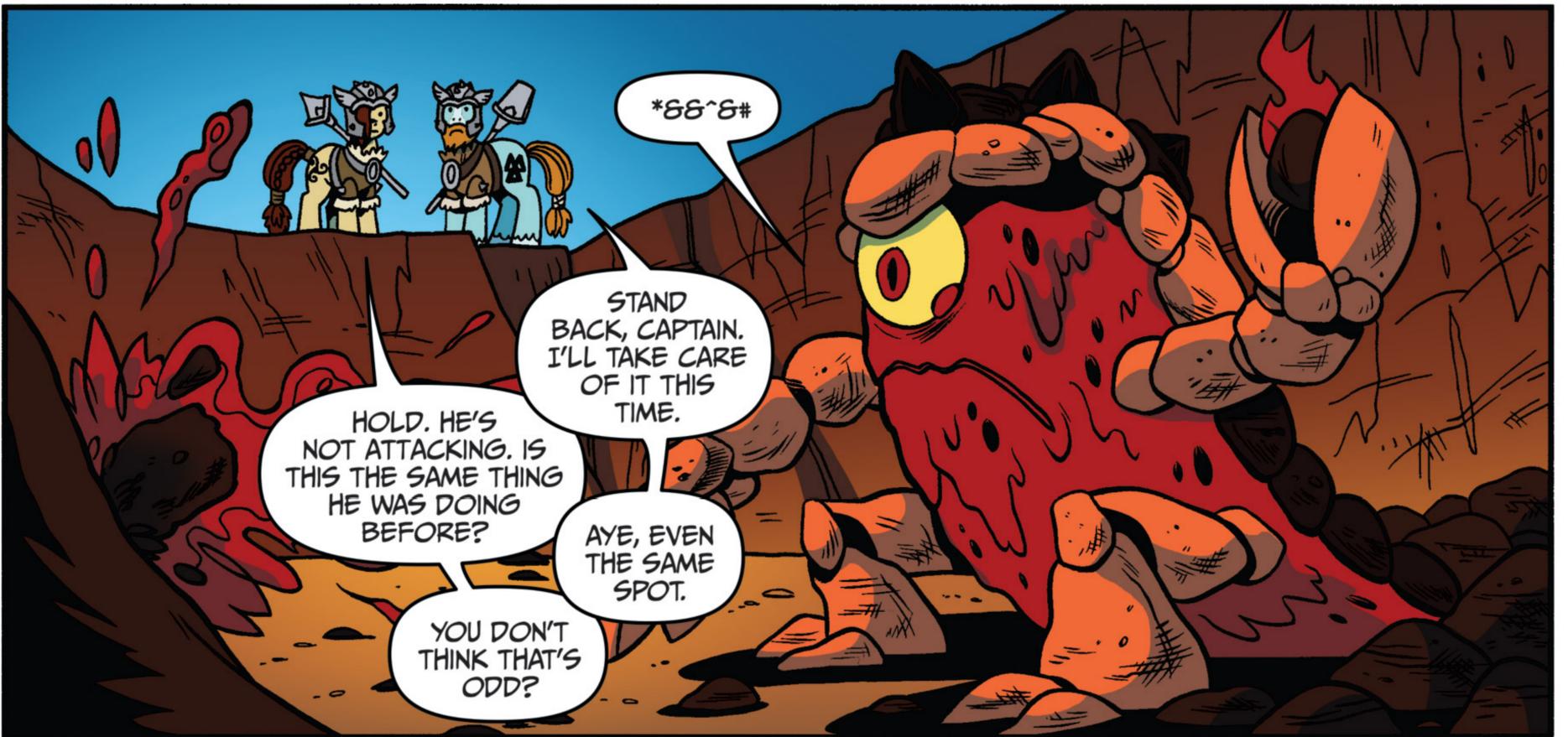
WELL, THEN, LET'S GO.



"AND WITH STEELA AS HIS COMPANION, ROCKHOOF WASN'T SLOWED DOWN BY EXCUSES AND WHINING."

"AND SINCE ROCKHOOF HAD GOTTEN BACK IN SHAPE, STEELA DIDN'T HAVE TO SIT AND WAIT FOR HIM TO RECUPERATE."

"AND BEFORE YOU COULD SAY 'CHERUFE,' THERE THEY WERE BACK AT THE MOUNTAIN TOP."



*88^8#

STAND BACK, CAPTAIN. I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT THIS TIME.

HOLD. HE'S NOT ATTACKING. IS THIS THE SAME THING HE WAS DOING BEFORE?

AYE, EVEN THE SAME SPOT.

YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S ODD?



"AND ROCKHOOF LOOKED AT THE CREATURE, REALLY SEEING IT FOR THE FIRST TIME."

"AND WHAT HE SAW WAS HIMSELF. ONE CREATURE, DOING ONE THING, IN HOPE OF ACHIEVING A SINGLE GOAL."

"THE FIREBALLS WERE NOT AIMED AT THEM, THEY WERE BOUNCING OFF OF THE GROUND. OFF ONE SINGLE SPOT."



HALT, CREATURE!

"AND ROCKHOOF REMEMBERED SOMETHING HE HAD FORGOTTEN. HE HADN'T GOTTEN INTO THE MIGHTY HELM BY FIGHTING, OR RACING, OR DOING OBSTACLE COURSES.

"HE GOT IN BECAUSE HE HAD LOOKED AT A PROBLEM THAT DOZENS OF PONIES WERE ALREADY TRYING TO SOLVE—

"—AND HE HAD SEEN A SOLUTION NO ONE ELSE HAD SEEN."

DIG
DIG
DIG
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DIG



*8¢**8*@(

88**@88**8*¢

HUH?

"NOT ONLY DID THE MOUNTAIN ANSWER THE CREATURE BACK. THE VOICE THAT ANSWERED SHOOK THE GROUND. AND THEN—

"—THE TINY CHERUFE THAT HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET HOME FINALLY FOUND ITS MOTHER."

SO, THERE YOU GO SAVING THE TOWN AGAIN.

HUH.

OF COURSE, THIS TIME IT TURNED OUT TO BE FROM A BABY.

YUP.



"AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, ROCKHOOF WOULD RETURN TO HIS OLD TRAINING ROUTINE AND FIND THAT HE WAS QUITE LONELY. HE WOULD WISH FOR HIS DAYS OF LONG NIGHTS WITH THE OTHER GUARD PONIES."

WAIT JUST A MINUTE!



THAT CANNOT BE THE WAY THAT STORY ENDS. ROCKHOOF LEARNED A LESSON ABOUT THE VALUE OF HARD WORK!

HOLD ON, THERE'S MORE!



"UNTIL, ONE DAY, THE CAPTAIN INVITED HIM OUT TO A TEAM PARTY. AND SINCE HE COULD NOT SAY NO TO HIS CAPTAIN, HE AGREED."

AND?

"ROCKHOOF DISCOVERED THAT DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK ARE IMPORTANT, BUT THAT HE COULD SET ASIDE TIME JUST FOR RELAXATION WITH FRIENDS."



"FOR ALL GOOD THINGS REQUIRE WORK, BUT BALANCE IS THE MOST VALUABLE SKILL OF ALL."

WELL?

HMMM...



RECOGNIZE WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT YOURSELF AND PRACTICE BALANCE. THESE ARE ACCEPTABLE LESSONS.

THIS WAS A GOOD STORY. YOU MAY TELL ME ANOTHER ONE SOMETIME.



WHEW! THAT WAS INTENSE!

MAYBE I'LL READ THE NEXT ONE TO MYSELF

my LITTLE PONY

Friendship is Magic

IF WE DON'T STOP HIM, HE COULD ERASE EVERY BOOK IN EQUESTRIA...

...INCLUDING THIS ONE!

AMH!16

MY HOPE...

FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

TAKE A PEEK AT ANOTHER AWESOME SERIES YOU MAY LIKE...

AVAILABLE NOW!!

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SO I'M NOT PARANOID—YOU REALLY ARE OUT TO GET ME.

BUT IF YOU REALLY CARED ABOUT EQUESTRIA—YOU WOULD JUST LET ME FINISH THIS.

EQUESTRIA IS MORE THAN PONIES.

IT'S OUR HISTORY, OUR LESSONS, OUR RELATIONSHIPS!

YOU MAY THINK YOU'RE PROTECTING US—BUT YOU'RE ERASING A PAST AND MEMORIES THAT MAKE EQUESTRIA WHAT IT IS.



IF THERE IS SOME... GREAT DARKNESS, THEN TELL ME! LET ME HELP YOU!

A WEIGHT IS ALWAYS EASIER TO CARRY WHEN YOU DON'T DO IT ALONE.



SO... EITHER I EXPLAIN, OR ELSE YOU'RE GOING TO JUST KEEP POPPING UP LIKE THIS?

WELL... YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.

PLUS, MY FRIENDS MIGHT SWOOP IN AND KICK YOUR HAUNCHES IF YOU TRY ANYTHING FUNNY AGAIN.



HA... FINE. LET'S TALK.

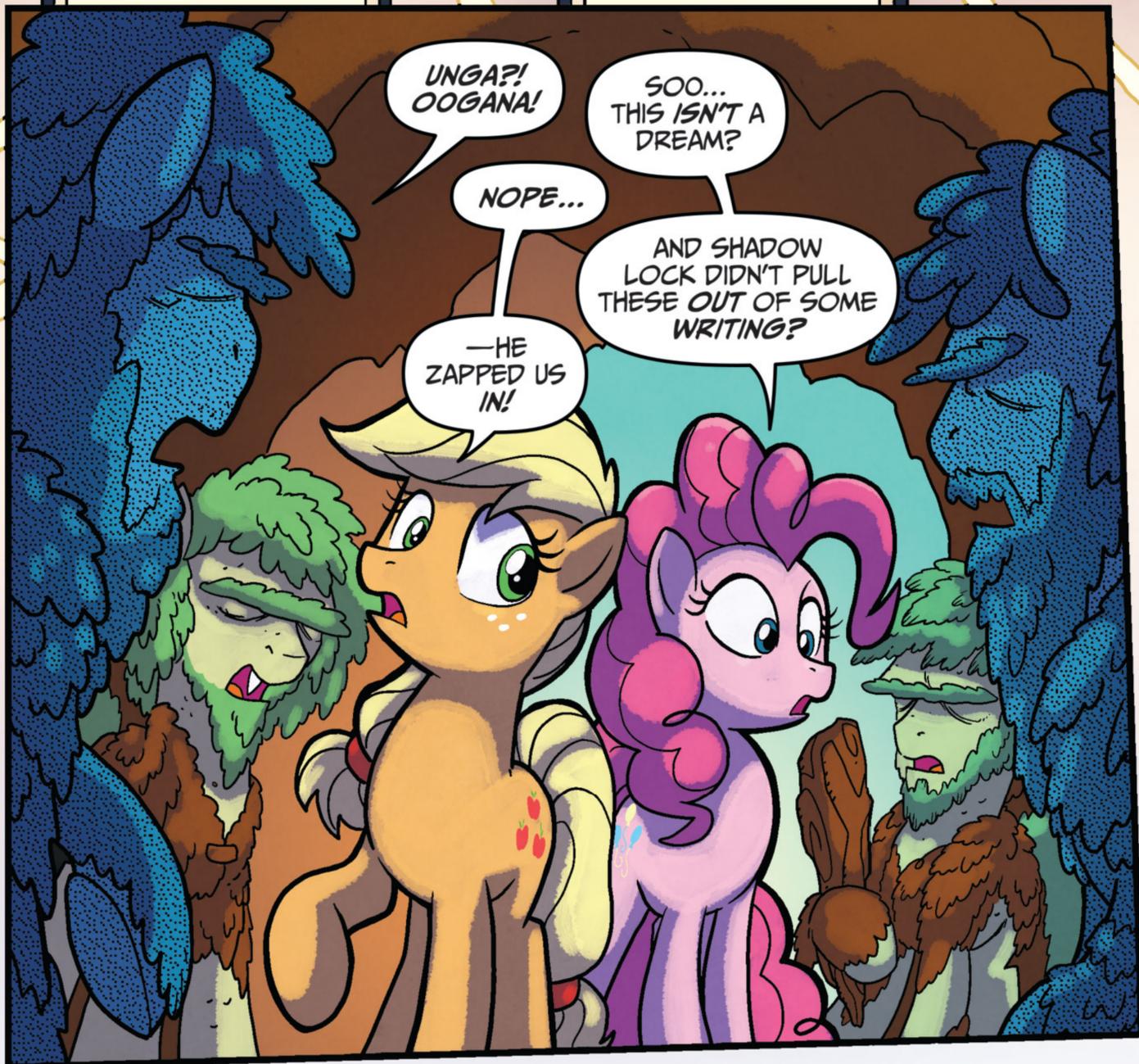
"AND YOUR FRIENDS CAN STAY RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE..."

THE CANTERLOT MUSEUM

THE CANTERLOT MUSEUM

THE CANTERLOT MUSEUM

THE CANTERLOT MUSEUM



UNGA?! OOGANA!

SOO... THIS ISN'T A DREAM?

NOPE...

—HE ZAPPED US IN!

AND SHADOW LOCK DIDN'T PULL THESE OUT OF SOME WRITING?



OW! PINKIE PIE!

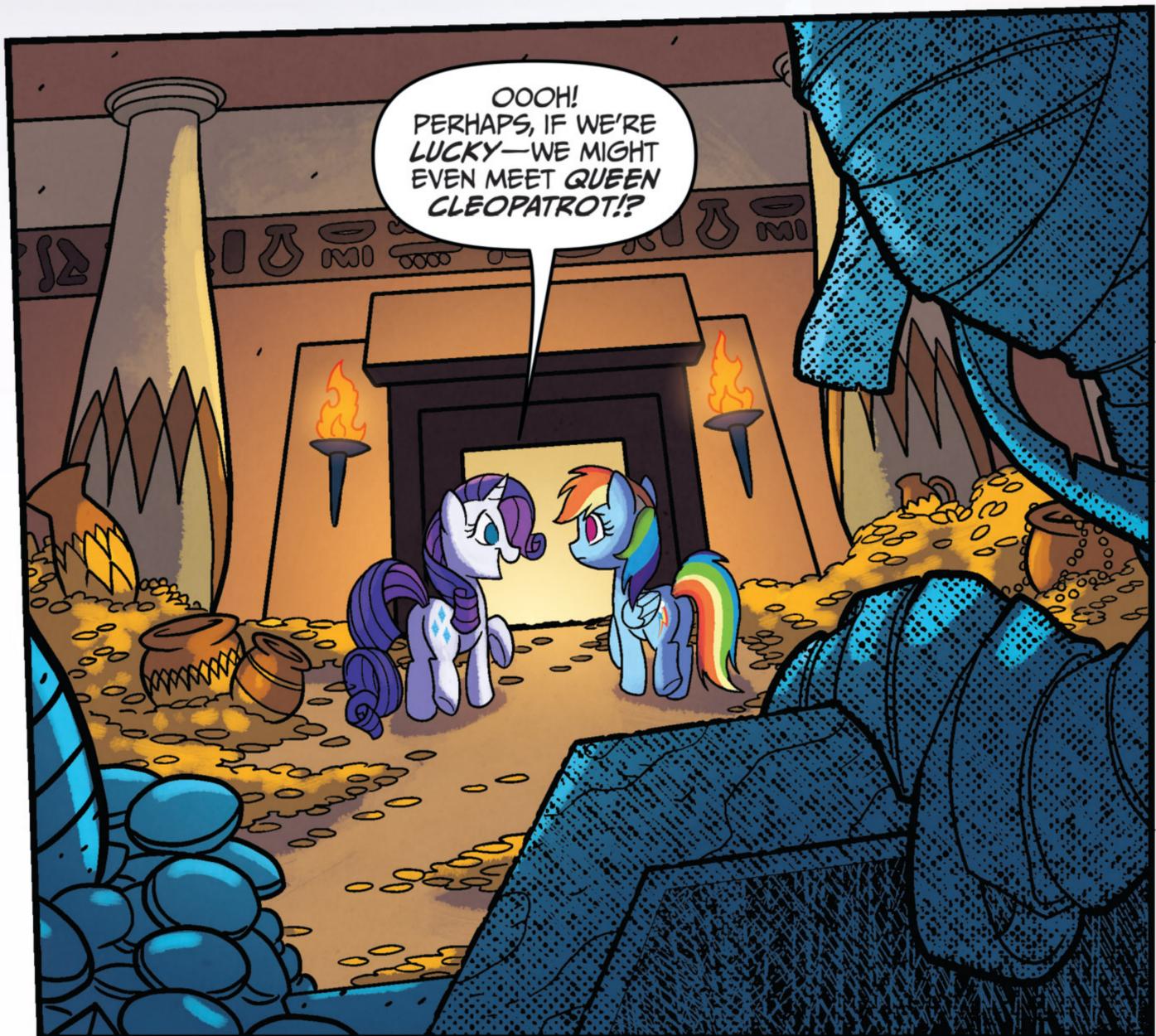
I SAID YOU'RE NOT DREAMIN'! AN' IF YOU THINK YOU ARE—YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PINCH YERSELF!

OH, I KNOW. I WAS JUST SEEING IF WE CAN STILL GET HURT IN THIS STORY.

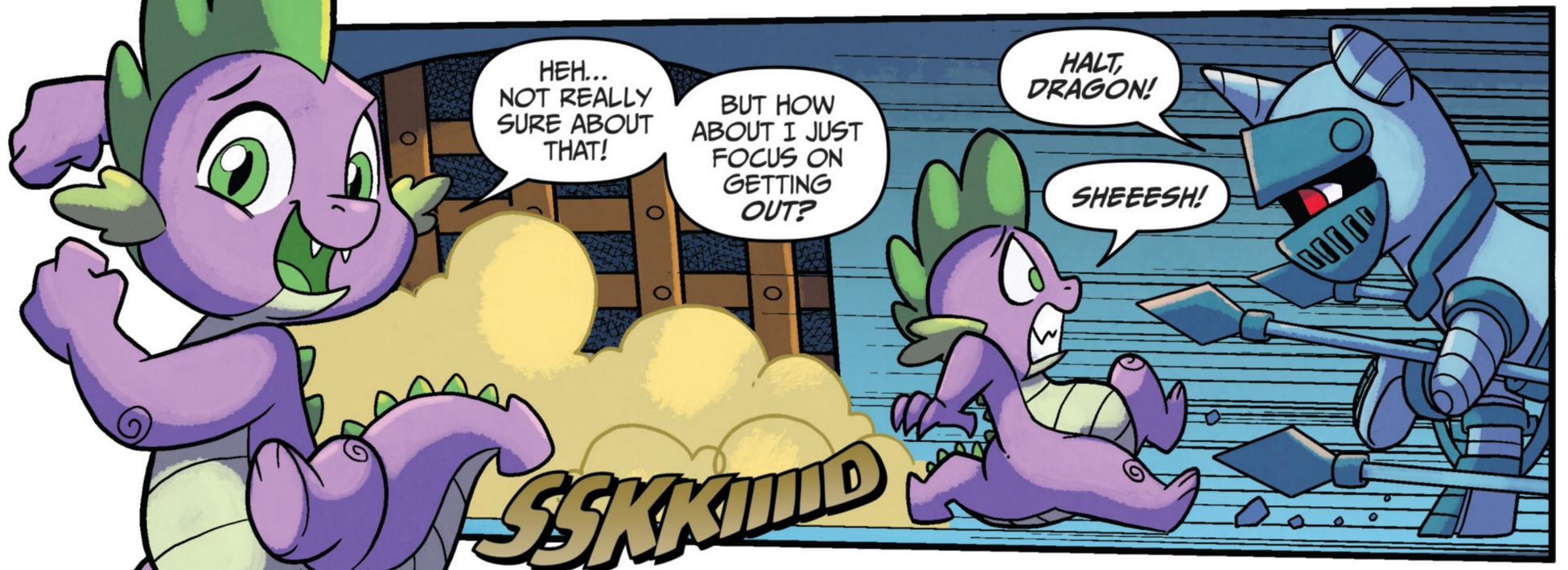
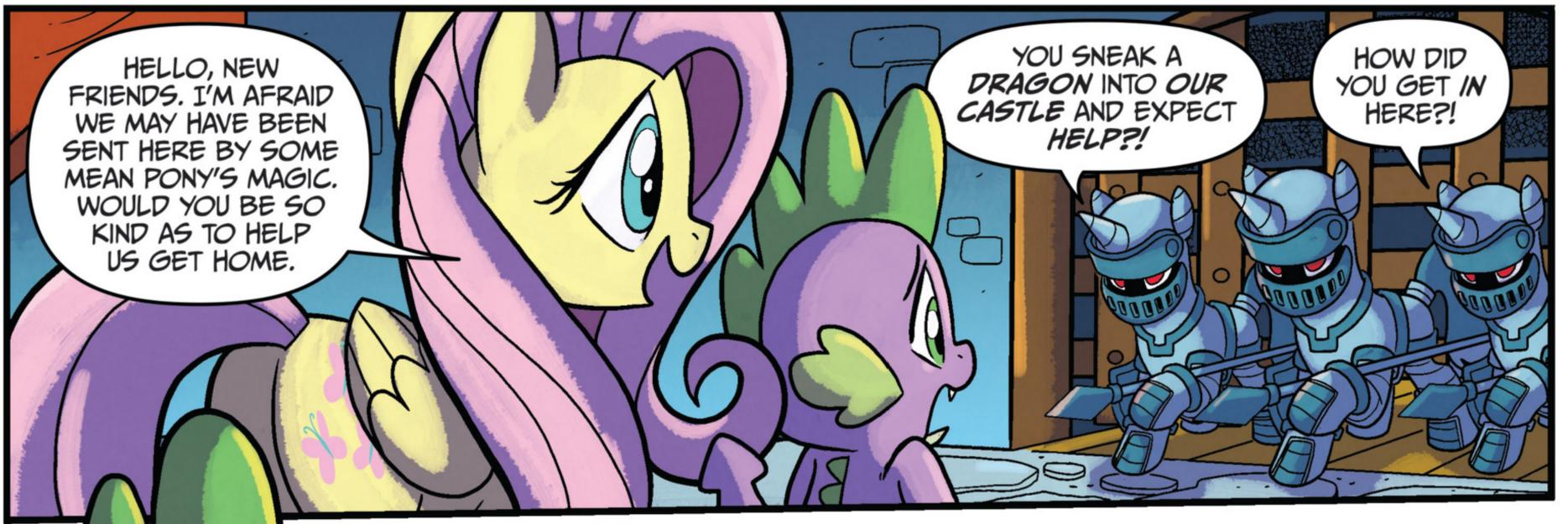


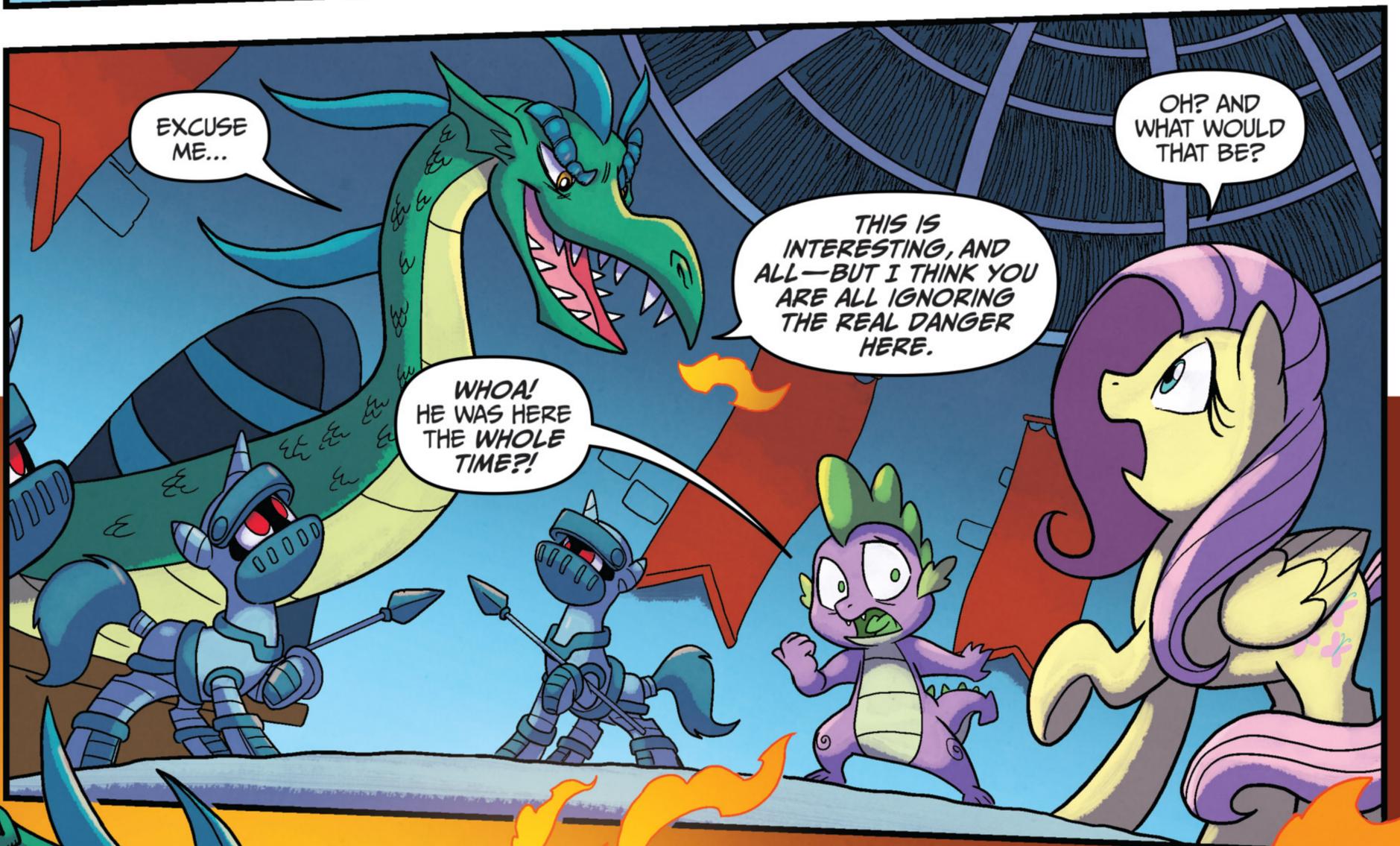
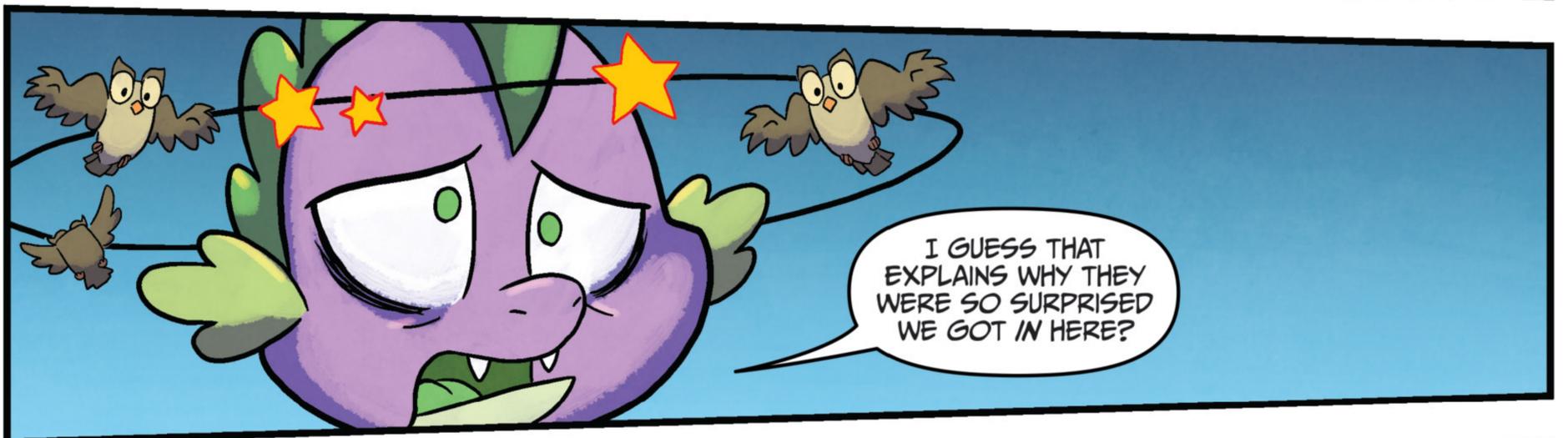
WHOA... ALL GOLD—THIS OLD WRITING—IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DARING DO ADVENTURE!

WAIT. I KNOW WHAT THIS IS! THIS IS JUST LIKE HOW THE MUSEUM DISPLAY DESCRIBED THE ANCIENT PYRAMIDS!



OOOH! PERHAPS, IF WE'RE LUCKY—WE MIGHT EVEN MEET QUEEN CLEOPATROT!?







DID SHADOW LOCK... ZAP US INTO ANCIENT EQUESTRIAN HISTORY?!

I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE REAL THING. HE PULLED MONSTERS OUT OF STORIES.

I BET THIS IS LIKE THAT TIME WE ALL GOT PULLED INTO SPIKE'S POWER PONIES COMIC BOO—



"BOO"? WAS THAT YOUR ATTEMPT AT SCARING ME, RAINBOW DASH?

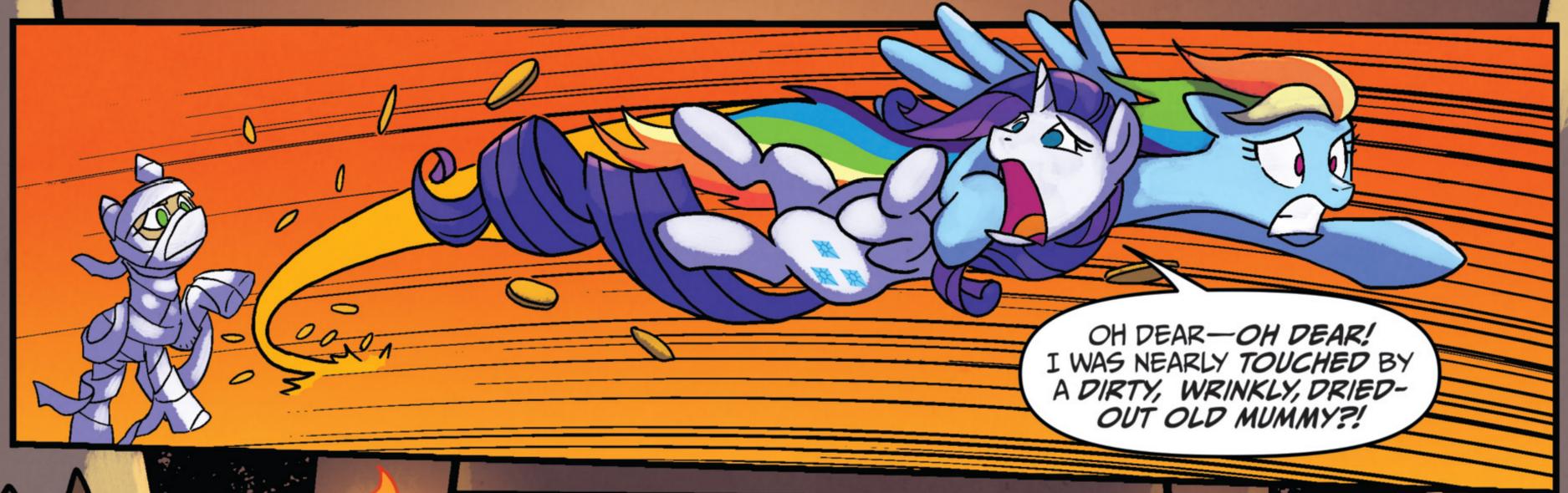
NOT THAT I CARE TO BE FRIGHTENED, BUT I WOULD EXPECT YOU TO PUT A BIT MORE EFFORT INTO IT.

MU—MUM—MUMMY!

YES, EXACTLY! LIKE PERHAPS DIGGING UP A—



MUMMY!



OH DEAR—OH DEAR! I WAS NEARLY TOUCHED BY A DIRTY, WRINKLY, DRIED-OUT OLD MUMMY?!



EH... RAINBOW DASH? THIS EXIT SEEMS TO HAVE CONFUSED ITSELF WITH A WALL.

ADD IT TO THE LIST OF WEIRDNESS, RARITY.

BUT IF WE CAN'T RUN—I'M SURE NOT GONNA HIDE...!

NOK NOK

my LITTLE PONY

Friendship is Magic

IF WE DON'T STOP HIM, HE COULD ERASE EVERY BOOK IN EQUESTRIA...

...INCLUDING THIS ONE!



TO BE CONTINUED IN...

MY LITTLE PONY: FRIENDSHIP IS MAGIC #53