
my LITTLE PONY
PONY TALES vol. 2



PONY TALES vol. 2



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Cutie Mark Crusaders

STORY BY **Ted Anderson**
ART and COLORS BY **Ben Bates**
LETTERS BY **Neil Uyetake**

Celestia

STORY BY **Georgia Ball**
ART and COLORS BY **Amy Mebberson**
LETTERS BY **Neil Uyetake**





Spike

STORY BY **Rob Anderson**
ART and COLORS BY **Agnes Garbowska**
LETTERS BY **Neil Uyetake**

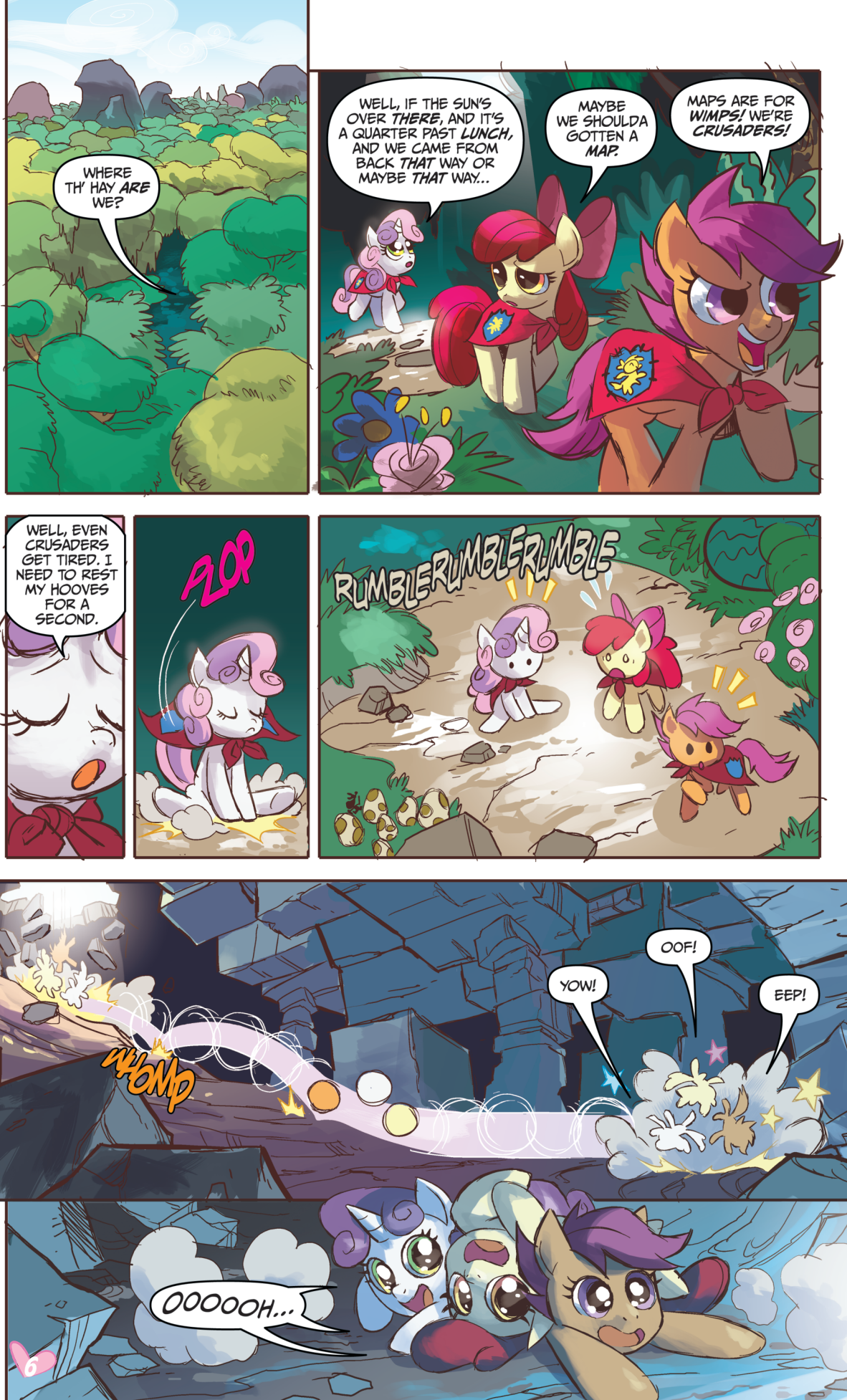
Luna

STORY BY **Katie Cook**
ART BY **Andy Price**
COLORS BY **Heather Breckel**
LETTERS BY **Neil Uyetake**



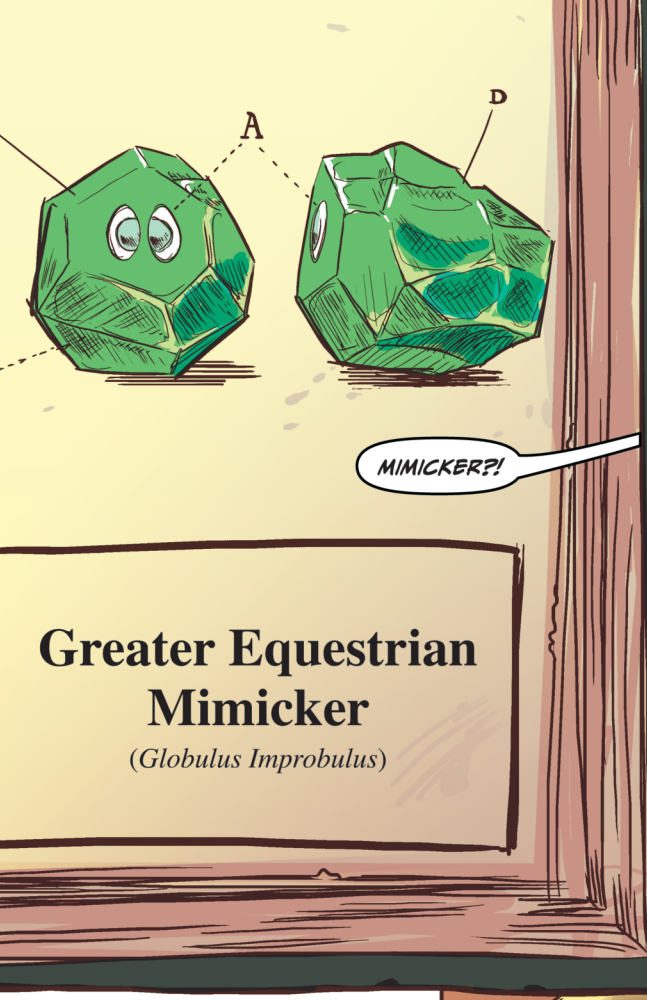

Chapter One
CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS
ART BY Amy Mebberson


I'M BORED!
SIIIIIGH IT'S ONLY BEEN SUMMER VACATION FOR A WEEK AND I THINK WE'VE ALREADY RUN OUT OF STUFF TO DO.
AND WE'VE ALREADY TRIED ABOUT A ZILLION WAYS TO GET OUR CUTIE MARKS.
SO WE KNOW WE'RE NOT CUTIE MARK FILMMAKERS, CUTIE MARK CROCHETERS, CUTIE MARK JUGGLERS...
SEEMS LIKE WE'VE TRIED JUST 'BOUT EVERYTHING IN PONYVILLE BY NOW.
...CUTIE MARK ACCOUNTANTS, CUTIE MARK ARCHITECTS, CUTIE MARK SILVERSMITHS, CUTIE MARK COMICKERS, CUTIE MARK NINJAS, CUTIE MARK TATTOO ARTISTS, CUTIE MARK SURVIVALISTS, CUTIE MARK EDITORS...
THEN WE GOTTA GO OUT OF PONYVILLE!
C'MON, GIRLS! WE NEED A CHANGE OF SCENERY!


WHERE TH' HAY ARE WE?
WELL, IF THE SUN'S OVER THERE, AND IT'S A QUARTER PAST LUNCH, AND WE CAME FROM BACK THAT WAY OR MAYBE THAT WAY...
MAYBE WE SHOULDA GOTTEN A MAP.
MAPS ARE FOR WIMPS! WE'RE CRUSADERS!
WELL, EVEN CRUSADERS GET TIRED. I NEED TO REST MY HOOVES FOR A SECOND.
PLOP
RUMBLERUMBLERUMBLE
WHOMP
YOW!
OOF!
EEP!
OOOOOH...
6


WHOA...
WHAT IS IT?
LOOKS LIKE SOME KINDA GEM.
WONDER WHAT IT'S MADE OUT OF?
HEY! SWEETIE BELLE, WE SHOULD GET YOUR SISTER TO TELL US WHAT IT IS!
HEY, YEAH! RARITY KNOWS ALL ABOUT GEMS!
SHE'S DOING A FITTING FOR TWILIGHT RIGHT NOW, BUT I'M SURE SHE'D BE HAPPY TO HELP US OUT!
SLAM
RARITY! LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

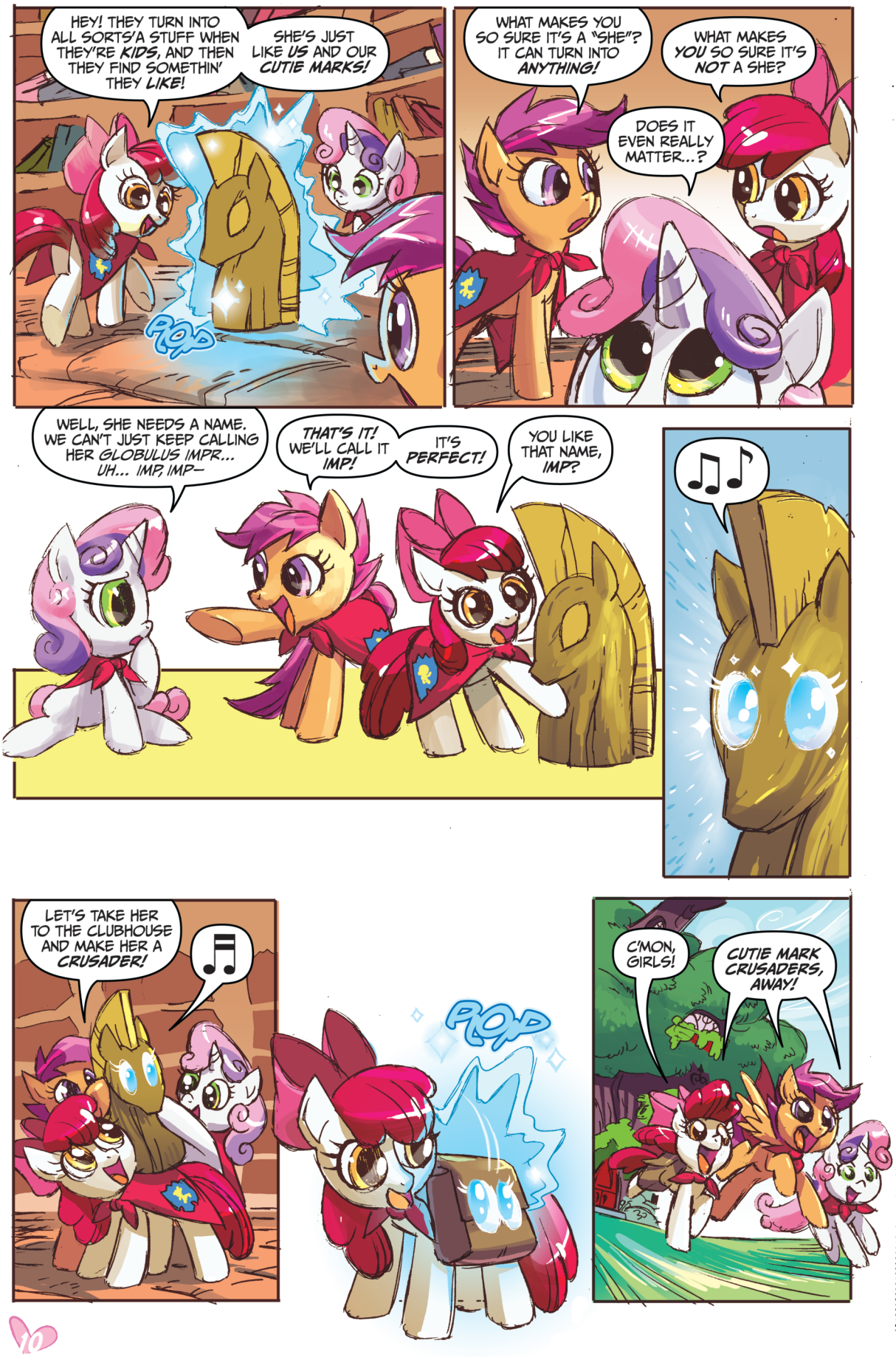

OH, GIRLS, I'D LOVE TO HELP WITH—
—WITH WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE DOING TODAY—
—BUT I REALLY NEED TO FINISH THIS GOWN!
BUT IT'S THIS REALLY NEAT GEM!
LET'S SEE, THE REFRACTIVE INDEX IS... HMM, YES...
...WHERE'D I PUT MY SCLEROMETER?
...WELL!
GIRLS, I'M AFRAID I'VE NEVER SEEN A GEM LIKE THIS BEFORE!
GEM, YOU SAY? YOU KNOW, I SKIPPED LUNCH...
MMM ...THIS LOOKS PRETTY TAST—
WAAUGH!
SPIKE, WHAT'S WRONG?
TH-THAT'S NO GEM! IT'S A—

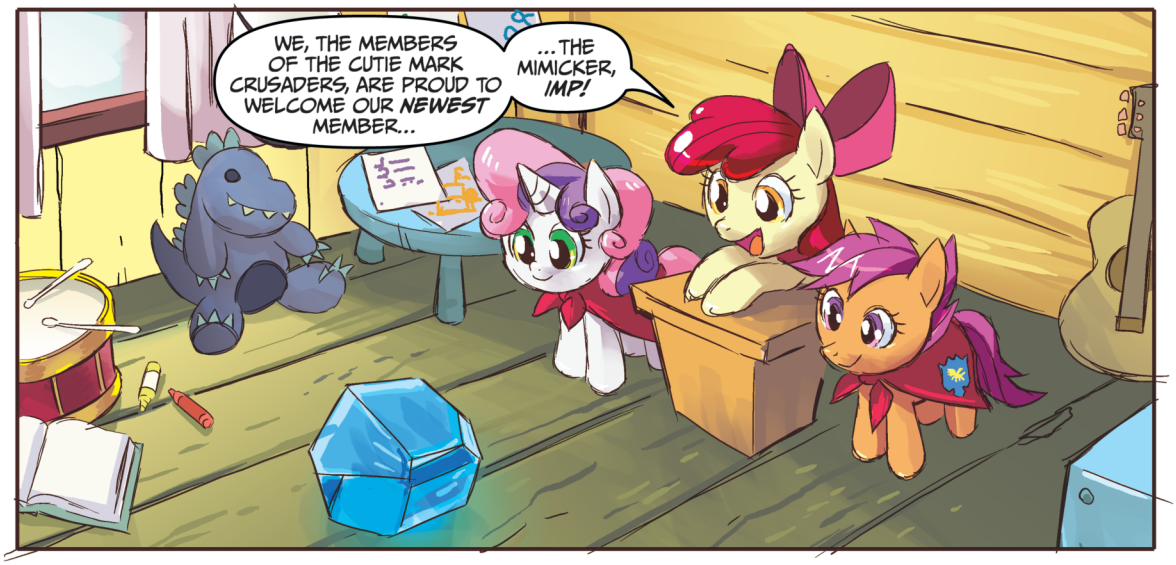

A
D
MIMICKER?!
Greater Equestrian Mimicker
(Globulus Improbulus)


Y-Y-YOU MEAN LIKE—
CHANGELINGS?!
NO, IT SAYS HERE THAT MIMICKERS AND CHANGELINGS ARE VERY DIFFERENT CREATURES.
CHANGELINGS CAN TURN INTO OTHER PONIES, BUT MIMICKERS CAN TURN INTO ANYTHING EXCEPT PONIES!


LET'S SEE... "MIMICKERS, OR GLOBULUS IMPROBULUS, ARE CURIOUS AND PLAYFUL CREATURES. THEY LOVE TO USE THEIR POWERS TO PLAY TRICKS AND JOKES."
"WHEN THEY ARE YOUNG, MIMICKERS TRY OUT MANY DIFFERENT FORMS. WHEN THEY BECOME ADULTS, THEY SETTLE ON ONE FORM."


POP


HEY! THEY TURN INTO ALL SORTS'A STUFF WHEN THEY'RE KIDS, AND THEN THEY FIND SOMETHIN' THEY LIKE!
SHE'S JUST LIKE US AND OUR CUTIE MARKS!
POP
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE IT'S A "SHE"? IT CAN TURN INTO ANYTHING!
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE IT'S NOT A SHE?
DOES IT EVEN REALLY MATTER...?
WELL, SHE NEEDS A NAME. WE CAN'T JUST KEEP CALLING HER GLOBULUS IMPR... UH... IMP, IMP—
THAT'S IT! WE'LL CALL IT IMP!
IT'S PERFECT!
YOU LIKE THAT NAME, IMP?
LET'S TAKE HER TO THE CLUBHOUSE AND MAKE HER A CRUSADER!
POP
C'MON, GIRLS!
CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS, AWAY!


WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS, ARE PROUD TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER...
...THE MIMICKER, IMP!


SISTER SWEETIE BELLE! WILL YOU PLEASE PRESENT SISTER IMP WITH HER CAPE?


UH ... SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE A NECK.


POP

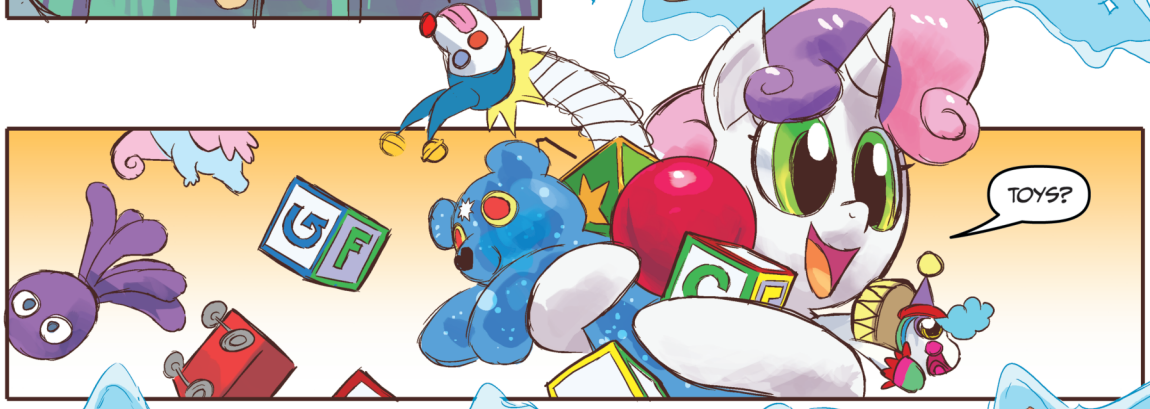



UH ... CLOSE ENOUGH!

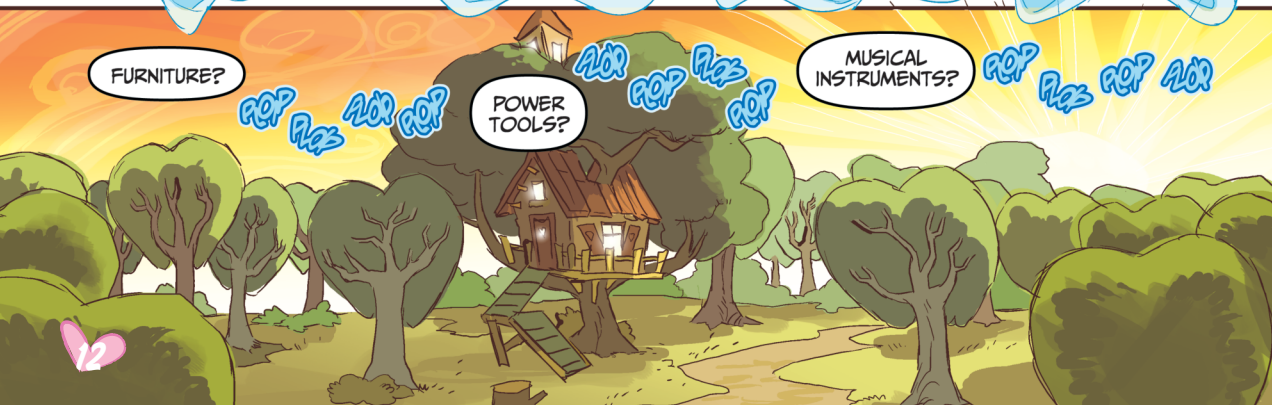

OH-KAY!
TWILIGHT'S BOOK SAYS THAT YOUNG MIMICKERS NEED TO PRACTICE BY TURNIN' INTO ALL SORTSA DIFFERENT THINGS.
HOW ABOUT...


...HATS!


PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP


TOYS?


PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP


FURNITURE?
POWER TOOLS?
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?

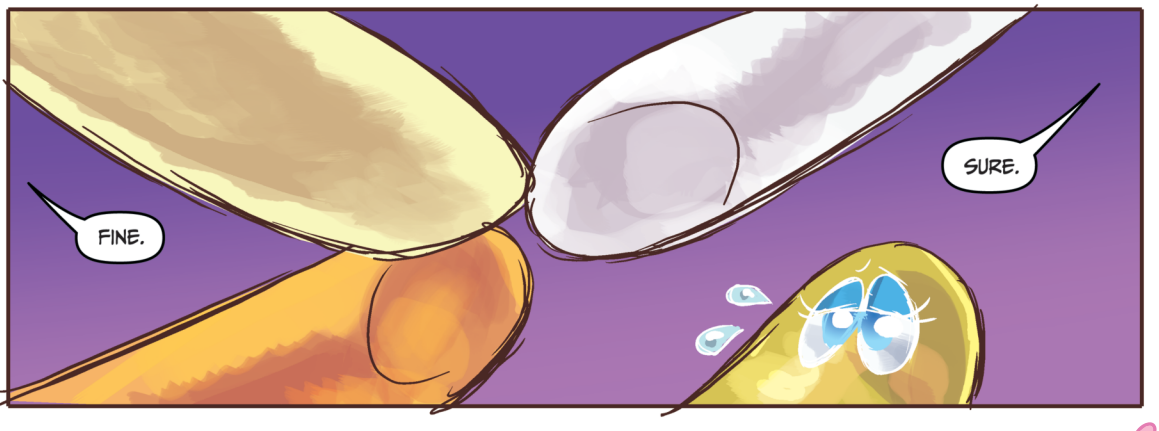

YOU OKAY, IMP?

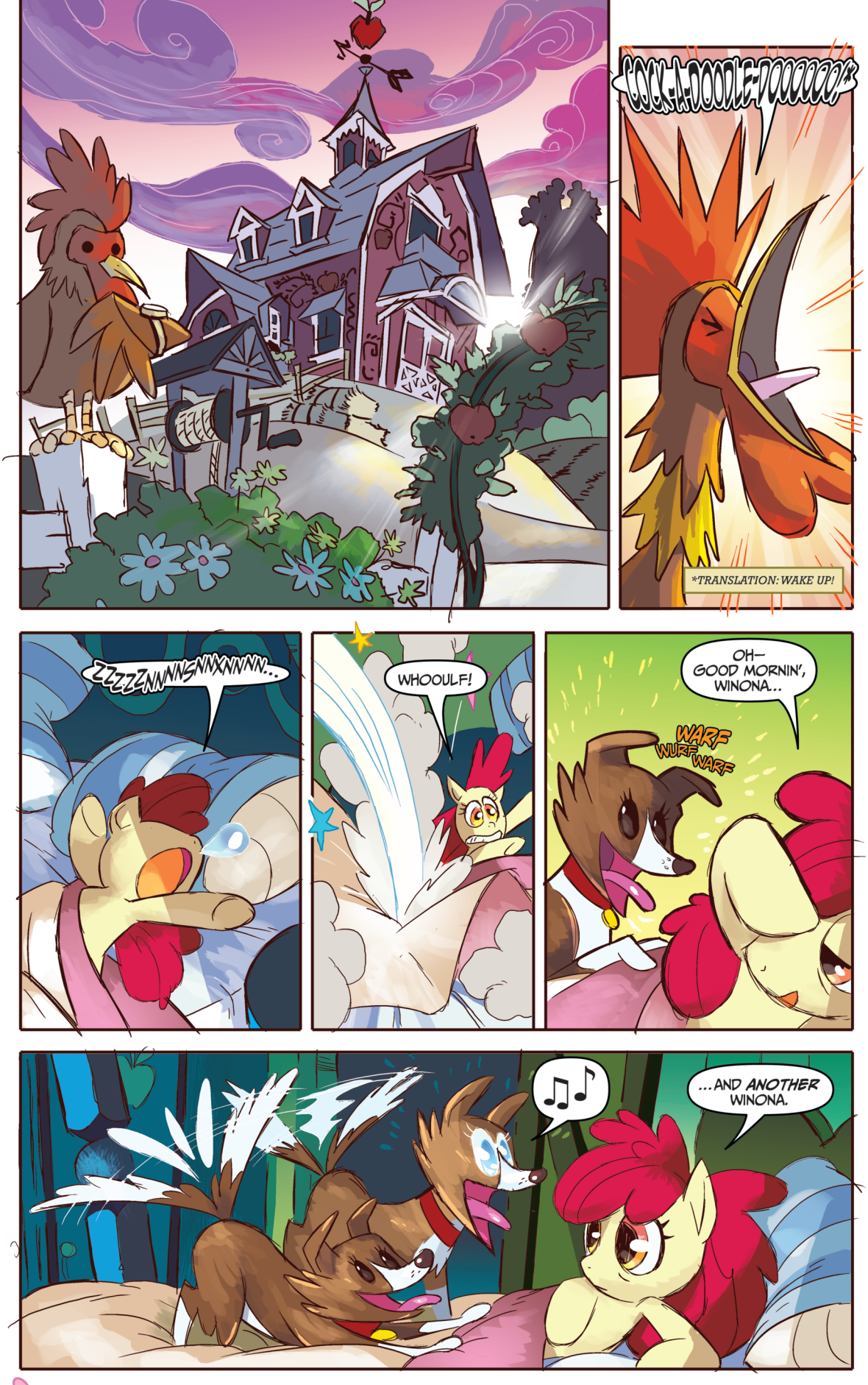

SHE *DID* JUST TURN INTO A WHOLE *ORCHESTRA.*
AND TWILIGHT SAID SHE WAS A *YOUNG* MIMICKER. SHE'S PROBABLY *TIRED.*

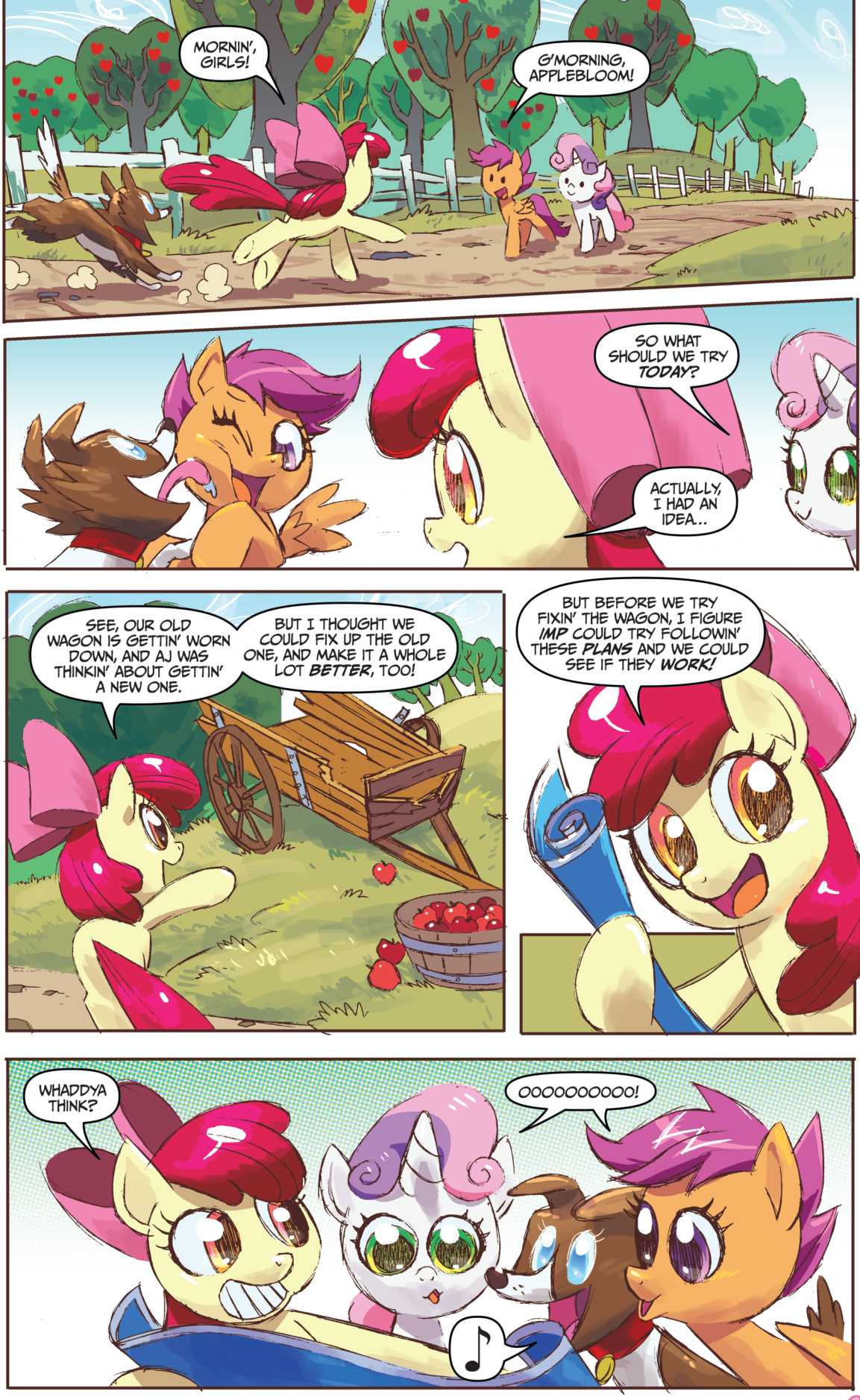

SHE NEEDS SOMEWHERE TO STAY WHILE SHE'S IN PONYVILLE.
SHE SHOULD COME WITH ME TO SWEET APPLE ACRES!


WHAT? BUT, BUT I WANTED HER TO STAY WITH *ME!*

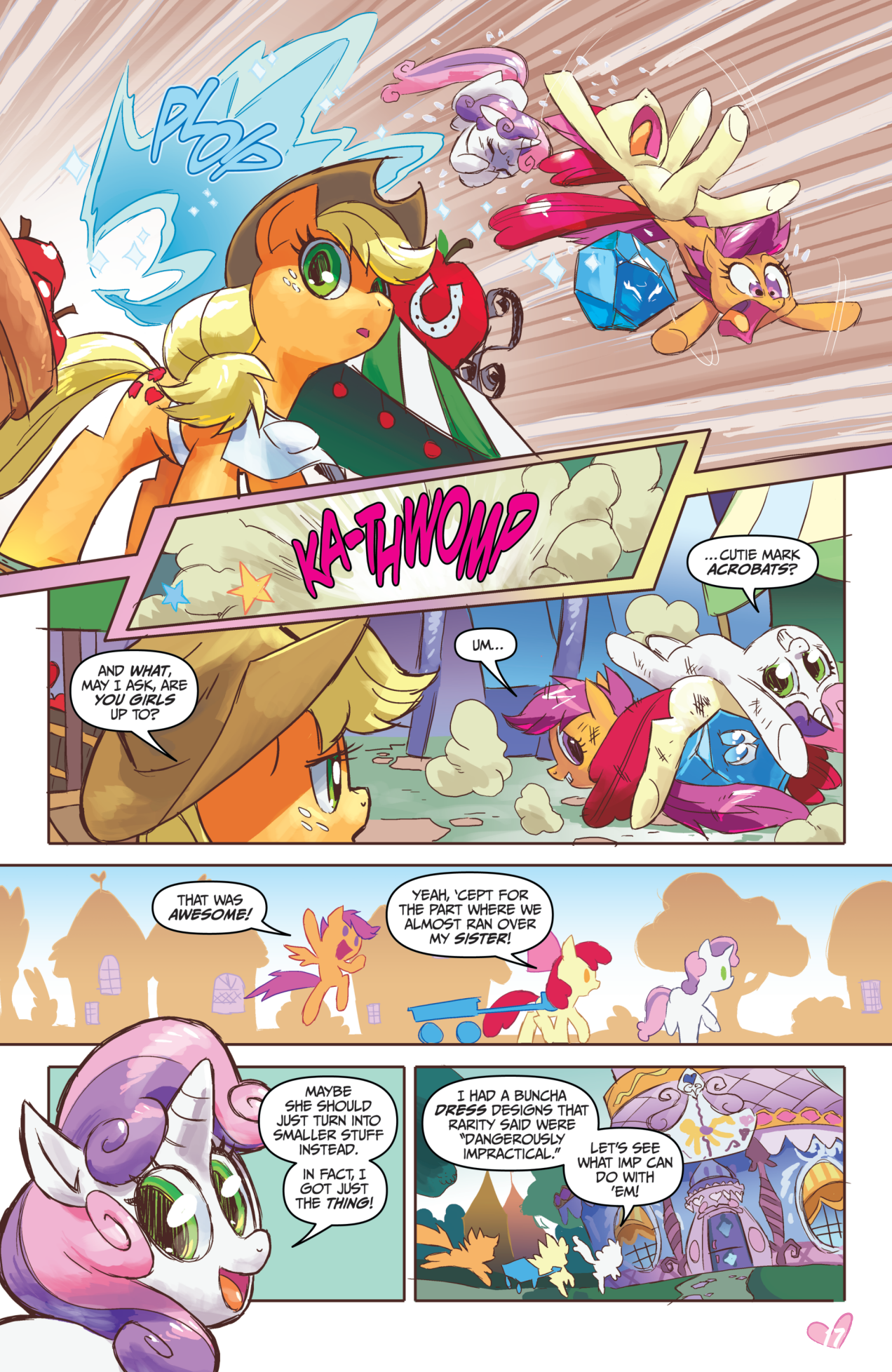

I WANTED HER TO STAY WITH *ME!*
WELL, SHE CAN'T STAY WITH *ALL* OF US AT *ONCE!*
WAIT, WAIT, *TIME OUT.* WE NEED A *SCHEDULE.*
HOW ABOUT IMP STAYS WITH *APPLEBLOOM* TONIGHT, *ME* TOMORROW NIGHT, AND *SCOOTALOO* THE NIGHT AFTER THAT?


FINE.
SURE.


COCK-A-DOODLE-DOOOOOO*
*TRANSLATION: WAKE UP!
ZZZZZNNNNSNNXNNNN...
WHOOULF!
OH— GOOD MORNIN', WINONA...
WARF
WURF
WARF
...AND ANOTHER WINONA.


MORNIN', GIRLS!
G'MORNING, APPLEBLOOM!
SO WHAT SHOULD WE TRY *TODAY*?
ACTUALLY, I HAD AN IDEA...
SEE, OUR OLD WAGON IS GETTIN' WORN DOWN, AND AJ WAS THINKIN' ABOUT GETTIN' A NEW ONE.
BUT I THOUGHT WE COULD FIX UP THE OLD ONE, AND MAKE IT A WHOLE LOT ***BETTER***, TOO!
BUT BEFORE WE TRY FIXIN' THE WAGON, I FIGURE ***IMP*** COULD TRY FOLLOWIN' THESE ***PLANS*** AND WE COULD SEE IF THEY ***WORK!***
WHADDYA THINK?
OOOOOOOOOO!


YEEEEE-HAW!
NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
C'MON, TAKE A LEFT THROUGH HERE!
NO, DON'T!
AAAAAHHHH!


PLOP
KA-THWOMP
AND WHAT, MAY I ASK, ARE YOU GIRLS UP TO?
UM...
...CUTIE MARK ACROBATS?
THAT WAS AWESOME!
YEAH, 'CEPT FOR THE PART WHERE WE ALMOST RAN OVER MY SISTER!
MAYBE SHE SHOULD JUST TURN INTO SMALLER STUFF INSTEAD.
IN FACT, I GOT JUST THE THING!
I HAD A BUNCHA DRESS DESIGNS THAT RARITY SAID WERE "DANGEROUSLY IMPRACTICAL."
LET'S SEE WHAT IMP CAN DO WITH 'EM!

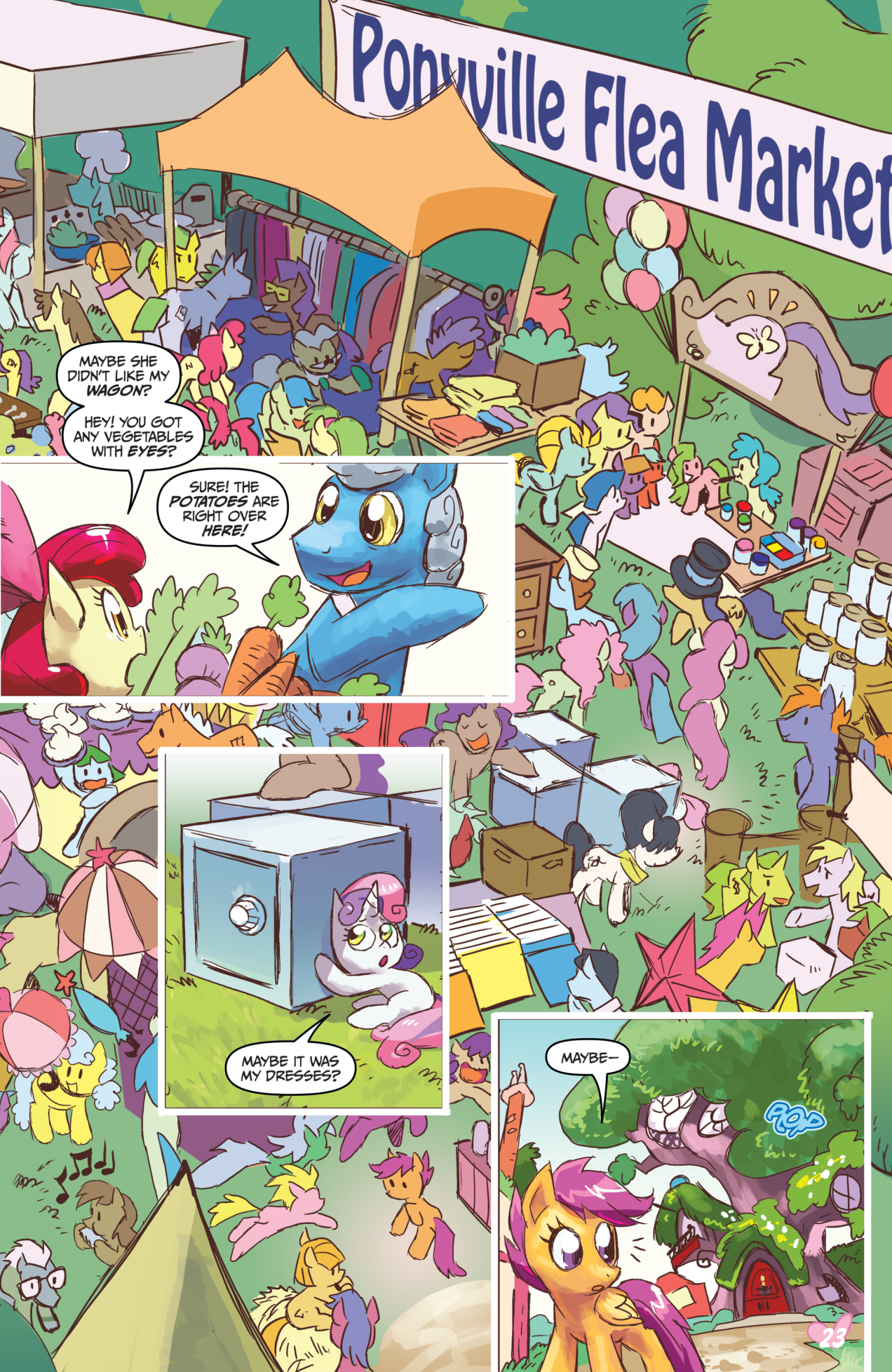

FABULOUS!
I LOVE THE HEIGHT!
HYDRODYNAMIC!
WHAT A LOVELY BOW!
WHAT A RIFF!
IT STINKS!
UH... I THINK IMP'S GETTING TIRED.
YEAH, MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE HER A BREAK.
LET'S MEET UP AGAIN TOMORROW AND SEE WHAT SHE'S FEELING LIKE, OKAY?
WE DON'T WANT HER TO GET WORN OUT.


THE NEXT MORNING...
FLOP
WHERE ARE THEY? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HOURS!
FLOP
HEY! SWEETIE!
SORRY I'M LATE!
I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT WORKING ON THIS!
CHECK IT OUT!
SEE? IF IMP TURNS INTO THIS, I CAN DO ALL KINDS OF AWESOME TRICKS!


WHAT? YOU WANT HER TO TURN INTO A WHOLE SKATEPARK?
SHE CAN DO IT! SHE NEEDS THE PRACTICE, REMEMBER?
YEAH, BUT WHAT ABOUT ME AND—
HEY, GIRLS! LOOKIT WHAT I MADE!
I CAME UP WITH AN EVEN BETTER WAGON DESIGN WITH BRAKES AND—
BUT IT'S MY TURN TO PICK WHAT—
I WANTED TO—
P-P-P-P-P
P-P-P-P-P-P-P-P

P-P-PLOP
FA-ZOOM
OH NO! IMP!
WE GOTTA GO AFTER HER!
QUICK! SHE WAS HEADIN' TOWARDS THE MARKET!
THE MARKET? BUT TODAY'S—


—THE FLEA MARKET!
WHY DID SHE EXPLODE? IS SHE OKAY?
MAYBE SHE'S ANGRY AT US?


Ponyville Flea Market
MAYBE SHE DIDN'T LIKE MY WAGON?
HEY! YOU GOT ANY VEGETABLES WITH EYES?
SURE! THE POTATOES ARE RIGHT OVER HERE!
MAYBE IT WAS MY DRESSES?
MAYBE–
FLOP


IMP?
OH, SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE IN HERE!
WE'LL NEVER FIND HER!
WE NEVER SHOULDA LET HER RUN OFF!
BUT SHE RAN OFF FOR A REASON, RIGHT? WHAT DID WE DO WRONG?
MAYBE WE HAD HER TURN INTO TOO MUCH STUFF?
I MEAN, SHE TURNED INTO EVERYTHING WE ASKED HER TO...
YEAH, BUT... WE KEPT ASKING HER TO TURN INTO STUFF WE WANTED.
DID WE EVER REALLY ASK WHAT SHE WANTED TO DO?
...I GUESS WE WERE JUST THINKING OF OURSELVES.


GIRLS?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR IMP.
SHE RAN AWAY!
RAN AWAY? WHY?
WE WERE BEING SELFISH.
WE KEPT ASKIN' HER TO DO STUFF FOR US...
...AND WE WEREN'T THINKING ABOUT HER.
OH ...I WISH WE COULD FIND HER AN' APOLOGIZE!
IMP!
OH, IMP, WE'RE SO SORRY!
TWILIGHT... I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE IMP BACK HOME.

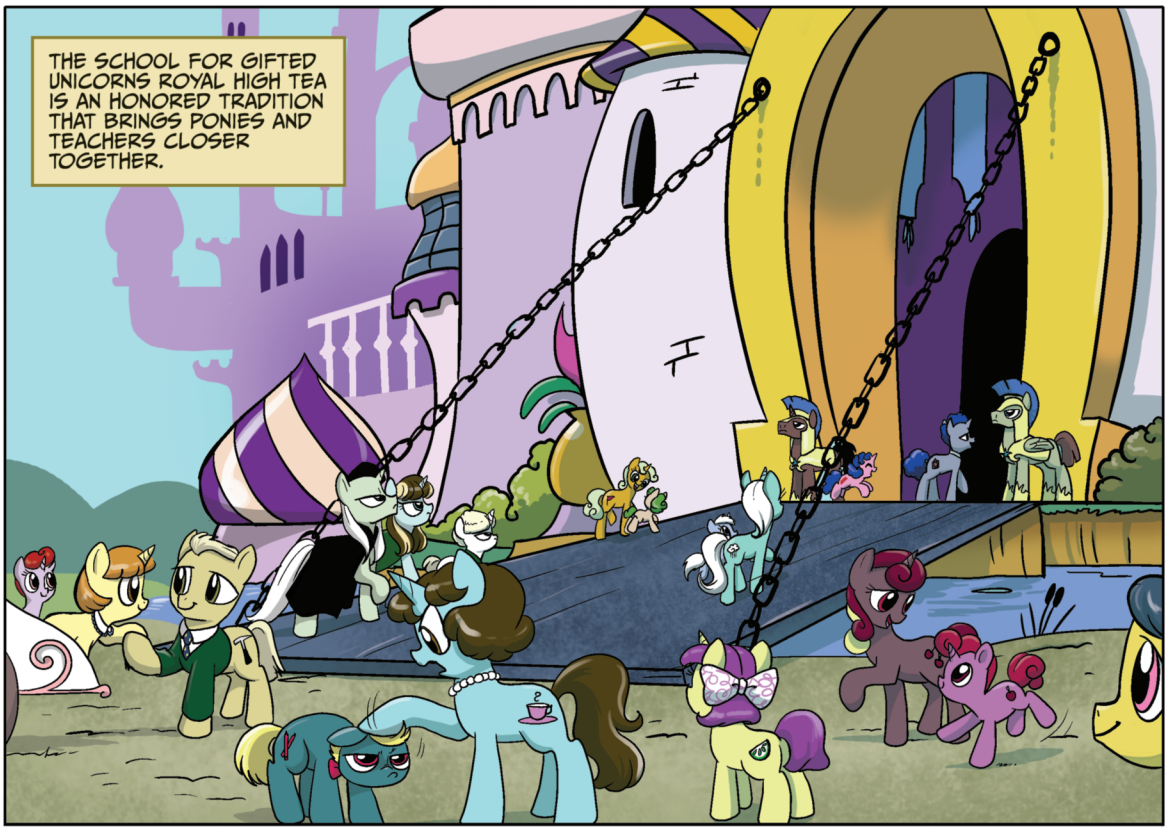

DEAR PRINCESS CELESTIA:
WE FORMED THE CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS IN ORDER TO FIND OUT WHAT WE WANTED TO BE.
IMAGINE HOW WE FELT WHEN WE MET IMP, WHO COULD BE ANYTHING!
BUT MIMICKERS LIKE IMP WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD—WE JUST WANTED IMP TO TURN INTO FUN STUFF.
WE SHOULD HAVE TREATED HER LIKE A FRIEND, NOT A TOY.
WE'RE GOING TO LET IMP GROW UP AT HER OWN PACE.
AND MAYBE WHEN WE'RE ALL A LITTLE MORE MATURE, WE CAN BE FRIENDS AGAIN!
UNTIL THEN, SHE'LL BE WAITING FOR US IN HER HOME.
SINCERELY,
THE CUTIE MARK CRUSADERS,
Applebloom Sweetie Belle Scootaloo


ART BY Ben Bates

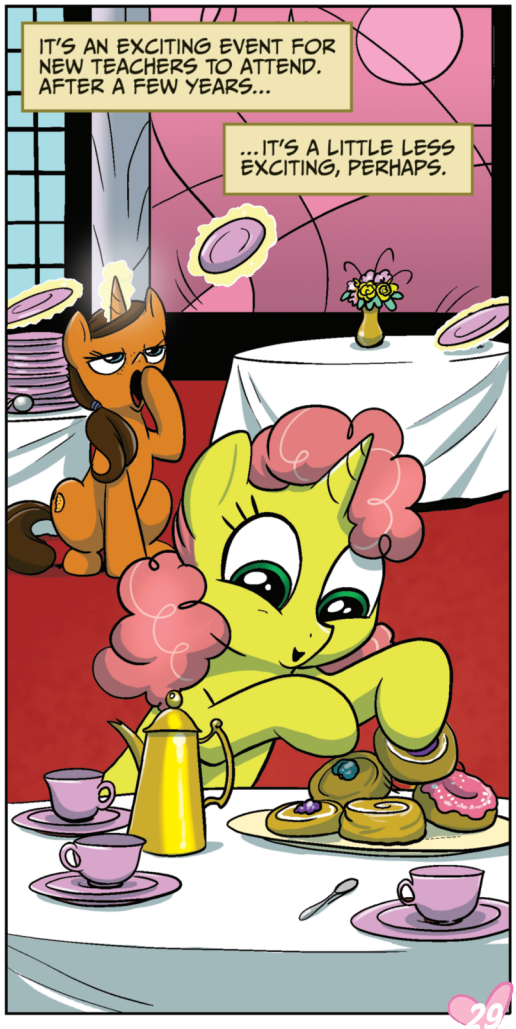
Chapter Two
CELESTIA



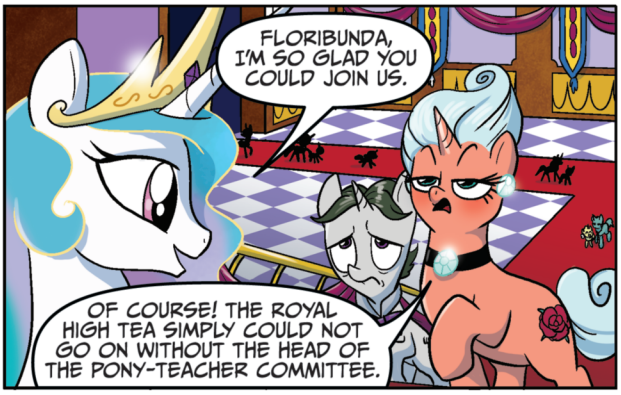
ART BY Amy Mebberson

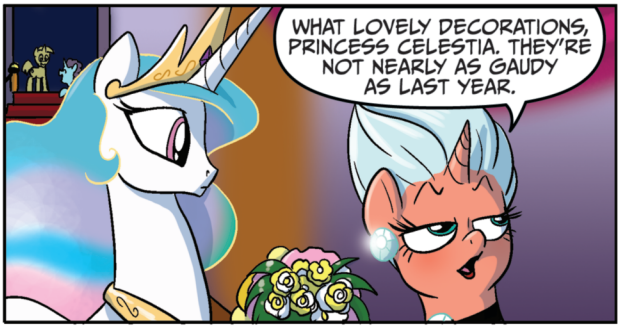

THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS ROYAL HIGH TEA IS AN HONORED TRADITION THAT BRINGS PONIES AND TEACHERS CLOSER TOGETHER.

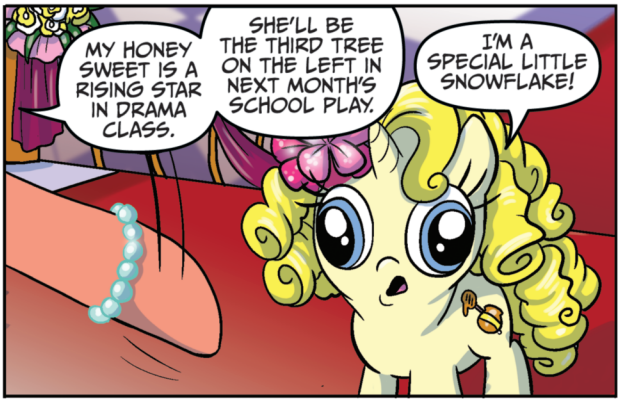

THE TEA, HOSTED AT CANTERLOT CASTLE, IS THE MOST ELEGANT LUNCHEON IN EQUESTRIA.

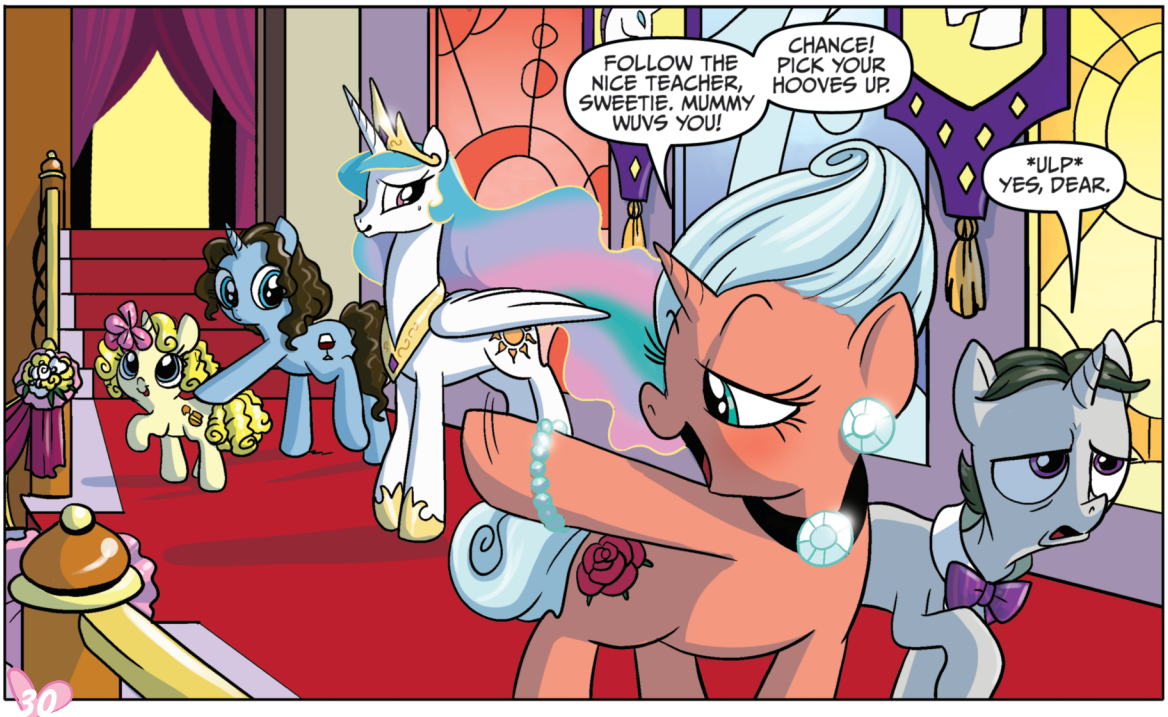

IT'S AN EXCITING EVENT FOR NEW TEACHERS TO ATTEND. AFTER A FEW YEARS...
...IT'S A LITTLE LESS EXCITING, PERHAPS.

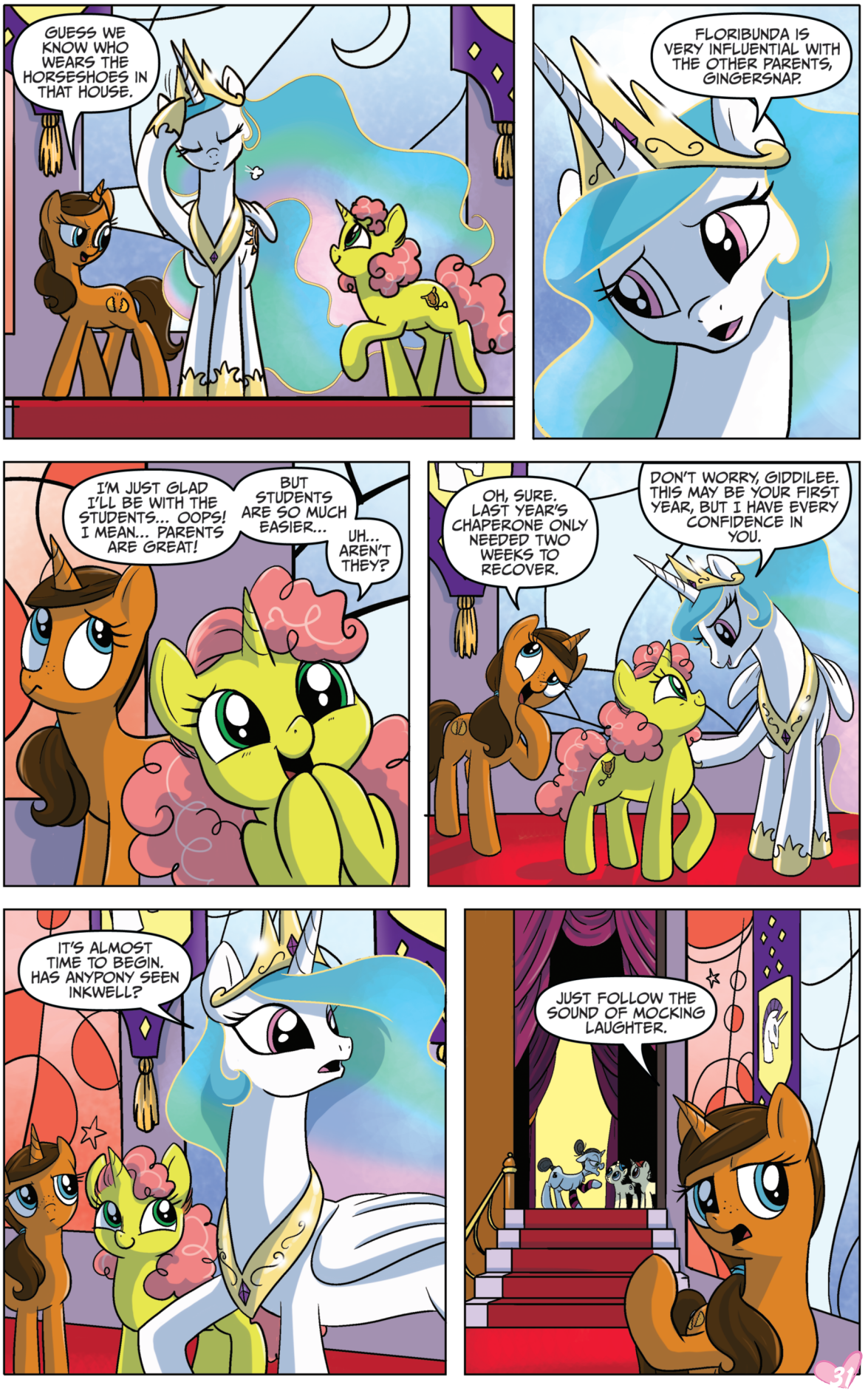

BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS HAVE GONE BY, IT ALWAYS GIVES ME GREAT PRIDE TO SAY...
WELCOME, LOYAL SUBJECTS, TO THE ROYAL HIGH TEA!


FLORIBUNDA, I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.
OF COURSE! THE ROYAL HIGH TEA SIMPLY COULD NOT GO ON WITHOUT THE HEAD OF THE PONY-TEACHER COMMITTEE.

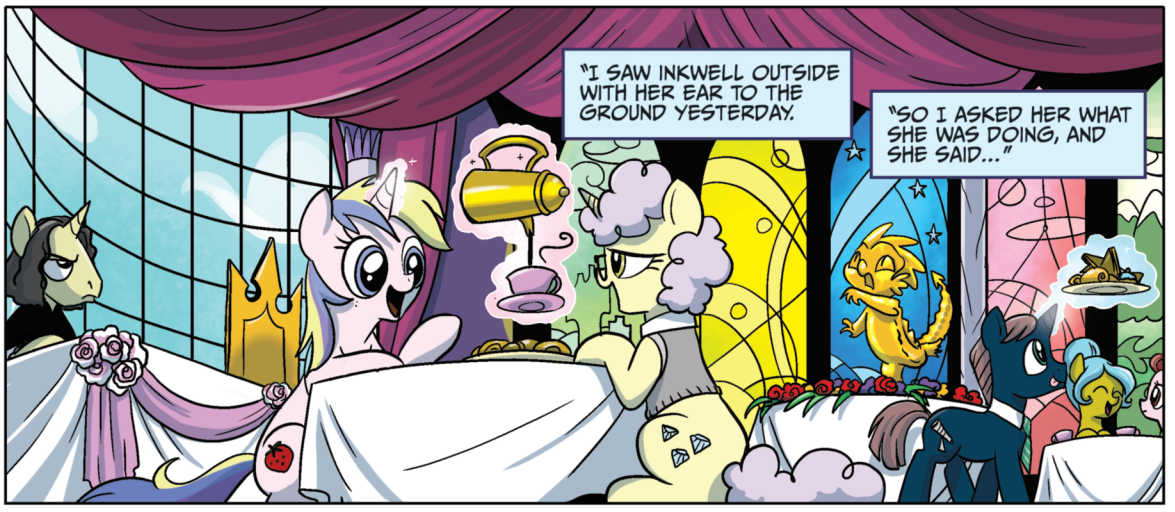

WHAT LOVELY DECORATIONS, PRINCESS CELESTIA. THEY'RE NOT NEARLY AS GAUDY AS LAST YEAR.


MY HONEY SWEET IS A RISING STAR IN DRAMA CLASS.
SHE'LL BE THE THIRD TREE ON THE LEFT IN NEXT MONTH'S SCHOOL PLAY.
I'M A SPECIAL LITTLE SNOWFLAKE!


FOLLOW THE NICE TEACHER, SWEETIE. MUMMY WUVS YOU!
CHANCE! PICK YOUR HOOVES UP.
ULP YES, DEAR.

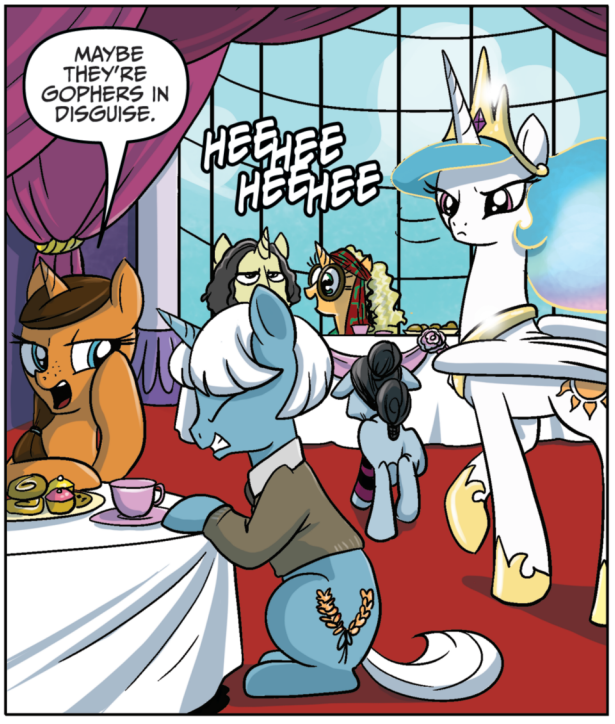

GUESS WE KNOW WHO WEARS THE HORSESHOES IN THAT HOUSE.
FLORIBUNDA IS VERY INFLUENTIAL WITH THE OTHER PARENTS, GINGERSNAP.
I'M JUST GLAD I'LL BE WITH THE STUDENTS... OOPS! I MEAN... PARENTS ARE GREAT!
BUT STUDENTS ARE SO MUCH EASIER...
UH... AREN'T THEY?
OH, SURE. LAST YEAR'S CHAPERONE ONLY NEEDED TWO WEEKS TO RECOVER.
DON'T WORRY, GIDDILEE. THIS MAY BE YOUR FIRST YEAR, BUT I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN YOU.
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO BEGIN. HAS ANYPONY SEEN INKWELL?
JUST FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MOCKING LAUGHTER.


...SO THERE I WAS, WITH THAT GIANT MECHANICAL PIGGIE BEARING DOWN ON ME!
EVERY SPELL I TRIED JUST BOUNCED RIGHT OFF OF HIM.
LUCKY THING I'D JUST PICKED UP A TOE-PINCHIN' POTION FROM THE APOTHECARY!
I RAN STRAIGHT FOR THAT OINKER AND SAID, "I GOT A FLASK OF MAGIC TOOTSIE CREAM AND I'M NOT AFRAID TO USE IT!"
HEE HEE
SNICKER
INKWELL, THE ROYAL HIGH TEA IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
IT IS?
DON'T FORGET... "REWARDS GO TO THE WARY"!
HEE HEE HEE HEE
SNICKER
HA HA HA HA


"I SAW INKWELL OUTSIDE WITH HER EAR TO THE GROUND YESTERDAY.
"SO I ASKED HER WHAT SHE WAS DOING, AND SHE SAID..."


...THAT THE GOPHER HOLES WERE A "BREACH OF SECURITY."
HA HA HA HA HA HA


I HOPE ALL THESE PONIES HAD PROPER IDENTIFICATION. SPIES COULD BE ANYWHERE, YOU KNOW.


MAYBE THEY'RE GOPHERS IN DISGUISE.
HEE HEE HEE HEE


I WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU WOULD JOIN ME AT MY TABLE, INKWELL.
ALL RIGHTY!

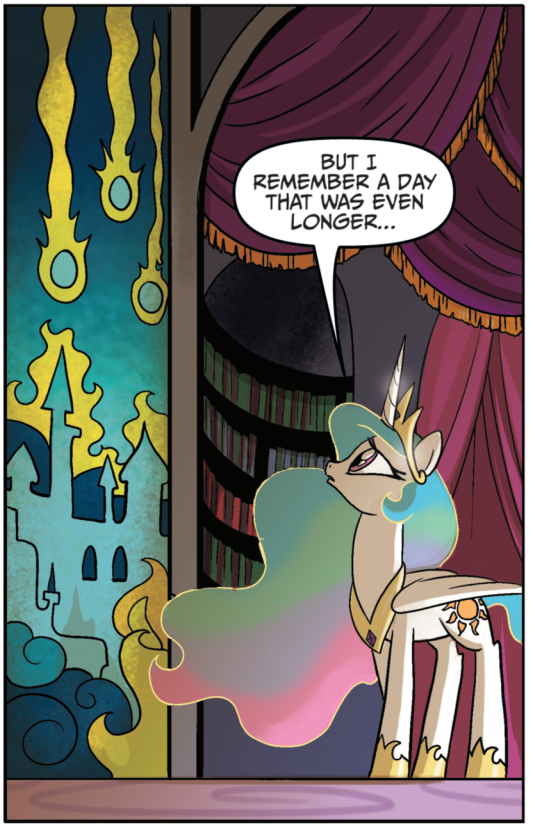

HOW IS YOUR LEMON TART, FLORIBUNDA?
ADEQUATE, PRINCESS, BUT DO TELL YOUR CHEF TO USE FEWER LEMONS NEXT TIME.
GH!☆
NEVER TRUSTED PASTRIES. ANYTHING COULD BE LURKING IN THAT FILLING.
ONCE I BIT INTO AN ECLAIR AND THE CREAM CAME OUT THE OTHER END!
CHANCE...
YES, DEAR.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR DAUGHTER EXCELS AT... PENMANSHIP. PLEASE TELL US MORE.
EXCUSE ME...
YES, GIDDILEE?
OH! WELL, YOU SEE... I WAS IN THE STUDENT ROOM... BUT I'M NOT ANYMORE...
SOMEPONY THREW A SOUFFLE... A SPELL WENT ALL WACKO... IT'S NO BIG DEAL! EXCEPT...
ALL OF THE FOOD CAME TO LIFE AND IT'S ACTING REALLY AGGRESSIVE SO YOU HAVE TO COME RIGHT NOW!
PLEASE?


SEE WHAT I MEAN?
BE BRAVE, MY STUDENTS. A SPELL CARELESSLY CAST—
—IS EASILY UNDONE.
BWANG
ZAPPING THESE THINGS ONE AT A TIME WILL TAKE ALL DAY.

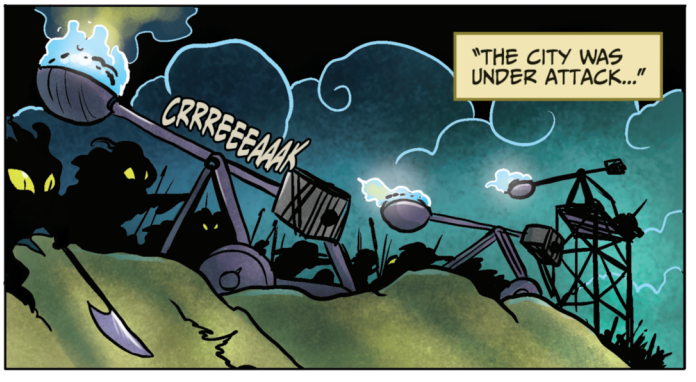

BBBBBRRRRR
LET'S TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE EFFICIENT.
RAAARRRGGGHHHH
SQWERK
ARRARRARRARRARRARRARR
AHEEEEE! RUN!
SEE? MUCH QUICKER.
NNNN


HONEY! OH, HONEY SWEETIE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
BRRRRRRRR
IS THIS WHAT YOUR SCHOOL CONSIDERS AN APPROPRIATE TEACHING METHOD?!
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, BUT I ASSURE YOU... THE STUDENTS WERE NEVER IN DANGER.
THAT TEACHER IS PAST HER PRIME. SHE SHOULD RETIRE, AND UNTIL SHE'S NO LONGER WITH YOUR SCHOOL...
I'M KEEPING MY DAUGHTER SAFE AT HOME.
SNIF
PRINCESS CELESTIA, I'M SO SORRY! IF THE STUDENTS STAY HOME, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE SCHOOL?
NO CLASS TO TEACH MEANS NO SCHOOL TO TEACH IN.
MAYBE ONE OF US SHOULD HANG IT UP BEFORE WE ALL HAVE TO.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET FLORIBUNDA DICTATE WHEN MY TEACHERS RETIRE, GINGERSNAP.
FOR NOW, I NEED SOME TIME ALONE.


SQUAAAAWK
YES, PHILOMENA. IT HAS BEEN A LONG DAY.

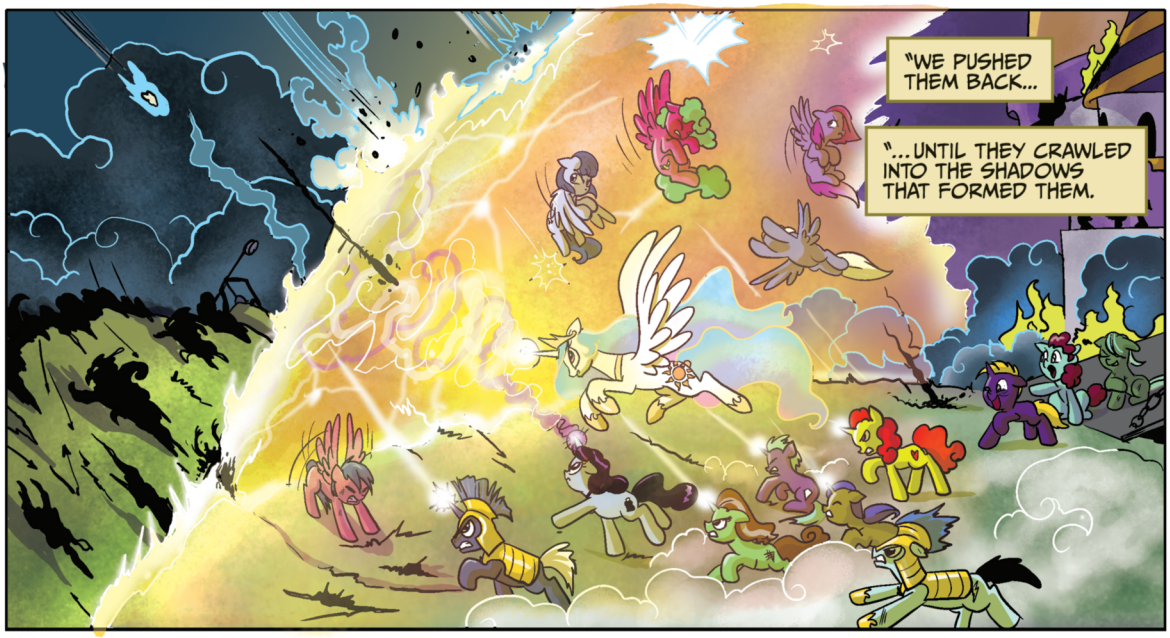

BUT I REMEMBER A DAY THAT WAS EVEN LONGER...

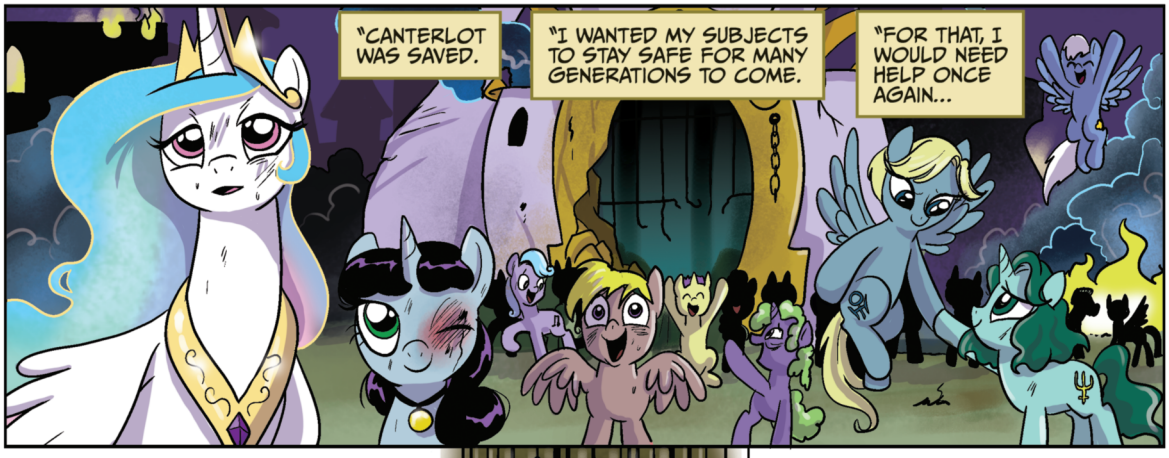

"...WHEN WE WONDERED IF CANTERLOT WOULD EVER SEE ANOTHER.

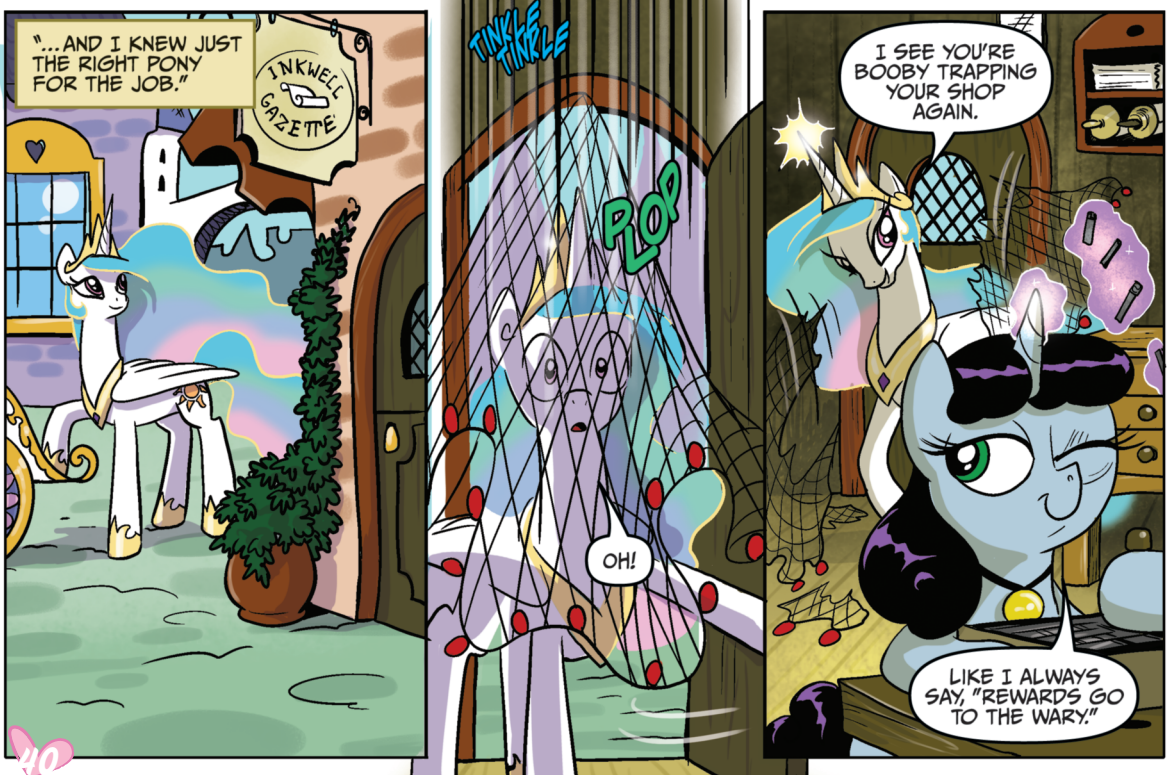

CRRREEEAAAK
"THE CITY WAS UNDER ATTACK..."


RUN!

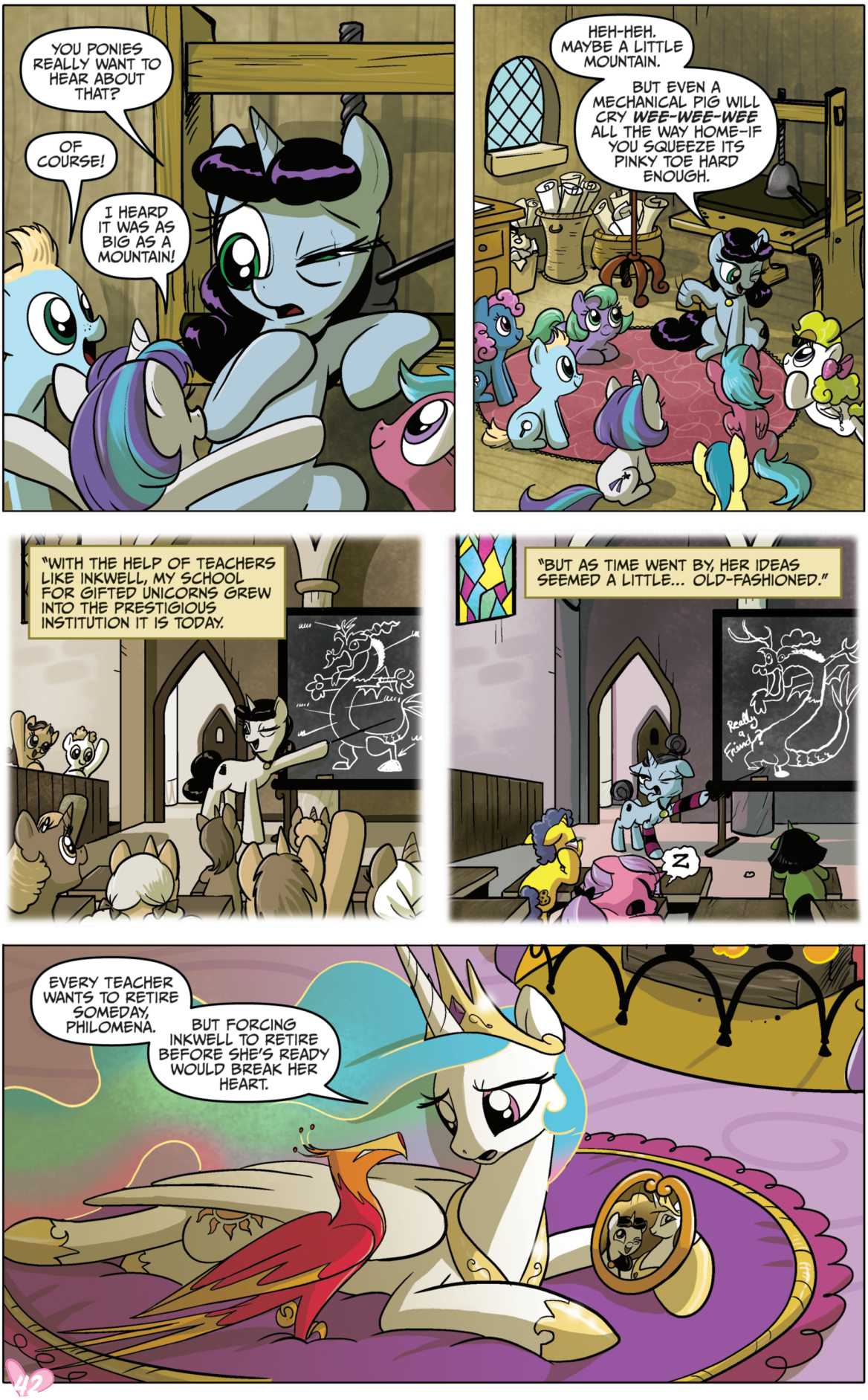

KADLUNG
OOOOOOH!
SHHUSSSHHHH
"THERE WERE TOO MANY...
"I COULDN'T HOLD THEM OFF ALONE.
SIZZZZZ
"FORTUNATELY...
"I DIDN'T HAVE TO."

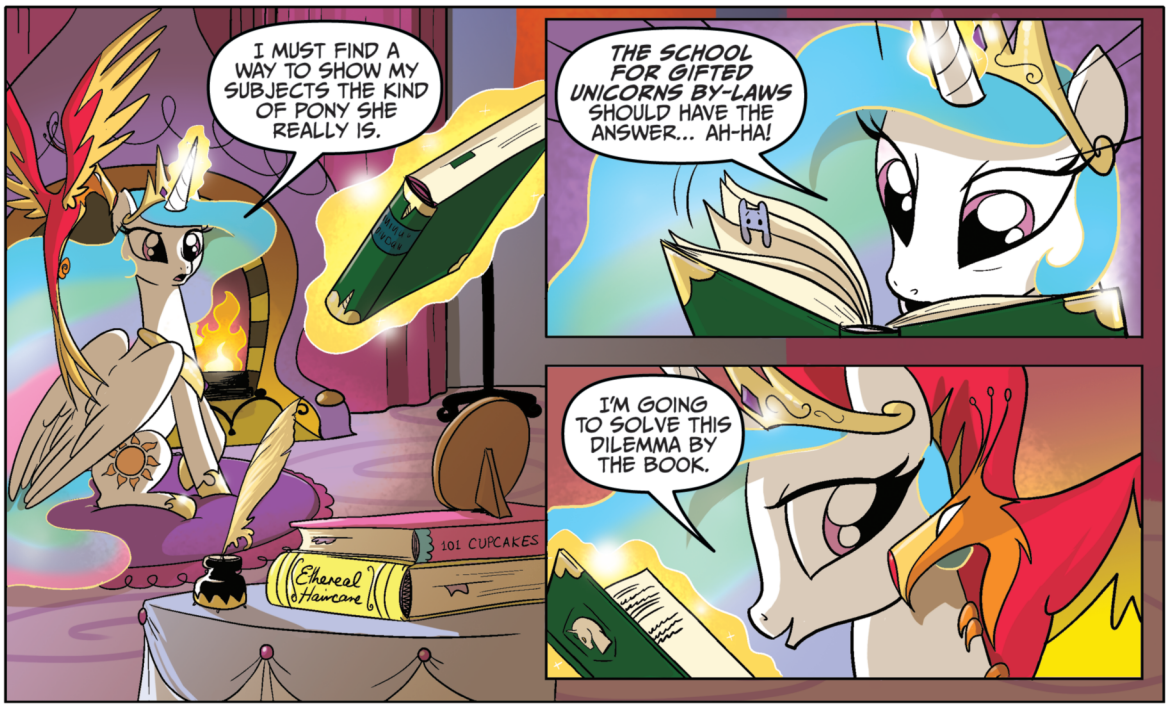

"WE PUSHED THEM BACK...
"...UNTIL THEY CRAWLED INTO THE SHADOWS THAT FORMED THEM.

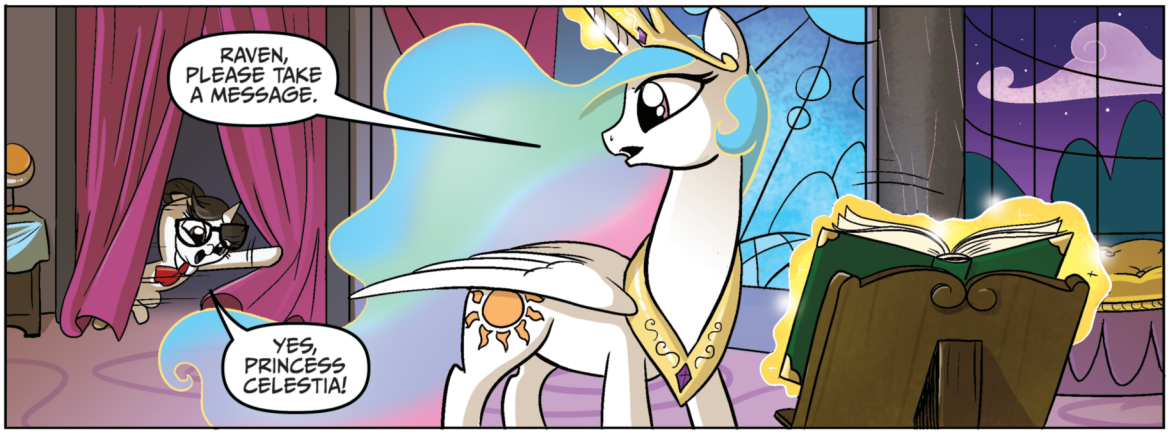

"CANTERLOT WAS SAVED.
"I WANTED MY SUBJECTS TO STAY SAFE FOR MANY GENERATIONS TO COME.
"FOR THAT, I WOULD NEED HELP ONCE AGAIN...


"...AND I KNEW JUST THE RIGHT PONY FOR THE JOB."
INKWELL GAZETTE
TINKLE TINKLE
PLOP
OH!
I SEE YOU'RE BOOBY TRAPPING YOUR SHOP AGAIN.
LIKE I ALWAYS SAY, "REWARDS GO TO THE WARY."


GOT TO BE ON MY GUARD. I TOOK A COMIC STRIP OUT OF MY PAPER THIS WEEK AND GOT SO MANY ANGRY LETTERS—
I WONDERED IF YOU'D HAD A CHANCE TO CONSIDER MY OFFER.
TO TEACH AT YOUR SCHOOL? OH... WELL, IT'S JUST THAT I'VE NEVER BEEN AROUND LITTLE PONIES...
I UNDERSTAND, AND I WON'T ASK AGAIN—
BUT YOUR FANS WOULD STILL LIKE TO MEET YOU, MAY I LET THEM IN?
FANS?
BANG
YAY!
IS THAT HER HAT RACK? I LOVE HER HAT RACK!
IT'S HER! IT'S REALLY HER!
TELL US ABOUT THE TIME YOU FOUGHT THE GIANT PIG!
PLEASE OHPLEASE OHPLEASE?
AW, SHE'S PROBABLY TIRED OF TELLING THAT STORY.


YOU PONIES REALLY WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THAT?
OF COURSE!
I HEARD IT WAS AS BIG AS A MOUNTAIN!
HEH-HEH. MAYBE A LITTLE MOUNTAIN.
BUT EVEN A MECHANICAL PIG WILL CRY WEE-WEE-WEE ALL THE WAY HOME–IF YOU SQUEEZE ITS PINKY TOE HARD ENOUGH.
"WITH THE HELP OF TEACHERS LIKE INKWELL, MY SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS GREW INTO THE PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTION IT IS TODAY.
"BUT AS TIME WENT BY, HER IDEAS SEEMED A LITTLE... OLD-FASHIONED."
Really a Friend?
Z
EVERY TEACHER WANTS TO RETIRE SOMEDAY, PHILOMENA.
BUT FORCING INKWELL TO RETIRE BEFORE SHE'S READY WOULD BREAK HER HEART.

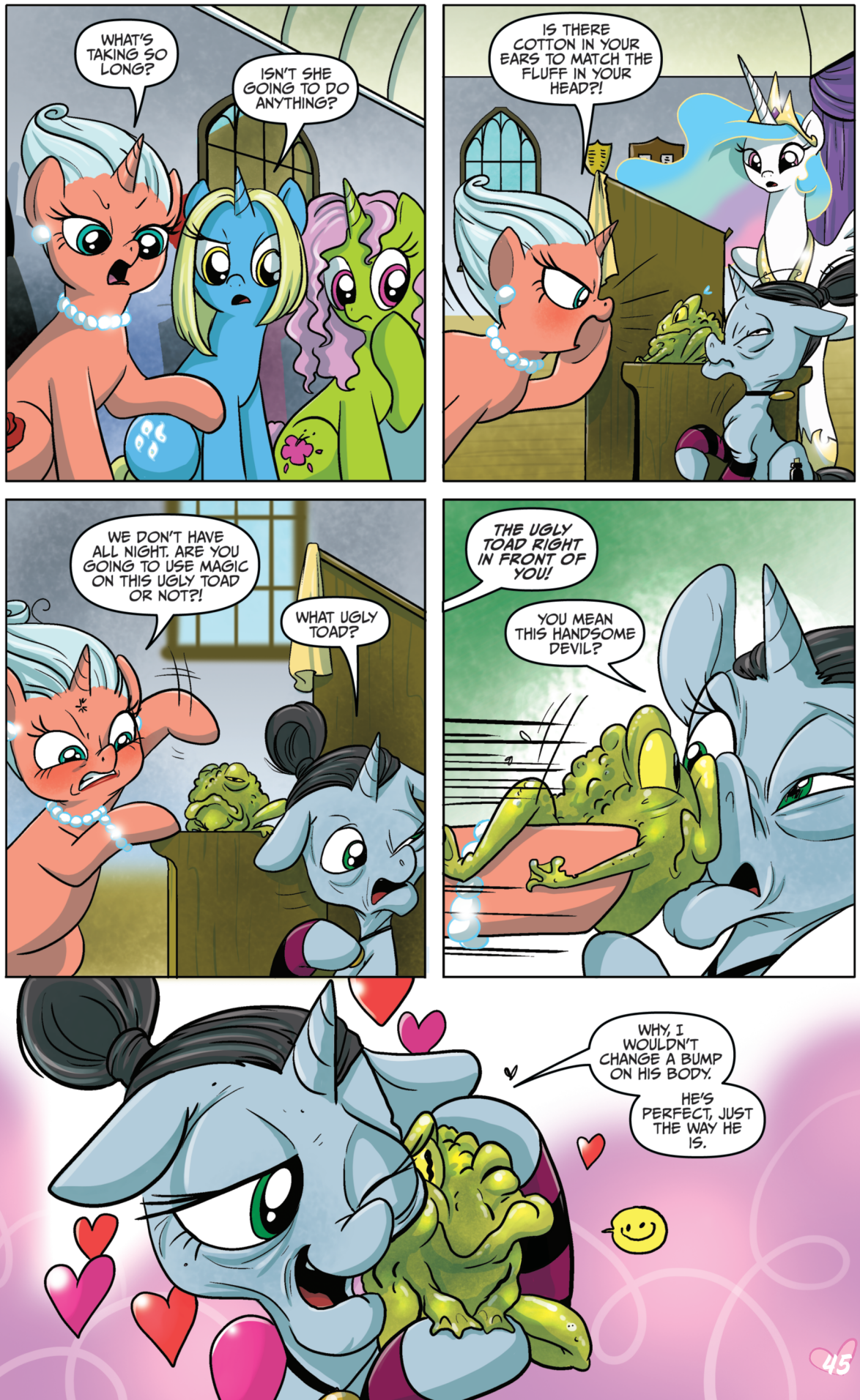

I MUST FIND A WAY TO SHOW MY SUBJECTS THE KIND OF PONY SHE REALLY IS.
THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS BY-LAWS SHOULD HAVE THE ANSWER... AH-HA!
I'M GOING TO SOLVE THIS DILEMMA BY THE BOOK.
101 CUPCAKES
Ethereal Haircare


RAVEN, PLEASE TAKE A MESSAGE.
YES, PRINCESS CELESTIA!


BY ROYAL DECREE, THE PONY-TEACHER COMMITTEE WILL ASSEMBLE AT PRINCESS CELESTIA'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS FOR A HEARING TOMORROW NIGHT—

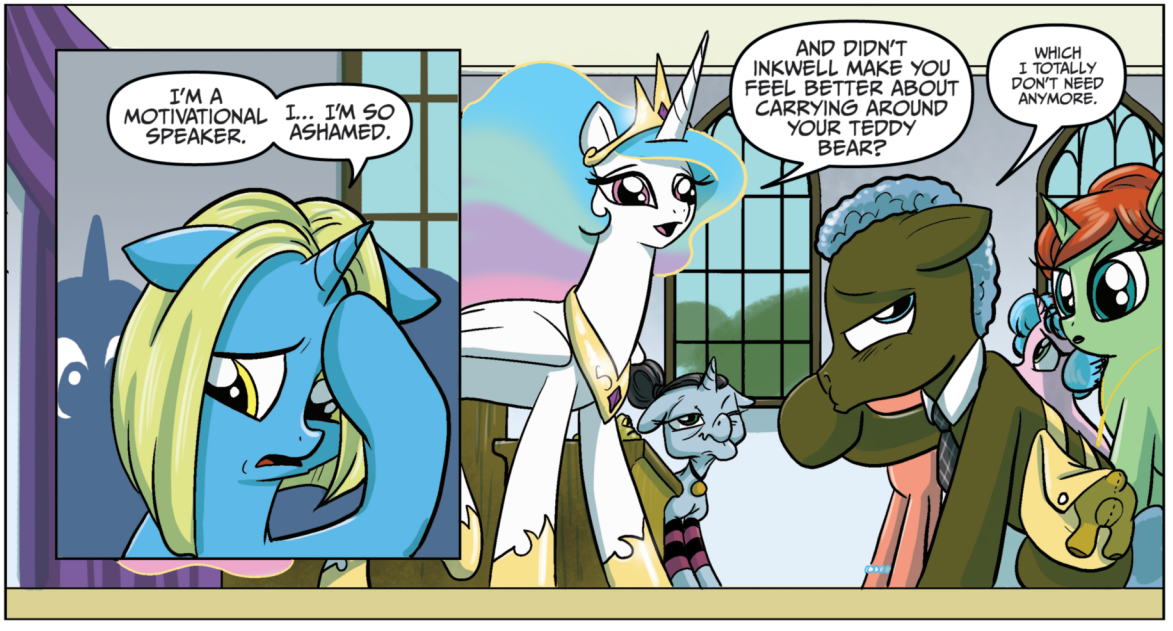

—CONCERNING THE RETIREMENT OF MY MOST SENIOR TEACHER, INKWELL.

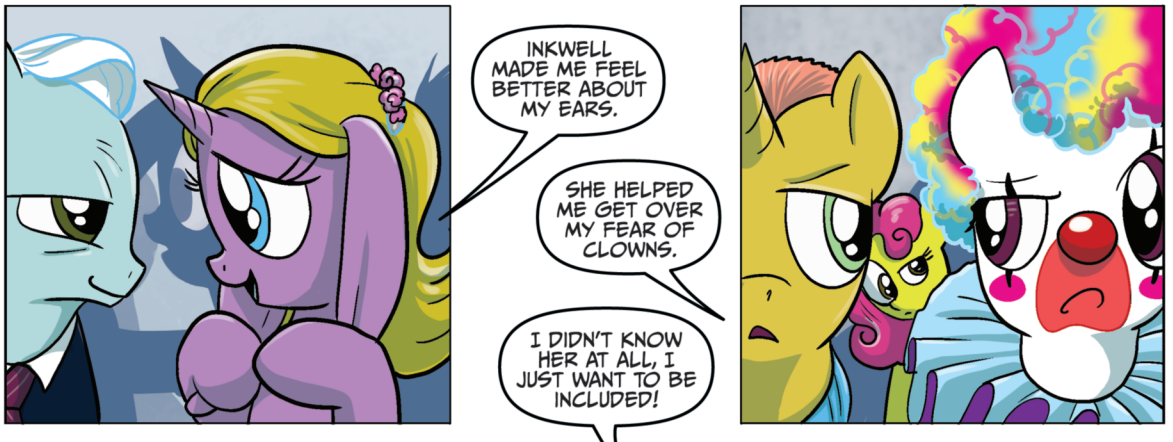

JUST LOOK AT HER! DOESN'T SHE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS HEARING IS?
ALL STAND AT ATTENTION FOR HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCESS CELESTIA!
AS IT IS WRITTEN IN OUR BY-LAWS, THE TEACHER MAY PROVE HER COMPETENCY BY PASSING A TEST—
CHOSEN BY ME.
?
BY REQUEST OF THE PRINCESS, THE TEACHER WILL TRANSFORM THIS UGLY, DISGUSTING TOAD...
...INTO A BEAUTIFUL... LESS DISGUSTING TOAD.
glp!


WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?
ISN'T SHE GOING TO DO ANYTHING?
IS THERE COTTON IN YOUR EARS TO MATCH THE FLUFF IN YOUR HEAD?!
WE DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT. ARE YOU GOING TO USE MAGIC ON THIS UGLY TOAD OR NOT?!
WHAT UGLY TOAD?
THE UGLY TOAD RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!
YOU MEAN THIS HANDSOME DEVIL?
WHY, I WOULDN'T CHANGE A BUMP ON HIS BODY.
HE'S PERFECT, JUST THE WAY HE IS.

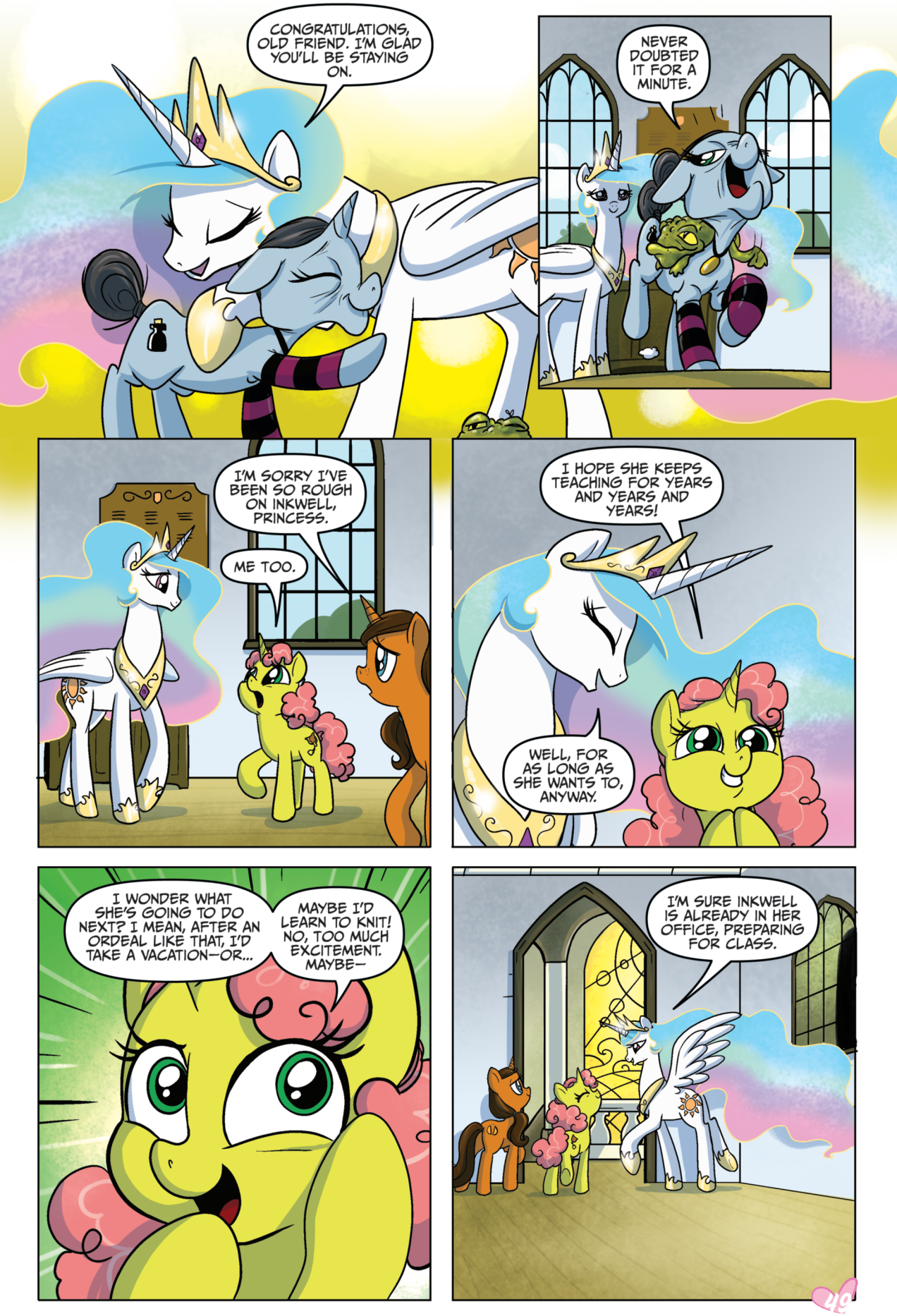

WHA-? YOU-YOU... PUH PUH PUH...
FLORIBUNDA, DOESN'T THIS REMIND YOU OF SOMETHING?
I... I REMEMBER...
WAAAA AAAHHH AHHHHHHHH!
THERE YOU ARE, FLORIBUNDA. DON'T YOU WANT TO BE IN THE SCHOOL PICTURE?
NO! MY BRACES MAKE ME LOOK LIKE THE BIGGEST NERD IN SCHOOL.
OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
YOU CAN'T OUT-NERD ME, I'M A SEASONED VETERAN.
POOF
OK, MAYBE NOT ANYMORE.
I... I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THAT DAY.

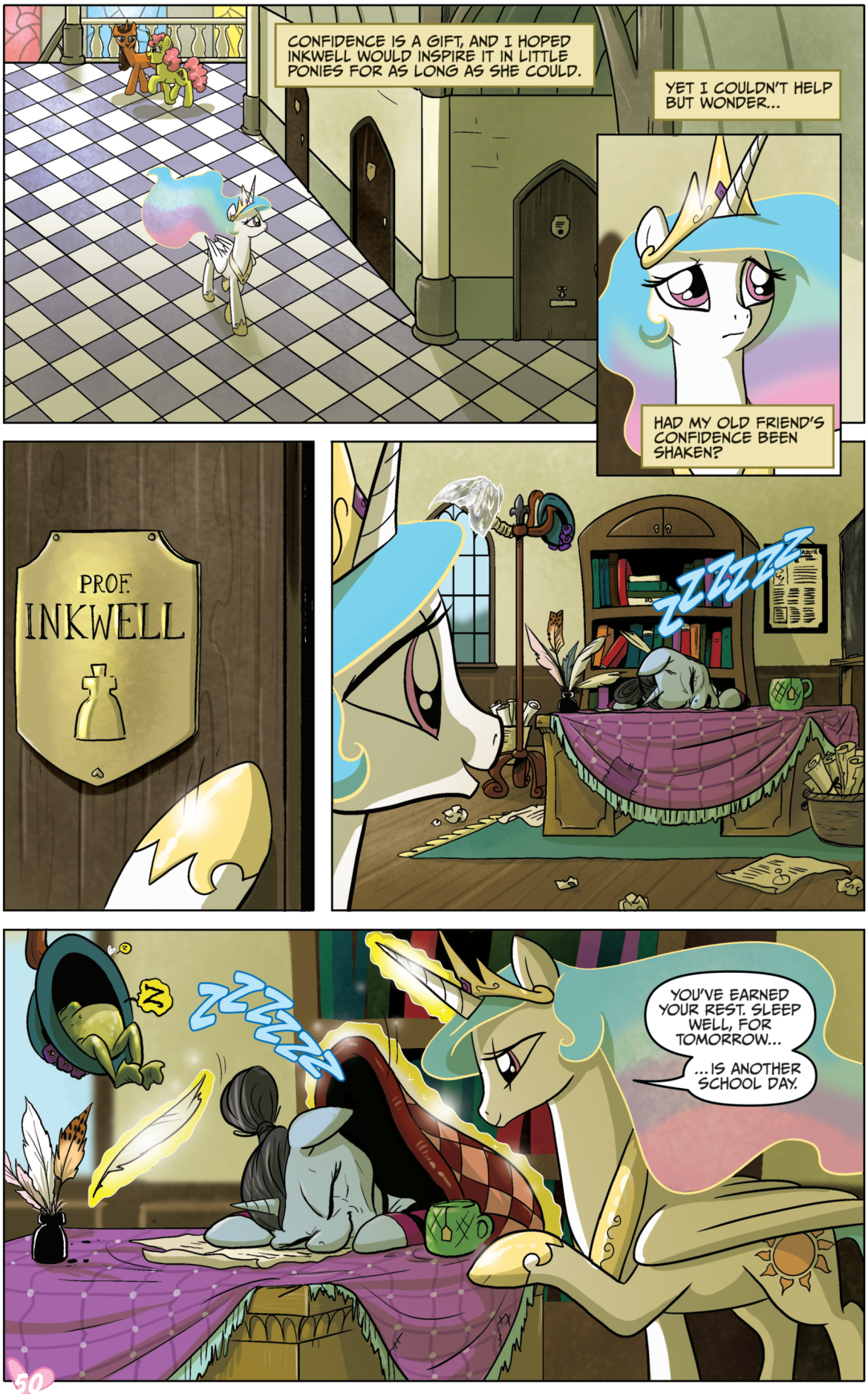

SHINING LIGHTS–DIDN'T INKWELL HELP YOU OVERCOME YOUR SHYNESS?
WHAT IS IT YOU DO NOW, AGAIN?


I'M A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER.
I... I'M SO ASHAMED.
AND DIDN'T INKWELL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER ABOUT CARRYING AROUND YOUR TEDDY BEAR?
WHICH I TOTALLY DON'T NEED ANYMORE.


INKWELL MADE ME FEEL BETTER ABOUT MY EARS.
SHE HELPED ME GET OVER MY FEAR OF CLOWNS.
I DIDN'T KNOW HER AT ALL, I JUST WANT TO BE INCLUDED!


BUT I MUST REMIND YOU ALL, NO SPELL HAS BEEN CAST.
UNLESS THERE ARE ANY OBJECTIONS, I RULE IN FAVOR OF RETIREMENT FOR—
WAIT!
PRINCESS CELESTIA, I THINK I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US WHEN I SAY—
THAT WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE INKWELL AS A MEMBER OF YOUR FACULTY.
WE WITHDRAW OUR PETITION FOR RETIREMENT.
WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH OF THE PRINCESS' TIME.
OUT! OUT YOU ALL GO. YOU TOO, CHANCE.
YES, DEAR!


CONGRATULATIONS, OLD FRIEND. I'M GLAD YOU'LL BE STAYING ON.
NEVER DOUBTED IT FOR A MINUTE.
I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN SO ROUGH ON INKWELL, PRINCESS.
ME TOO.
I HOPE SHE KEEPS TEACHING FOR YEARS AND YEARS AND YEARS!
WELL, FOR AS LONG AS SHE WANTS TO, ANYWAY.
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S GOING TO DO NEXT? I MEAN, AFTER AN ORDEAL LIKE THAT, I'D TAKE A VACATION—OR...
MAYBE I'D LEARN TO KNIT! NO, TOO MUCH EXCITEMENT. MAYBE—
I'M SURE INKWELL IS ALREADY IN HER OFFICE, PREPARING FOR CLASS.

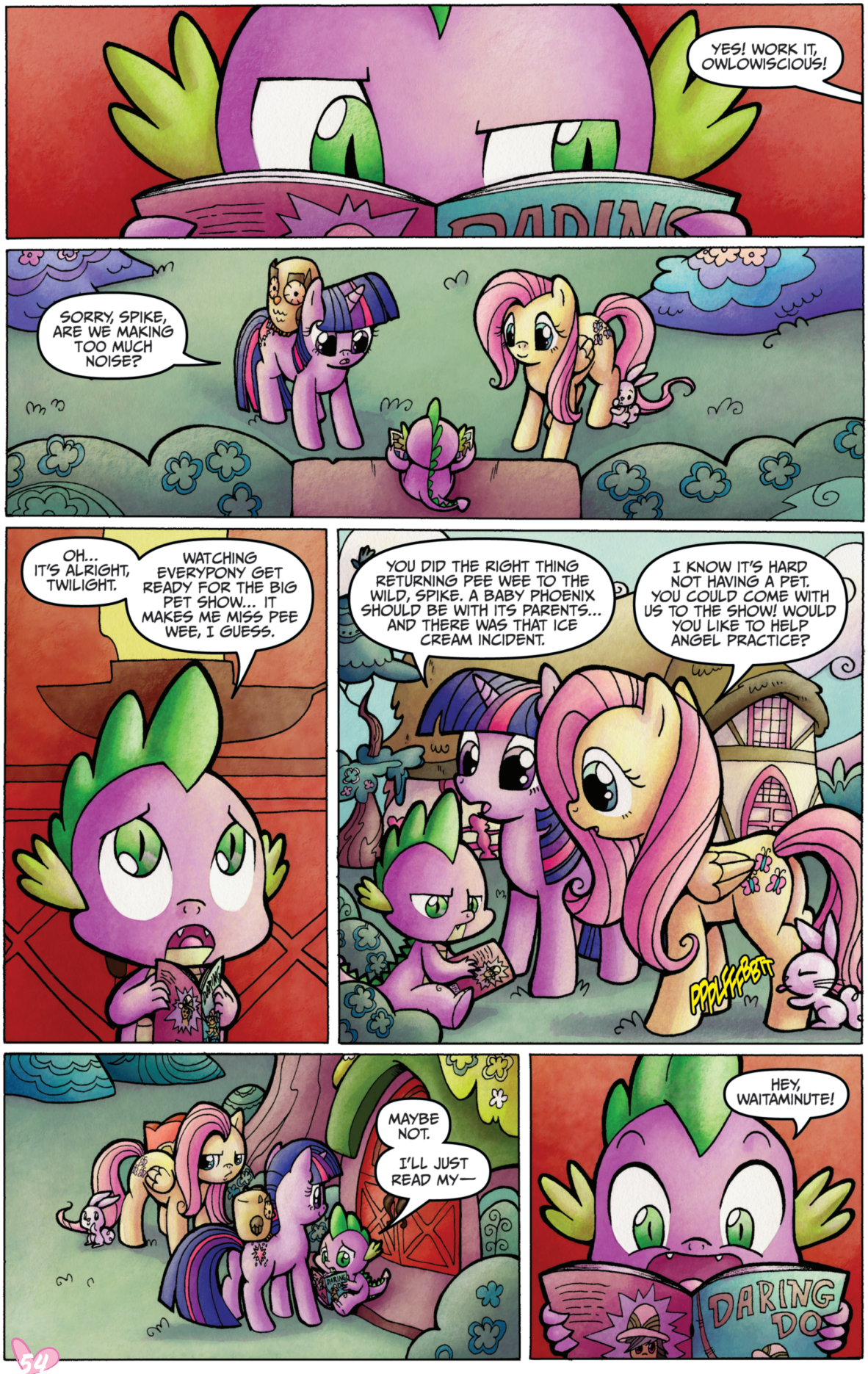

CONFIDENCE IS A GIFT, AND I HOPED INKWELL WOULD INSPIRE IT IN LITTLE PONIES FOR AS LONG AS SHE COULD.
YET I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER...
HAD MY OLD FRIEND'S CONFIDENCE BEEN SHAKEN?
PROF. INKWELL
ZZZZZZ
Z
ZZZZZ
YOU'VE EARNED YOUR REST. SLEEP WELL, FOR TOMORROW...
...IS ANOTHER SCHOOL DAY.



ART BY Sabrina Alberghetti


Chapter Three
SPIKE
ART BY Amy Mebberson


OKAY, LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE BOTH READY FOR THE EQUESTRIA PET SHOW...
...STRIKE A POSE!
OOOOH! "KARATE COLT" STYLE! IMPRESSIVE!
AHHH... THE "HOITY TOITY." VERY NICE, ANGEL.
THAT'S CERTAINLY GOING TO IMPRESS THE JUDGES... ESPECIALLY HOITY HIMSELF!

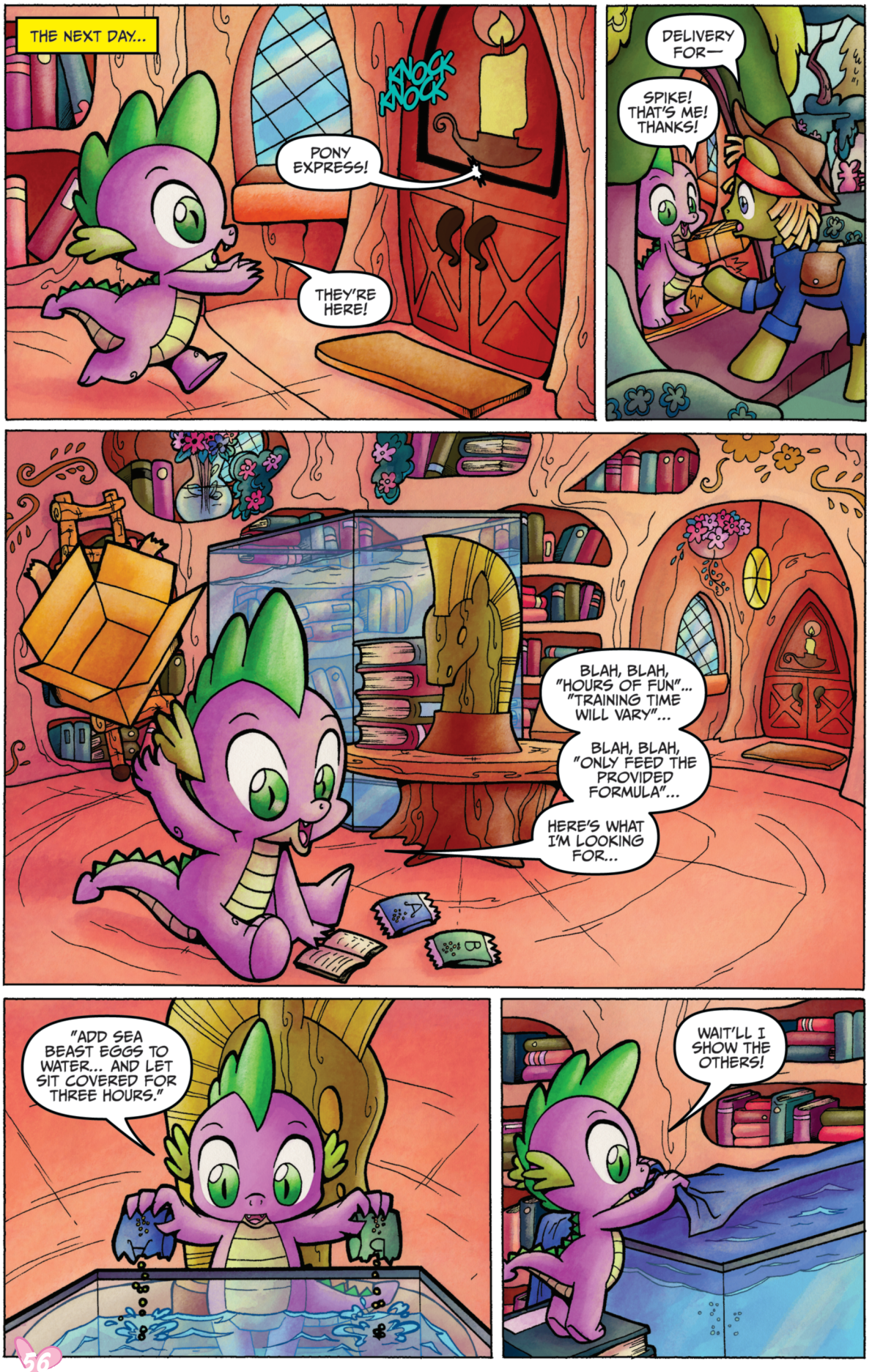

YES! WORK IT, OWLOWISCIOUS!
SORRY, SPIKE, ARE WE MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE?
OH... IT'S ALRIGHT, TWILIGHT.
WATCHING EVERYPONY GET READY FOR THE BIG PET SHOW... IT MAKES ME MISS PEE WEE, I GUESS.
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING RETURNING PEE WEE TO THE WILD, SPIKE. A BABY PHOENIX SHOULD BE WITH ITS PARENTS... AND THERE WAS THAT ICE CREAM INCIDENT.
I KNOW IT'S HARD NOT HAVING A PET. YOU COULD COME WITH US TO THE SHOW! WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ANGEL PRACTICE?
PPPLFFFBBT
MAYBE NOT.
I'LL JUST READ MY—
HEY, WAITAMINUTE!
DARING DO


I FOUND THE PERFECT PETS!
SEA BEASTS
AMAZING!!


I CAN TRAIN THEM TO DO TRICKS...
...IT'S NOT ONE PET—IT'S A WHOLE COLONY!
AND THEY'LL DELIVER THEM OVERNIGHT!
DARING

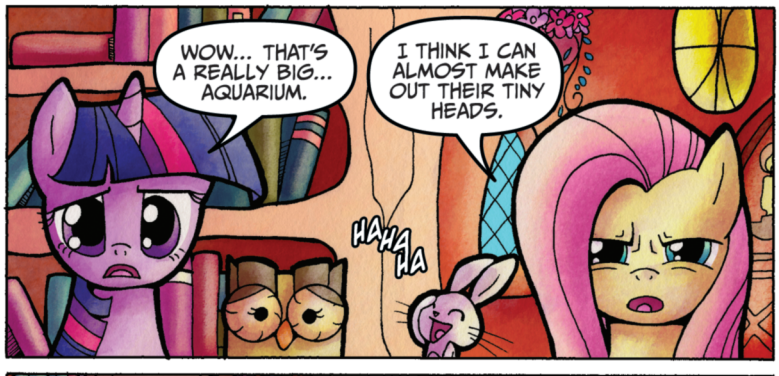

ORDERING PETS THROUGH THE MAIL SEEMS A LITTLE... ODD.
I THINK I'VE HEARD OF THEM. AREN'T THEY REALLY JUST TINY—
INSTANT PETS WITH INSTANT DELIVERY! IT SAYS IT RIGHT HERE! I'LL WRITE UP A SCROLL ORDER RIGHT NOW!

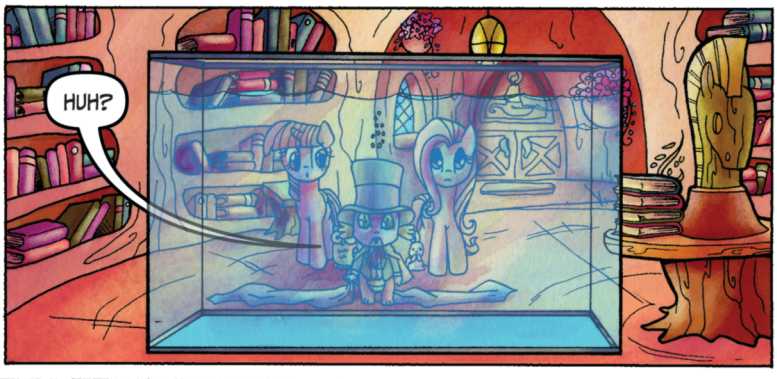

THEY'RE GOING TO BE THE BEST PETS EVER!
NOW I NEED TO FIND A GIANT AQUARIUM...
HRRMMM...
LET ME KNOW WHEN THEY COME IN. I'D LIKE TO SEE THEM... I THINK...


THE NEXT DAY...
KNOCK KNOCK
PONY EXPRESS!
THEY'RE HERE!
DELIVERY FOR—
SPIKE! THAT'S ME! THANKS!
BLAH, BLAH, "HOURS OF FUN"... "TRAINING TIME WILL VARY"...
BLAH, BLAH, "ONLY FEED THE PROVIDED FORMULA"...
HERE'S WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR...
"ADD SEA BEAST EGGS TO WATER... AND LET SIT COVERED FOR THREE HOURS."
WAIT'LL I SHOW THE OTHERS!


THREE HOURS LATER...
FILLIES AND GENTLEPONIES...
...PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR THE MAJESTIC BEAUTY OF THE...

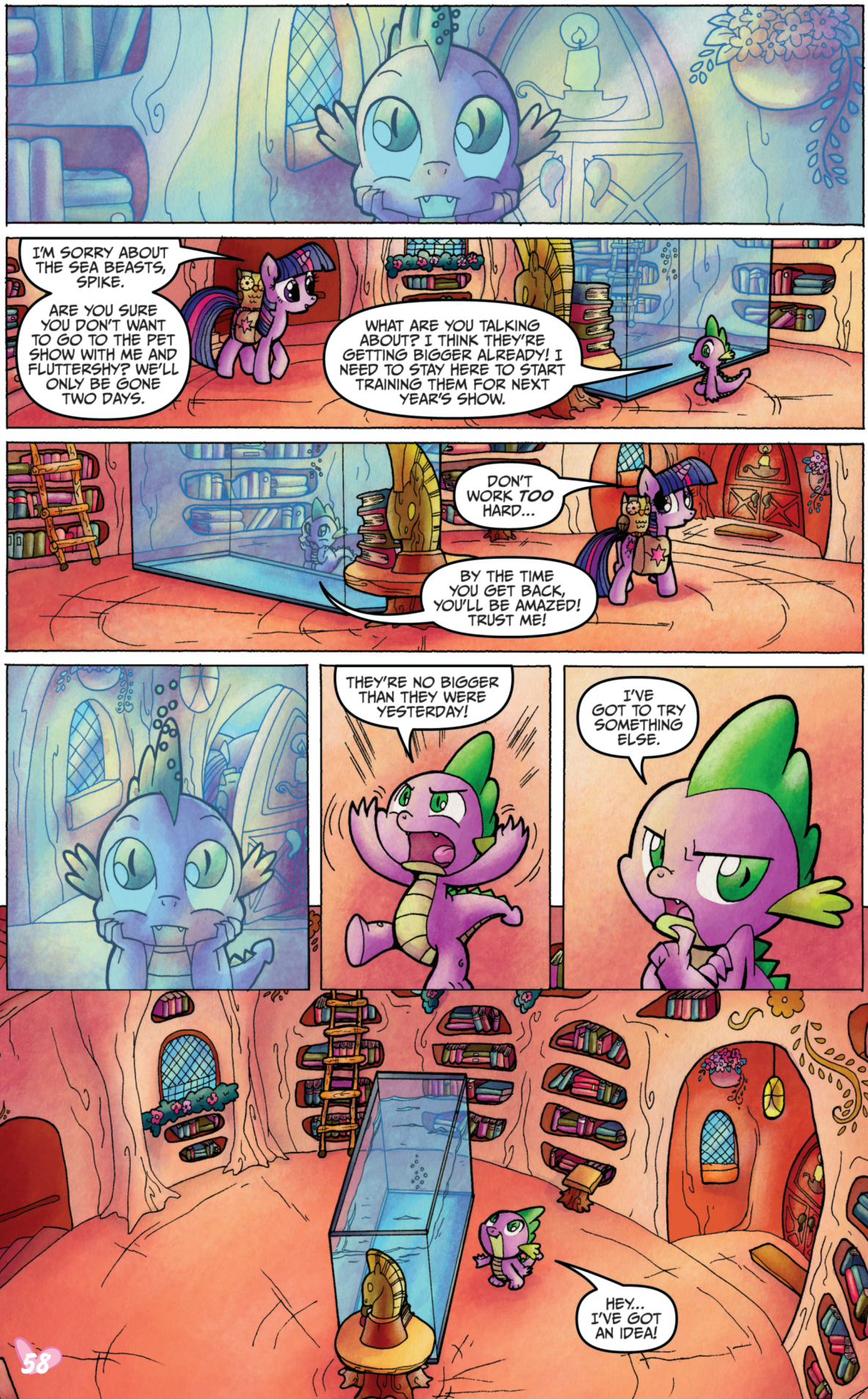

...SEA BEASTS!

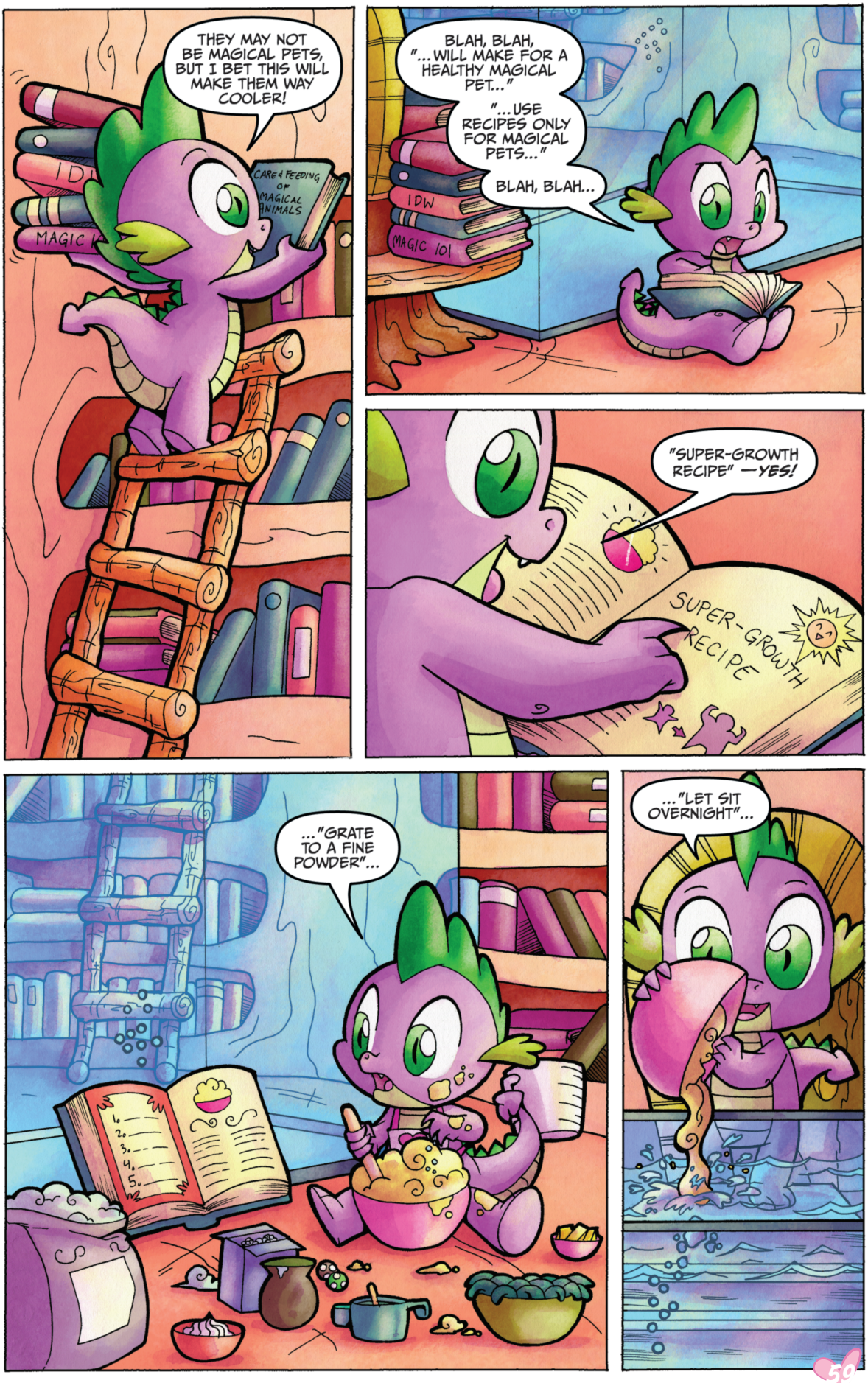

WOW... THAT'S A REALLY BIG... AQUARIUM.
I THINK I CAN ALMOST MAKE OUT THEIR TINY HEADS.
HAHA HA

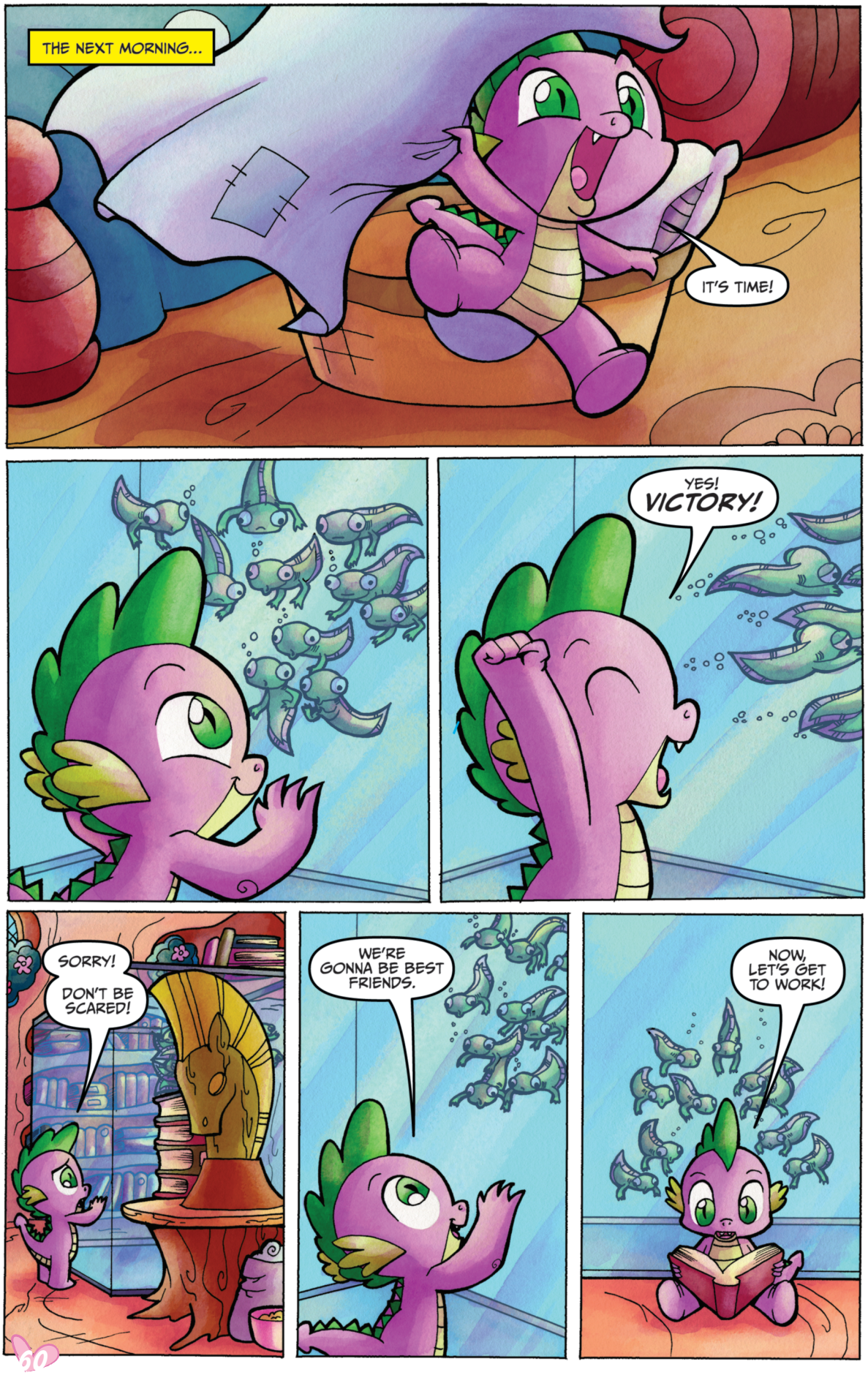

HUH?

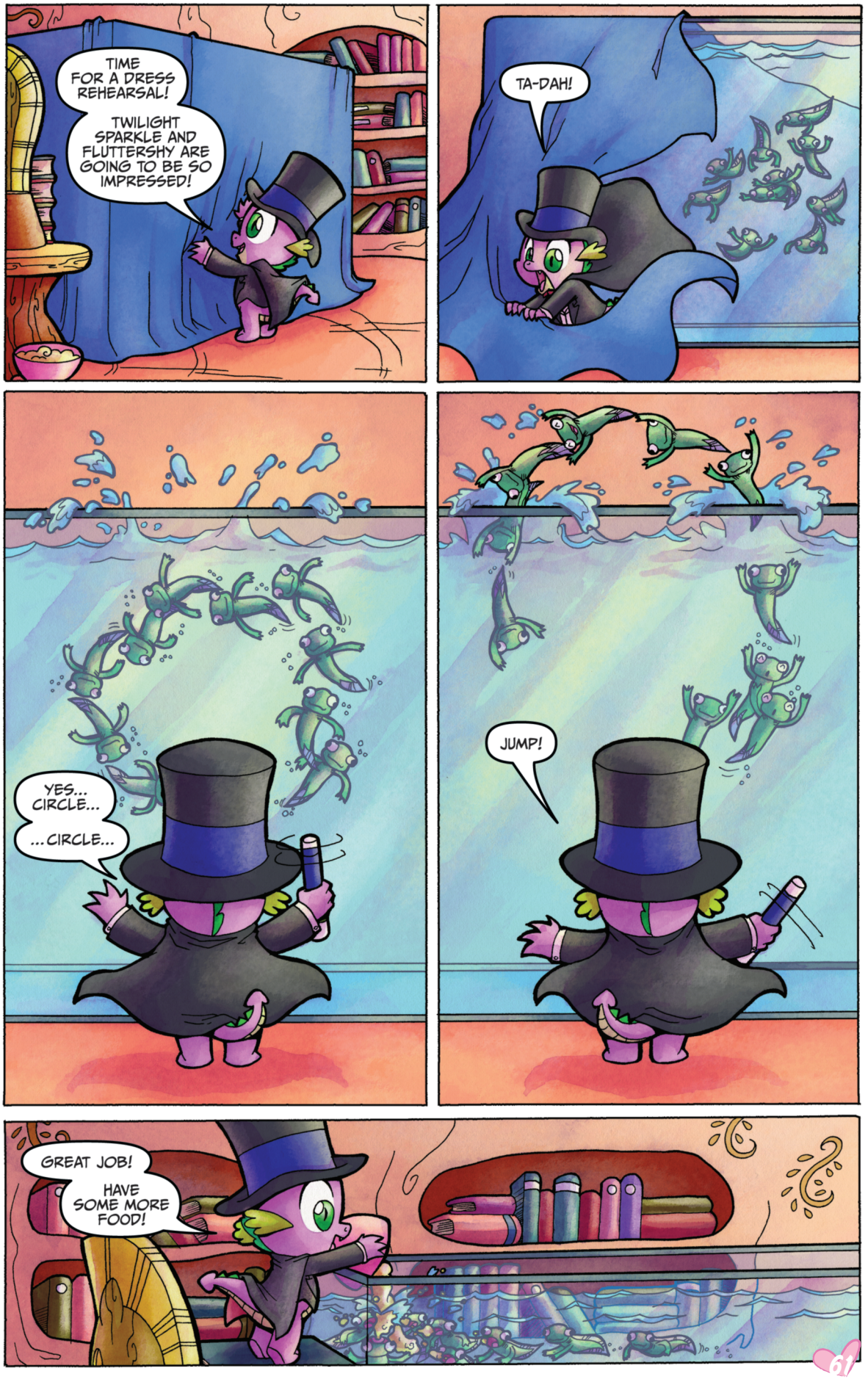

UH... THEY MUST NOT BE FULLY GROWN YET.
THEY JUST NEED MORE TIME!

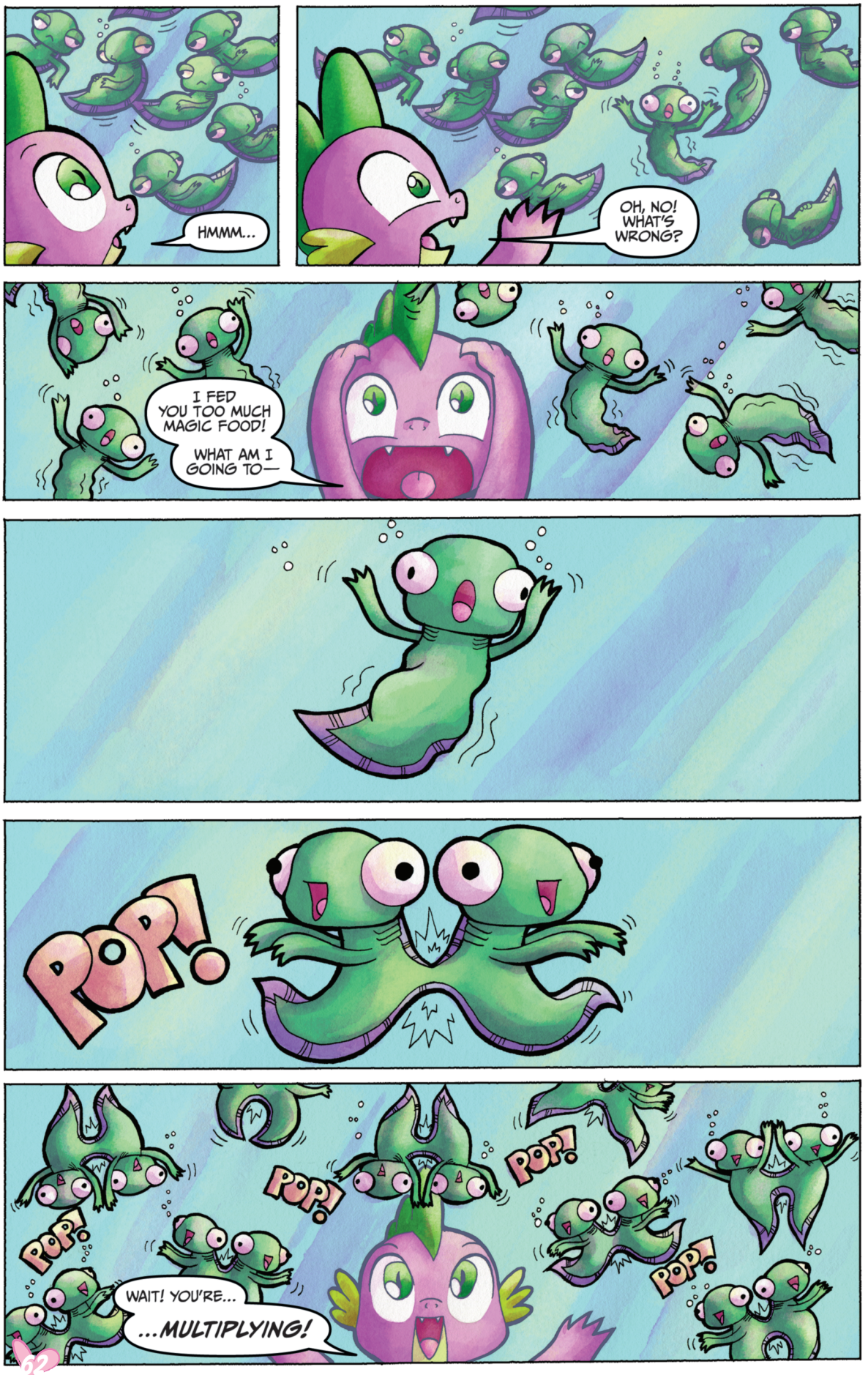

I'M SURE THAT'S IT...
...GIVE THEM SOME TIME.

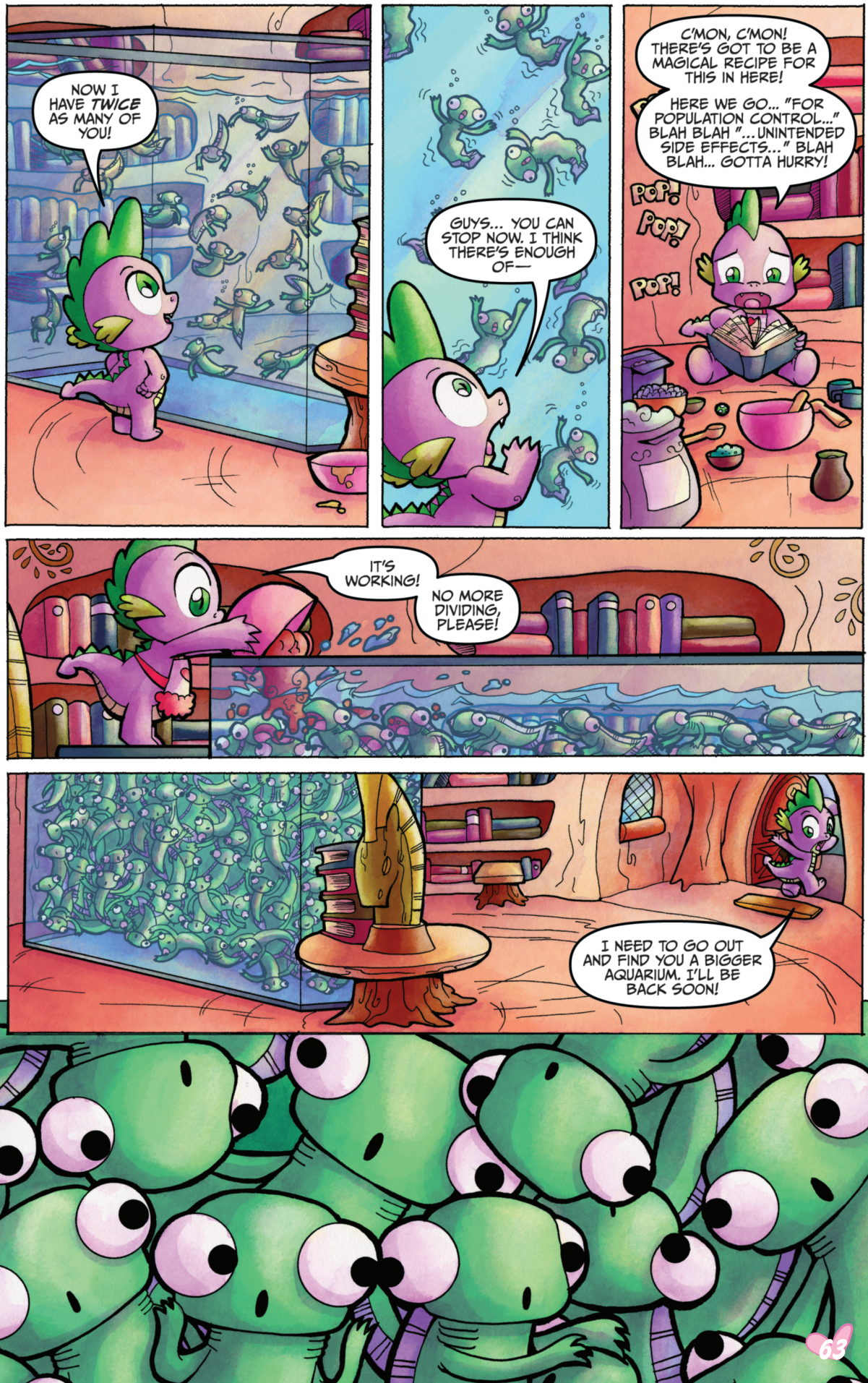

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE SEA BEASTS, SPIKE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE PET SHOW WITH ME AND FLUTTERSHY? WE'LL ONLY BE GONE TWO DAYS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I THINK THEY'RE GETTING BIGGER ALREADY! I NEED TO STAY HERE TO START TRAINING THEM FOR NEXT YEAR'S SHOW.
DON'T WORK *TOO* HARD...
BY THE TIME YOU GET BACK, YOU'LL BE AMAZED! TRUST ME!
THEY'RE NO BIGGER THAN THEY WERE YESTERDAY!
I'VE GOT TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.
HEY... I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

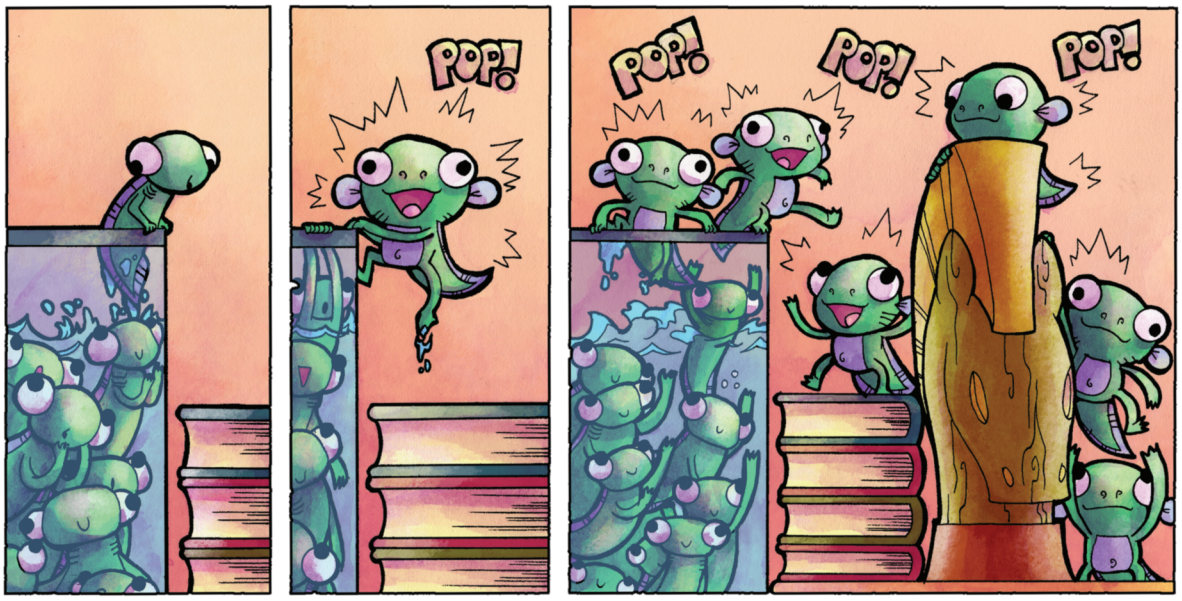

THEY MAY NOT BE MAGICAL PETS, BUT I BET THIS WILL MAKE THEM WAY COOLER!
CARE & FEEDING OF MAGICAL ANIMALS
BLAH, BLAH, "...WILL MAKE FOR A HEALTHY MAGICAL PET..."
"...USE RECIPES ONLY FOR MAGICAL PETS..."
BLAH, BLAH...
IDW
MAGIC 101
"SUPER-GROWTH RECIPE" —YES!
SUPER-GROWTH RECIPE
..."GRATE TO A FINE POWDER"...
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
..."LET SIT OVERNIGHT"...


THE NEXT MORNING...
IT'S TIME!
YES! VICTORY!
SORRY!
DON'T BE SCARED!
WE'RE GONNA BE BEST FRIENDS.
NOW, LET'S GET TO WORK!

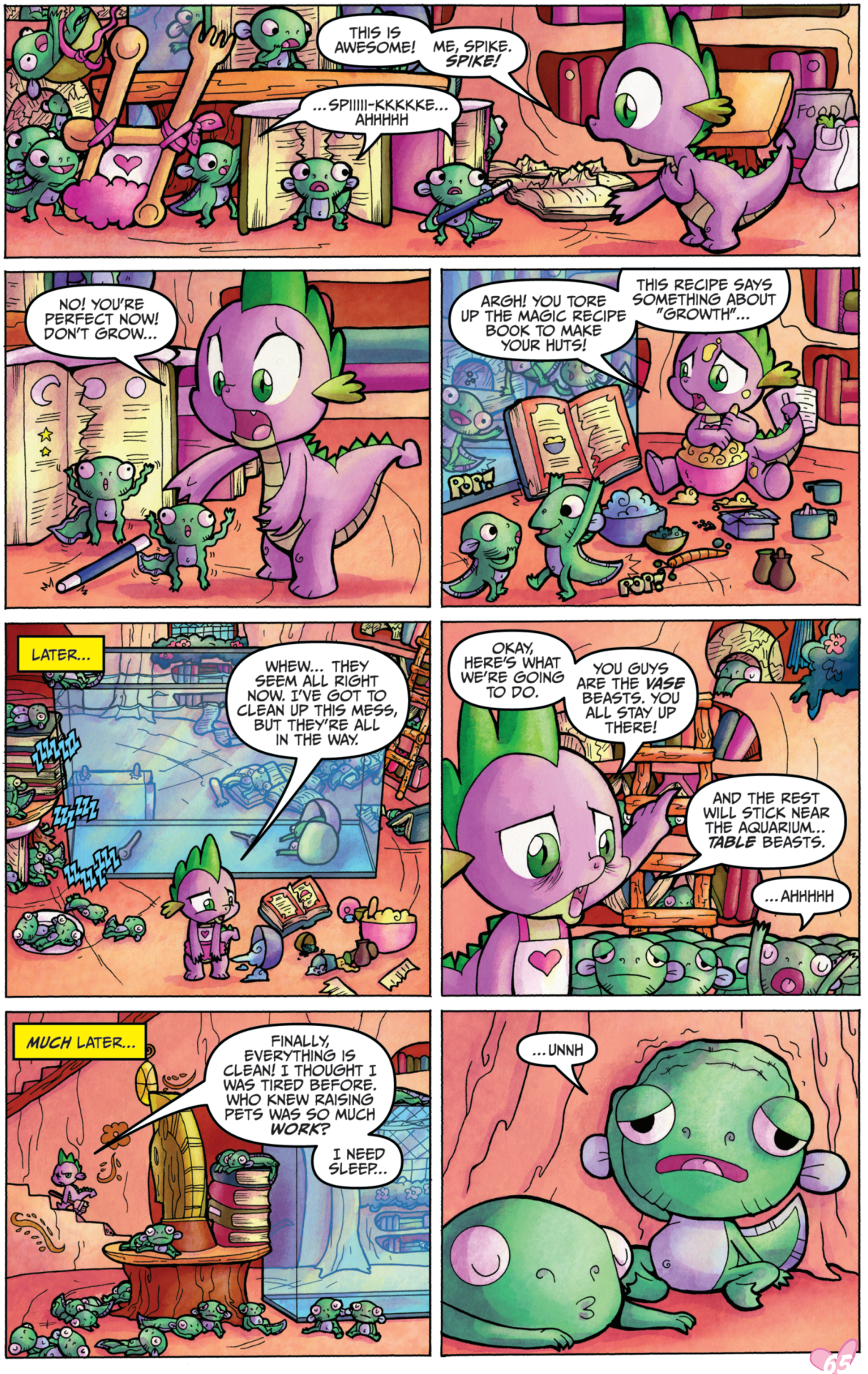

TIME FOR A DRESS REHEARSAL!
TWILIGHT SPARKLE AND FLUTTERSHY ARE GOING TO BE SO IMPRESSED!
TA-DAH!
YES... CIRCLE...
...CIRCLE...
JUMP!
GREAT JOB!
HAVE SOME MORE FOOD!

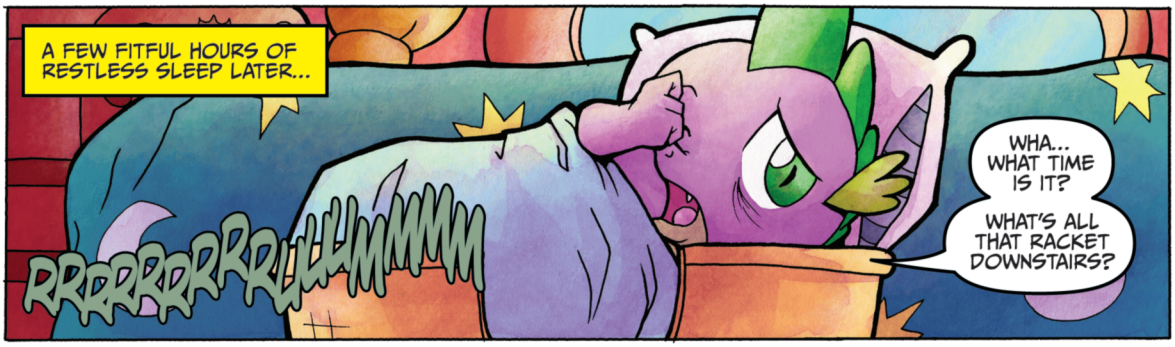

HMMM...
OH, NO! WHAT'S WRONG?
I FED YOU TOO MUCH MAGIC FOOD!
WHAT AM I GOING TO—
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
POP!
WAIT! YOU'RE...
...MULTIPLYING!


NOW I HAVE TWICE AS MANY OF YOU!
GUYS... YOU CAN STOP NOW. I THINK THERE'S ENOUGH OF—
C'MON, C'MON! THERE'S GOT TO BE A MAGICAL RECIPE FOR THIS IN HERE!
HERE WE GO... "FOR POPULATION CONTROL..." BLAH BLAH "...UNINTENDED SIDE EFFECTS..." BLAH BLAH... GOTTA HURRY!
POP!
POP!
POP!
IT'S WORKING!
NO MORE DIVIDING, PLEASE!
I NEED TO GO OUT AND FIND YOU A BIGGER AQUARIUM. I'LL BE BACK SOON!


POP!
POP!
POP!


ONE SHOPPING TRIP LATER...
YOU'RE... AM-FLIB-YOU—
I MEAN... AM-PIB-YOU—
YOU'RE AMPHIBIOUS! AND YOU'RE TALKING!
Zzzzz

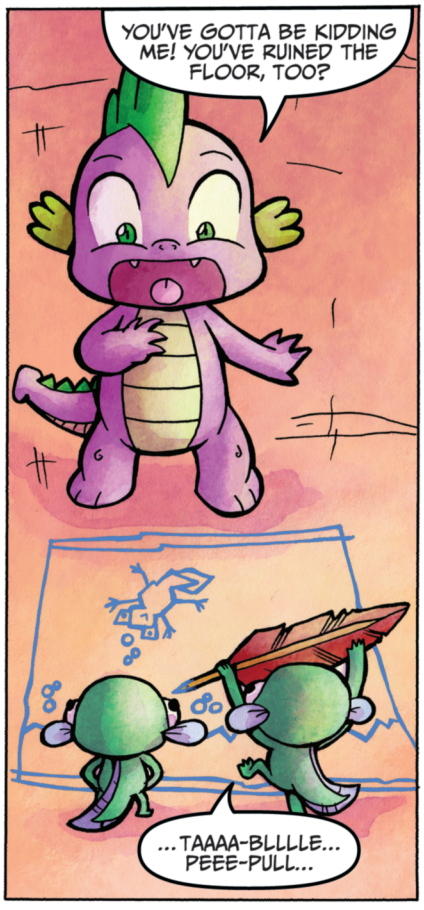

THIS IS AWESOME!
ME, SPIKE. SPIKE!
...SPIIIII-KKKKKE... AHHHHH
NO! YOU'RE PERFECT NOW! DON'T GROW...
ARGH! YOU TORE UP THE MAGIC RECIPE BOOK TO MAKE YOUR HUTS!
THIS RECIPE SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT "GROWTH"...
LATER...
WHEW... THEY SEEM ALL RIGHT NOW. I'VE GOT TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS, BUT THEY'RE ALL IN THE WAY.
OKAY, HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.
YOU GUYS ARE THE VASE BEASTS. YOU ALL STAY UP THERE!
AND THE REST WILL STICK NEAR THE AQUARIUM... TABLE BEASTS.
...AHHHHH
MUCH LATER...
FINALLY, EVERYTHING IS CLEAN! I THOUGHT I WAS TIRED BEFORE. WHO KNEW RAISING PETS WAS SO MUCH WORK?
I NEED SLEEP...
...UNNH

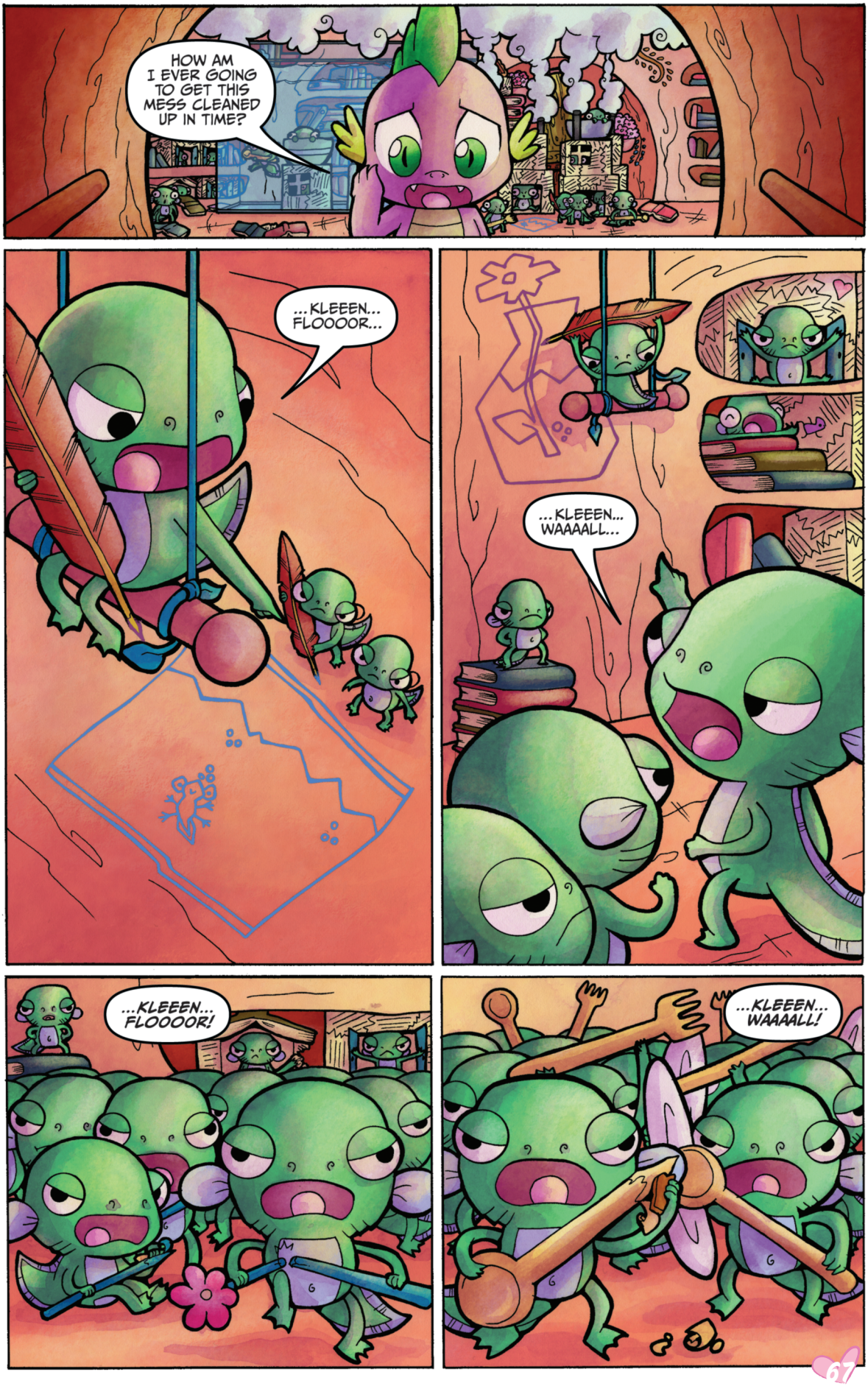

A FEW FITFUL HOURS OF RESTLESS SLEEP LATER...
RRRRRRRRRUUUMMMMM
WHA... WHAT TIME IS IT?
WHAT'S ALL THAT RACKET DOWNSTAIRS?

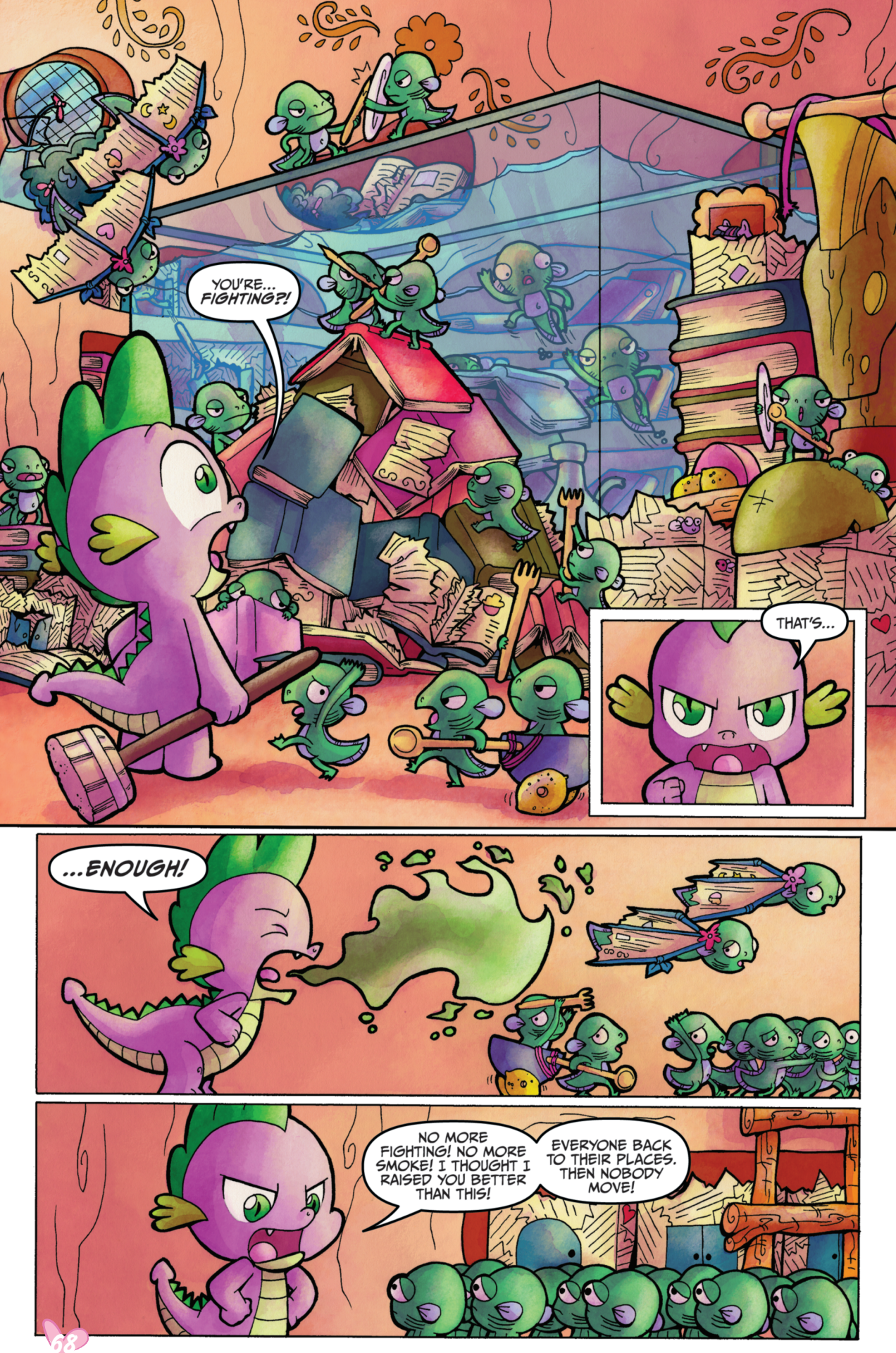


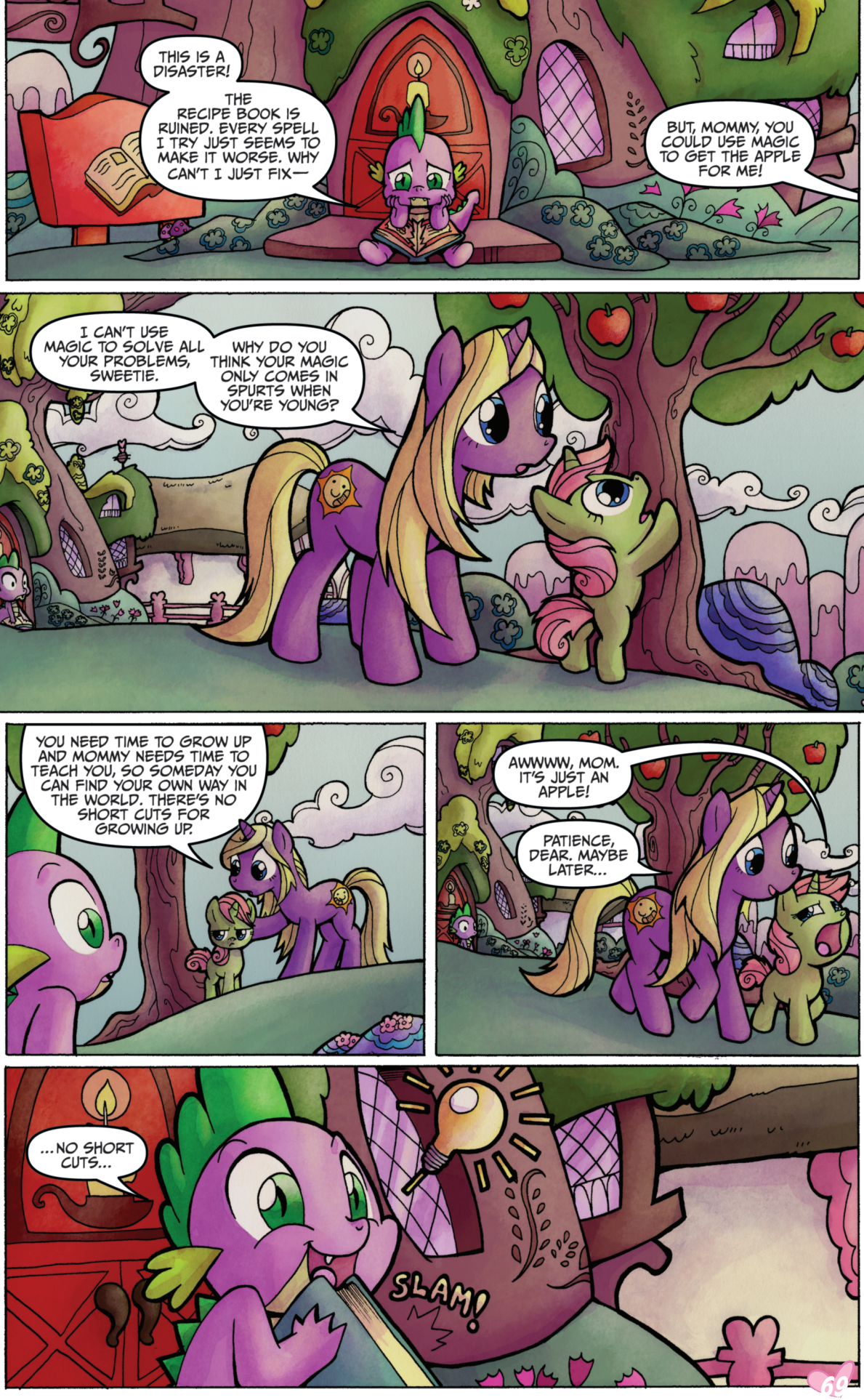

...SPIIII-KKKKKE...

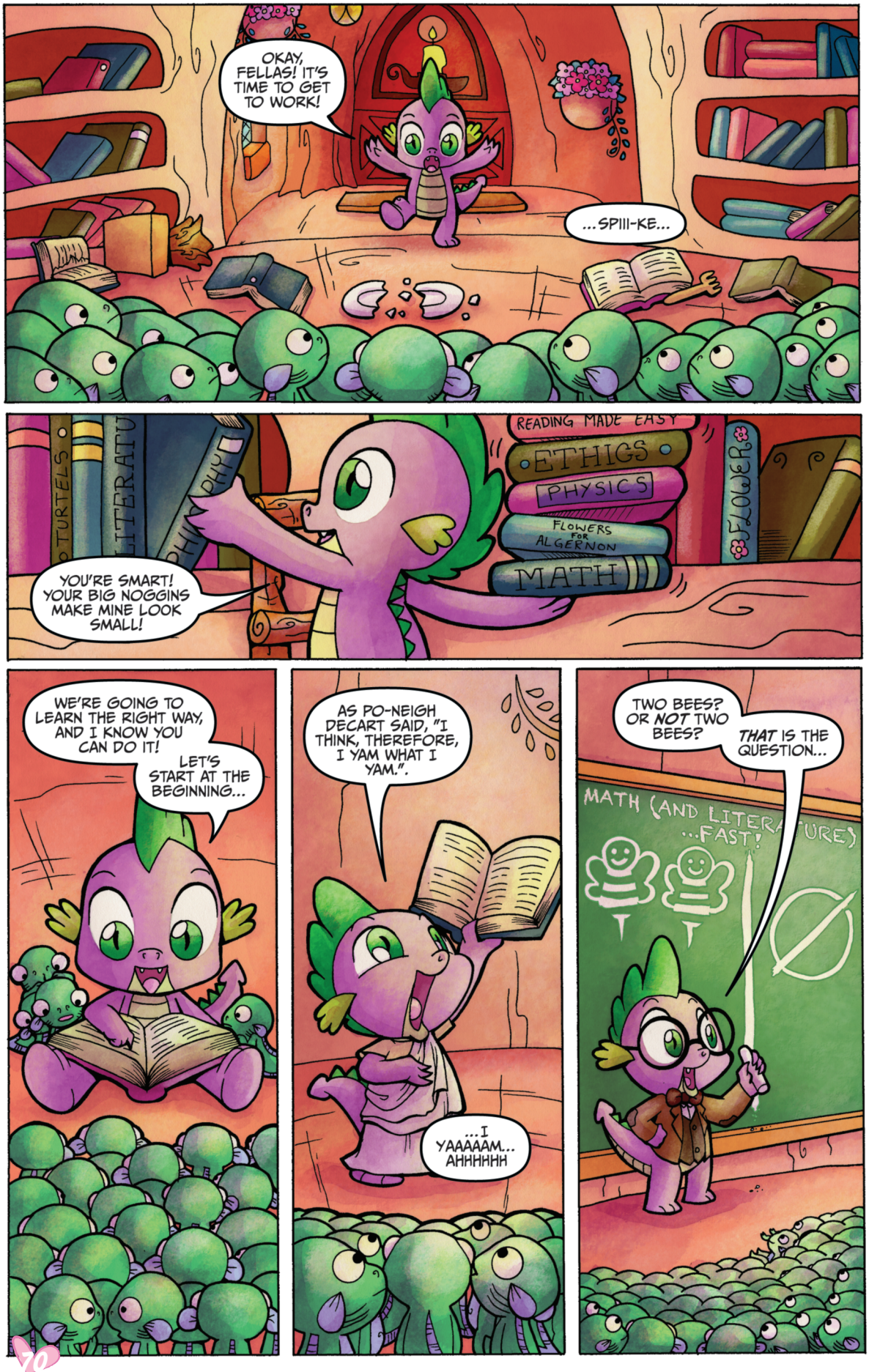

...VAAAA-SSSSSE... PEEE-PULL...
YOU... PAINTED ON THE WALLS?
...SPIIII-KKKKKE...

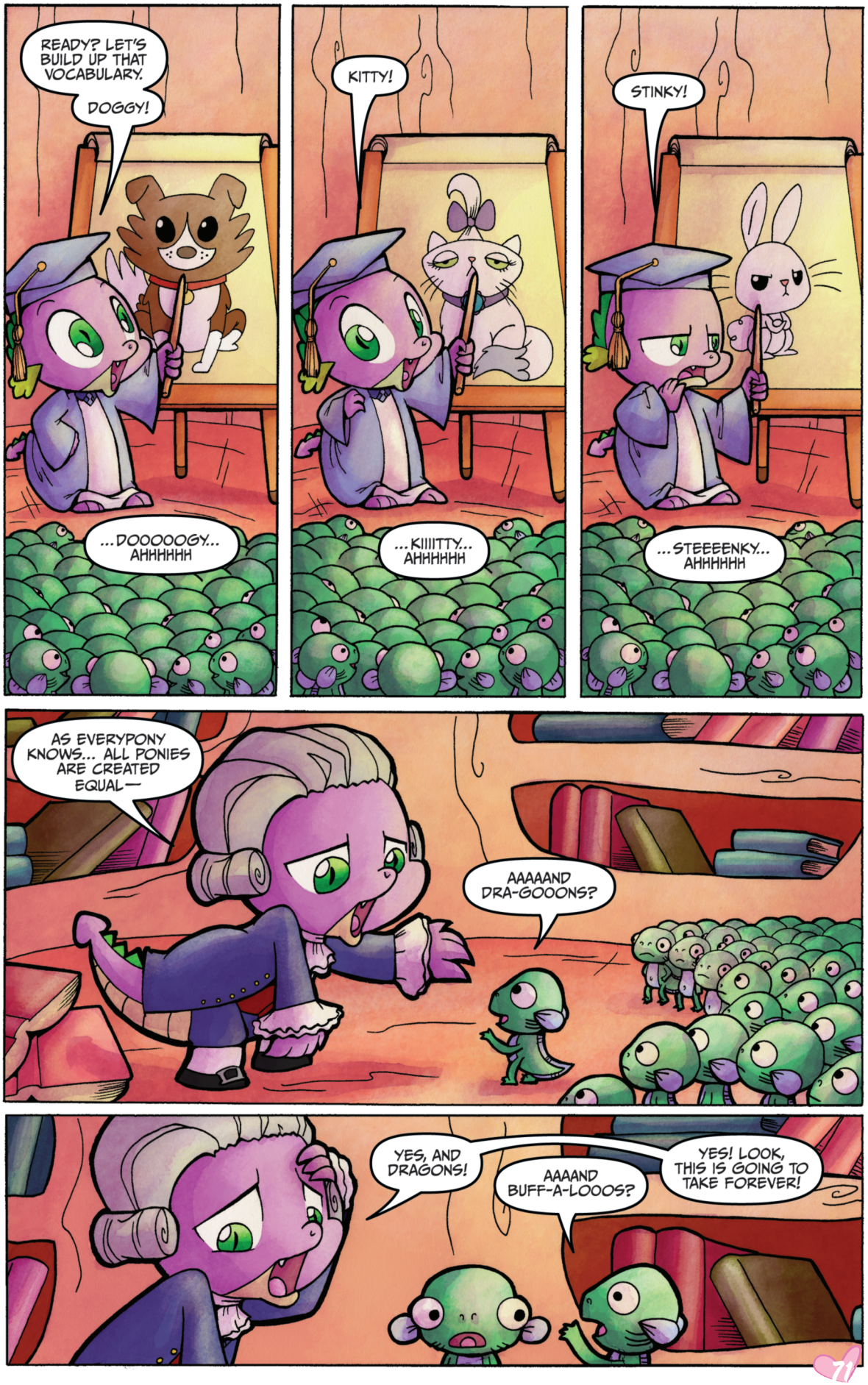

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! YOU'VE RUINED THE FLOOR, TOO?
...TAAAA-BLLLLE... PEEE-PULL...

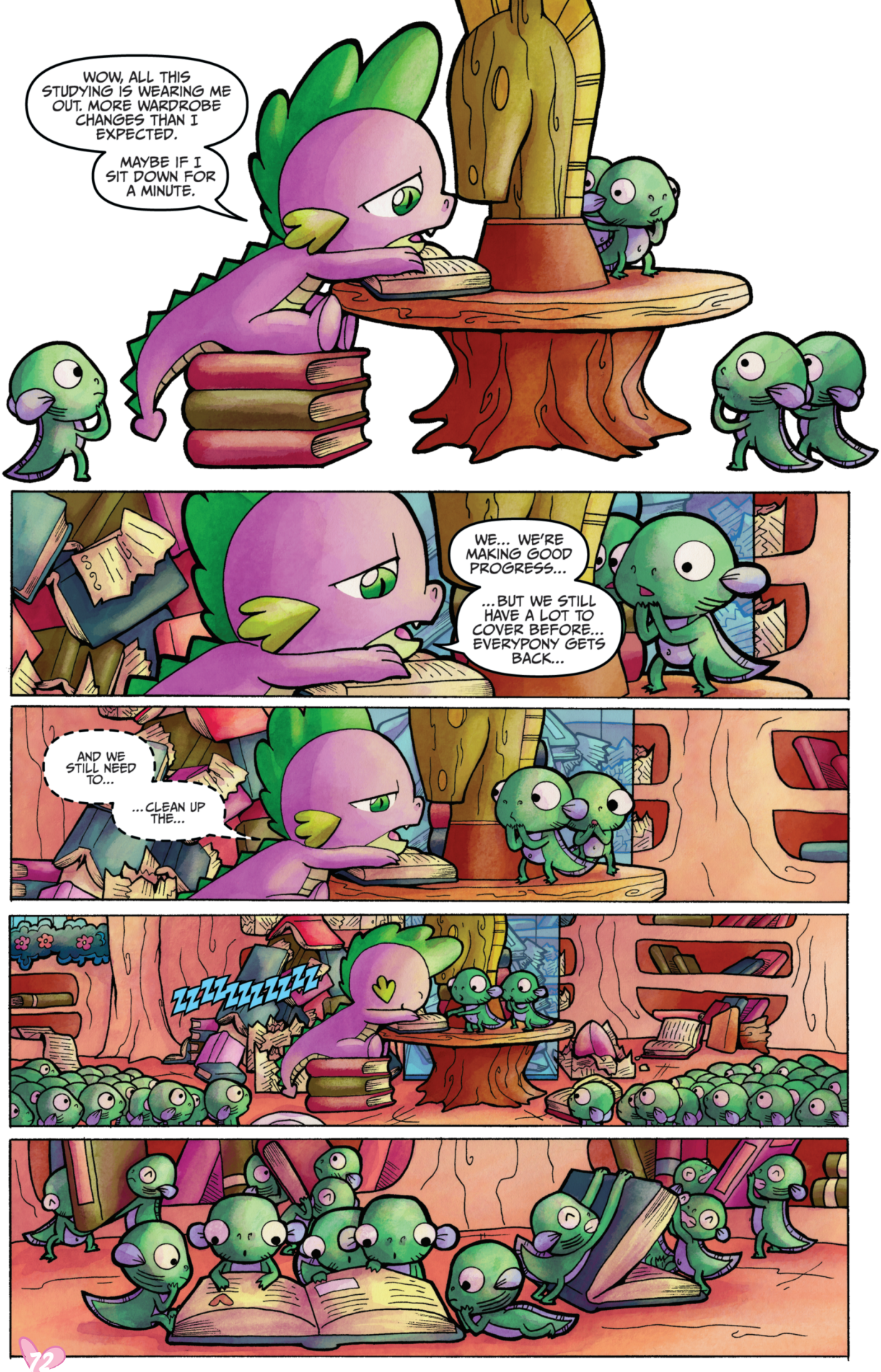

HOW AM I EVER GOING TO GET THIS MESS CLEANED UP IN TIME?
...KLEEEN... FLOOOOR...
...KLEEEN... WAAAALL...
...KLEEEN... FLOOOOR!
...KLEEEN... WAAAALL!

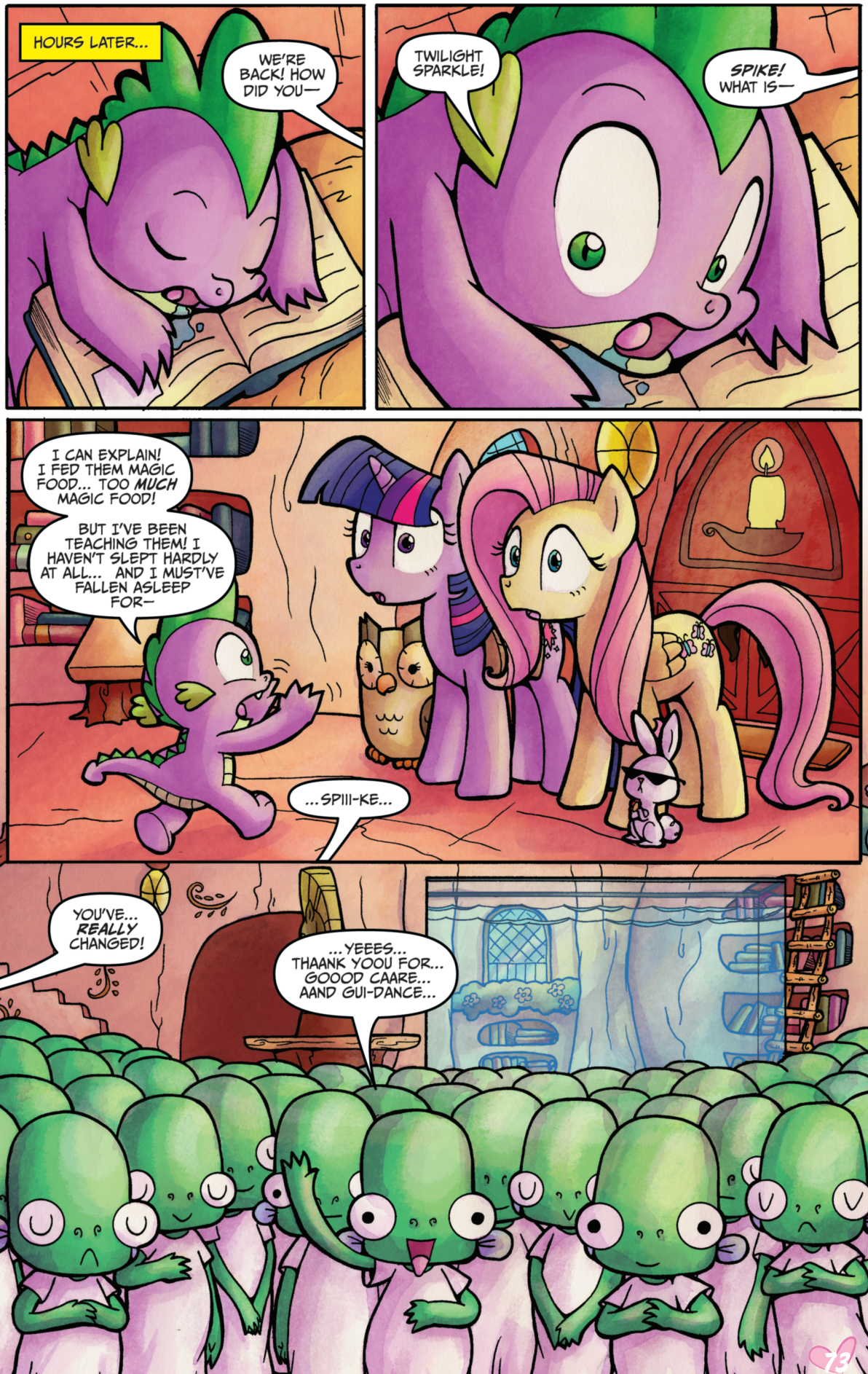

YOU'RE... FIGHTING?!
THAT'S...
...ENOUGH!
NO MORE FIGHTING! NO MORE SMOKE! I THOUGHT I RAISED YOU BETTER THAN THIS!
EVERYONE BACK TO THEIR PLACES. THEN NOBODY MOVE!

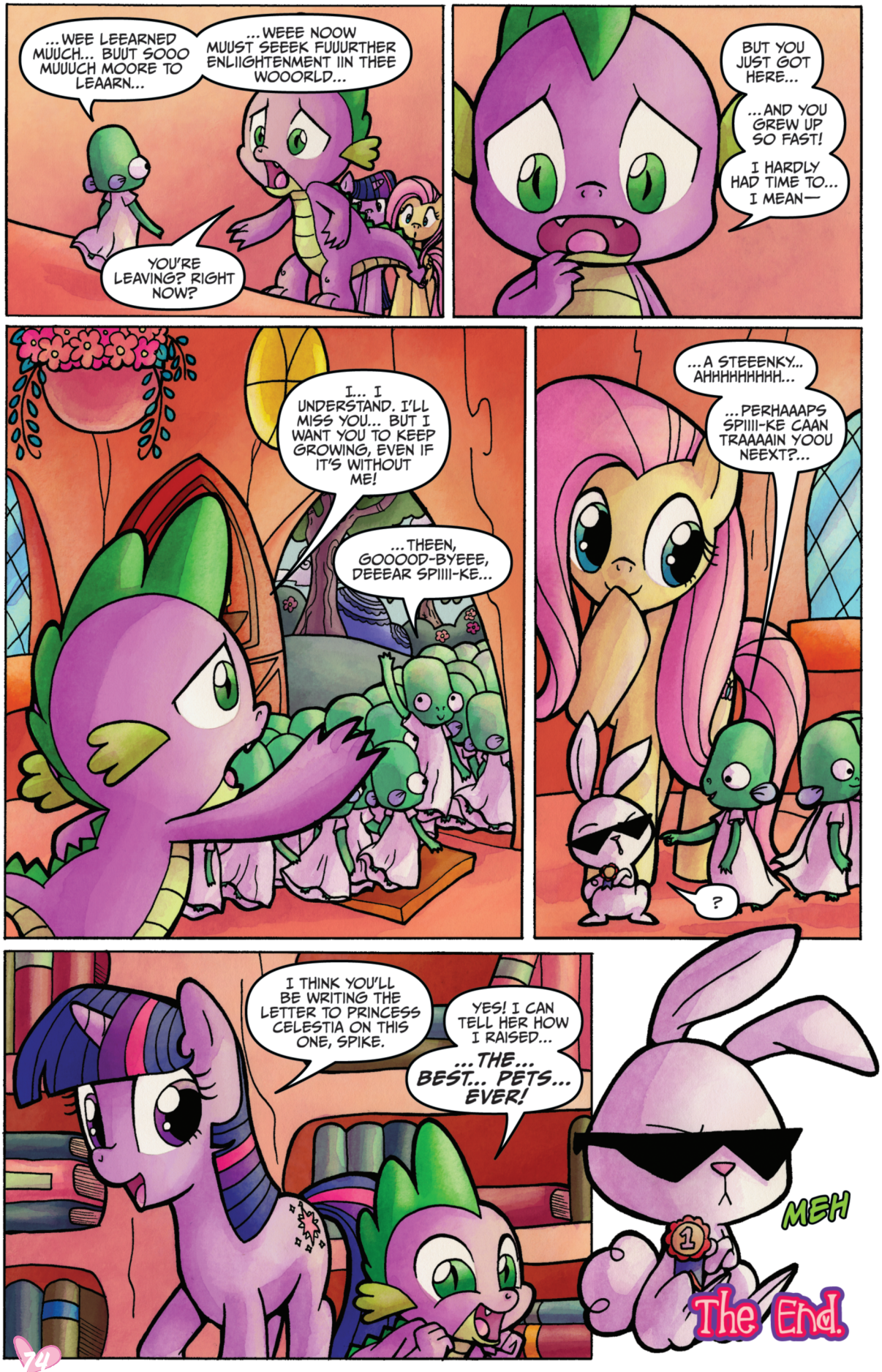

THIS IS A DISASTER!
THE RECIPE BOOK IS RUINED. EVERY SPELL I TRY JUST SEEMS TO MAKE IT WORSE. WHY CAN'T I JUST FIX—
BUT, MOMMY, YOU COULD USE MAGIC TO GET THE APPLE FOR ME!
I CAN'T USE MAGIC TO SOLVE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS, SWEETIE.
WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR MAGIC ONLY COMES IN SPURTS WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG?
YOU NEED TIME TO GROW UP AND MOMMY NEEDS TIME TO TEACH YOU, SO SOMEDAY YOU CAN FIND YOUR OWN WAY IN THE WORLD. THERE'S NO SHORT CUTS FOR GROWING UP.
AWWWW, MOM. IT'S JUST AN APPLE!
PATIENCE, DEAR. MAYBE LATER...
...NO SHORT CUTS...
SLAM!


OKAY, FELLAS! IT'S TIME TO GET TO WORK!
...SPIII-KE...
READING MADE EASY
ETHICS
PHYSICS
FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON
MATH
TURTELS
FLOWERS
YOU'RE SMART! YOUR BIG NOGGINS MAKE MINE LOOK SMALL!
WE'RE GOING TO LEARN THE RIGHT WAY, AND I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!
LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING...
AS PO-NEIGH DECART SAID, "I THINK, THEREFORE, I YAM WHAT I YAM.".
...I YAAAAAM... AHHHHHH
TWO BEES? OR NOT TWO BEES?
THAT IS THE QUESTION...
MATH (AND LITERATURE) ...FAST!


READY? LET'S BUILD UP THAT VOCABULARY.
DOGGY!
...DOOOOOGY... AHHHHHH
KITTY!
...KIIIITTY... AHHHHHH
STINKY!
...STEEEENKY... AHHHHHH
AS EVERYPONY KNOWS... ALL PONIES ARE CREATED EQUAL—
AAAAAND DRA-GOOONS?
YES, AND DRAGONS!
AAAAND BUFF-A-LOOOS?
YES! LOOK, THIS IS GOING TO TAKE FOREVER!


WOW, ALL THIS STUDYING IS WEARING ME OUT. MORE WARDROBE CHANGES THAN I EXPECTED.
MAYBE IF I SIT DOWN FOR A MINUTE.
WE... WE'RE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS...
...BUT WE STILL HAVE A LOT TO COVER BEFORE... EVERYPONY GETS BACK...
AND WE STILL NEED TO...
...CLEAN UP THE...
ZZZZZZZZZZ


HOURS LATER...
WE'RE BACK! HOW DID YOU—
TWILIGHT SPARKLE!
SPIKE! WHAT IS—
I CAN EXPLAIN! I FED THEM MAGIC FOOD... TOO MUCH MAGIC FOOD!
BUT I'VE BEEN TEACHING THEM! I HAVEN'T SLEPT HARDLY AT ALL... AND I MUST'VE FALLEN ASLEEP FOR—
...SPIII-KE...
YOU'VE... REALLY CHANGED!
...YEEES... THAANK YOOU FOR... GOOOD CAARE... AAND GUI-DANCE...


...WEE LEEARNED MUUCH... BUUT SOOO MUUUCH MOORE TO LEAARN...
...WEEE NOOW MUUST SEEEK FUUURTHER ENLIIGHTENMENT IIN THEE WOOORLD...
YOU'RE LEAVING? RIGHT NOW?
BUT YOU JUST GOT HERE...
...AND YOU GREW UP SO FAST!
I HARDLY HAD TIME TO... I MEAN—
I... I UNDERSTAND. I'LL MISS YOU... BUT I WANT YOU TO KEEP GROWING, EVEN IF IT'S WITHOUT ME!
...THEEN, GOOOOD-BYEEE, DEEEAR SPIIII-KE...
...A STEEENKY... AHHHHHHHHH...
...PERHAAAPS SPIIII-KE CAAN TRAAAAIN YOOU NEEXT?...
?
I THINK YOU'LL BE WRITING THE LETTER TO PRINCESS CELESTIA ON THIS ONE, SPIKE.
YES! I CAN TELL HER HOW I RAISED...
...THE... BEST... PETS... EVER!
MEH
The End.

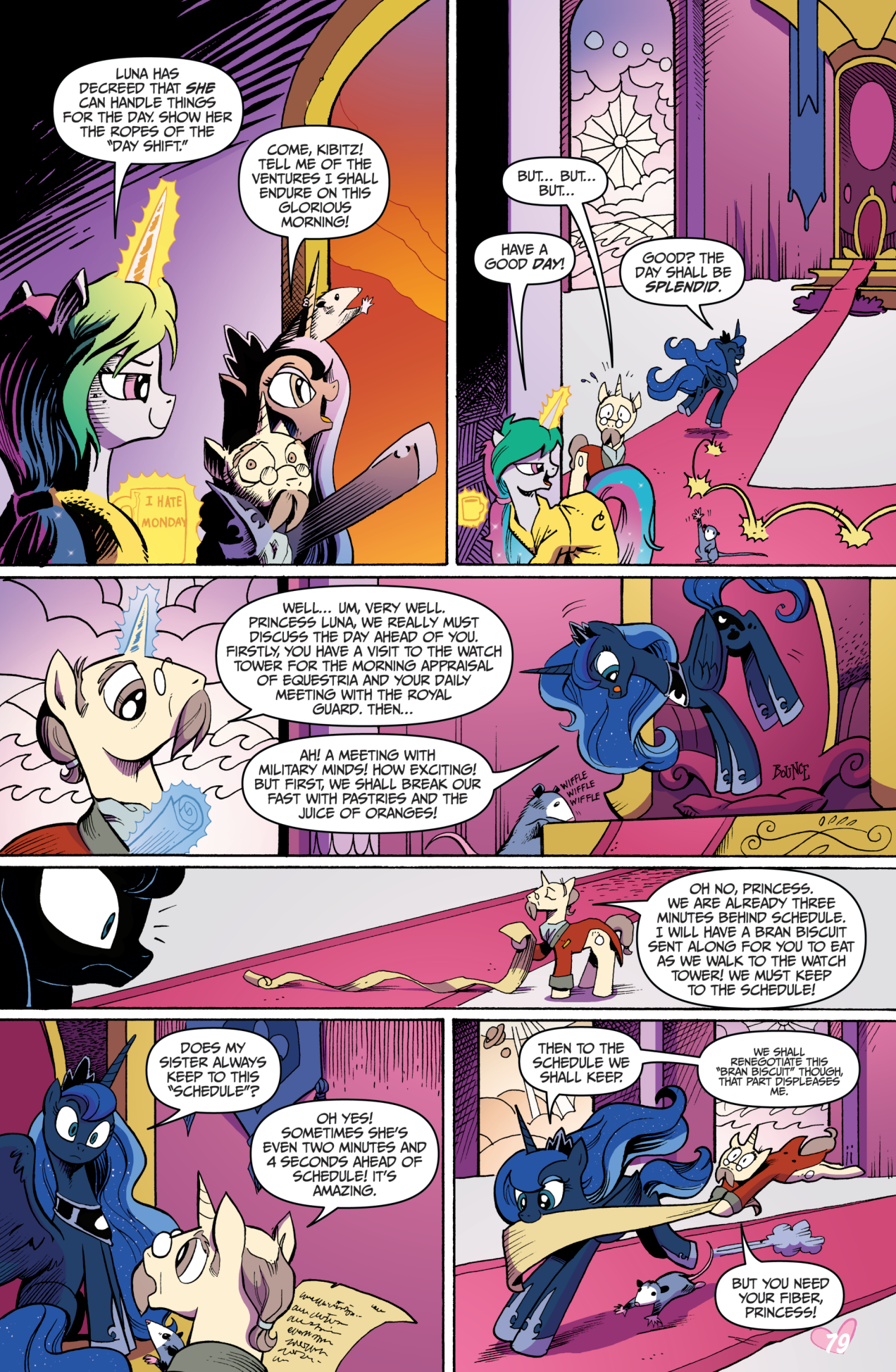


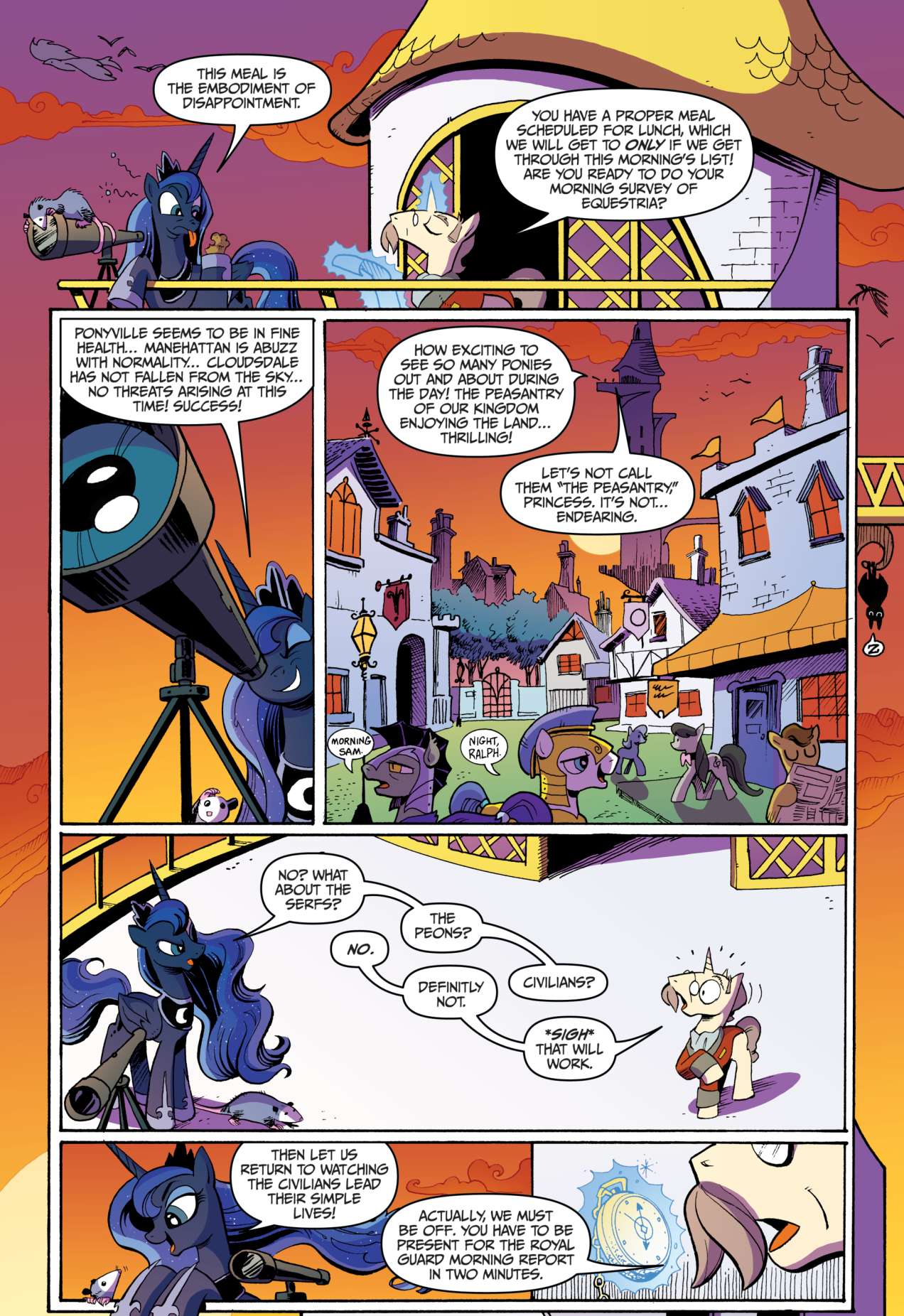
ART BY Agnes Garbowska


Chapter Four
LUNA
ART BY Amy Mebberson


BOBBY CURNOW PRESENTS
WHAT AN EVENTFUL EVENING! AT THE GLOAMING I RAN OFF A MANTICORE IN THE FOREST... THEN MY GUARD AND I SCOURED THE FJORDS FOR OWLBEAR THAT WERE TERRORIZING THE SUBJECTS. DELIGHTFUL!
AH! AND THEN I SAW A FAMILY OF RACCOONS IN A TRASHCAN! ALSO DELIGHTFUL!
IT SOUNDS LIKE QUITE THE NIGHT! I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THE DAY WILL BRING ME. THERE ARE DELEGATES FROM THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE HERE TO GO OVER THE WINTER SNOW DAY FESTIVAL, AS WELL AS A HUNDRED OTHER MEETINGS AND MORE PAPERWORK...
A K & A & H PRODUCTION
THE BUREAUCRATIC CONCERNS OF THE DAY CAN BE NO LESS DISCONCERTING THAN THE EVENTS OF THE NIGHT. TRIVIAL, REALLY.
WELL, I KNOW THAT IT MAY SEEM THAT WAY... BUT SOMETIMES RULING OVER THE DAY IS A BIT OF A CHALLENGE.
I'M SURE I COULD HANDLE BOTH THE NIGHT AND DAY. I FOUGHT THE FACELESS PERILS IN THE DARK. YOU ARE ABOUT TO FIGHT A ROLL OF RED TAPE.
NO, REALLY. I DON'T THINK YOU'D BE PREPARED FOR THE KIND OF DAY I HAVE AHEAD OF ME. IT REALLY IS CHALLENGING TO—
PFFT.
Luna
STARRING IN:
The DAY SHIFT


ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOUR JOB IS HARDER THAN MINE?
WHAT? NO, THEY'RE JUST DIFFERENT...
BECAUSE I AM *QUITE* CAPABLE OF HANDLING *ALL* THE DUTIES EXPECTED OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, DAY OR NIGHT!
...AND I SHALL DO SO *TODAY*.
I KNOW YOU *THINK* THAT, BUT...
I'M TELLING YOU, YOU DON'T WANT TO EVEN *TRY* IT. LEAVE IT.
I... "'TWOULD"? WHAT? *EASY?*
OH, IT CAN'T BE THAT HARD. IT'S ONLY THE DAY, AFTER ALL. 'TWOULD BE *EASY*.
...FINE.
YES! FINE! I SHALL RULE THE DAY FOR... THE DAY! WHAT FUN!
YES... FUN.
THIS IS MY ROYAL SCHEDULING ADVISOR, KIBITZ.
KIBITZ, LUNA WILL BE TAKING OVER MY DUTIES FOR THE DAY.
I HATE MONDAY
GASP! PRINCESS! BUT... BUT... YOU HAVE A *FULL* DAY PLANNED!


LUNA HAS DECREED THAT SHE CAN HANDLE THINGS FOR THE DAY. SHOW HER THE ROPES OF THE "DAY SHIFT."
COME, KIBITZ! TELL ME OF THE VENTURES I SHALL ENDURE ON THIS GLORIOUS MORNING!
I HATE MONDAY
BUT... BUT... BUT...
HAVE A GOOD DAY!
GOOD? THE DAY SHALL BE SPLENDID.
WELL... UM, VERY WELL. PRINCESS LUNA, WE REALLY MUST DISCUSS THE DAY AHEAD OF YOU. FIRSTLY, YOU HAVE A VISIT TO THE WATCH TOWER FOR THE MORNING APPRAISAL OF EQUESTRIA AND YOUR DAILY MEETING WITH THE ROYAL GUARD. THEN...
AH! A MEETING WITH MILITARY MINDS! HOW EXCITING! BUT FIRST, WE SHALL BREAK OUR FAST WITH PASTRIES AND THE JUICE OF ORANGES!
WIFFLE WIFFLE WIFFLE
BOUNCE
OH NO, PRINCESS. WE ARE ALREADY THREE MINUTES BEHIND SCHEDULE. I WILL HAVE A BRAN BISCUIT SENT ALONG FOR YOU TO EAT AS WE WALK TO THE WATCH TOWER! WE MUST KEEP TO THE SCHEDULE!
DOES MY SISTER ALWAYS KEEP TO THIS "SCHEDULE"?
OH YES! SOMETIMES SHE'S EVEN TWO MINUTES AND 4 SECONDS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE! IT'S AMAZING.
THEN TO THE SCHEDULE WE SHALL KEEP.
WE SHALL RENEGOTIATE THIS "BRAN BISCUIT" THOUGH, THAT PART DISPLEASES ME.
BUT YOU NEED YOUR FIBER, PRINCESS!


THIS MEAL IS THE EMBODIMENT OF DISAPPOINTMENT.
YOU HAVE A PROPER MEAL SCHEDULED FOR LUNCH, WHICH WE WILL GET TO *ONLY* IF WE GET THROUGH THIS MORNING'S LIST! ARE YOU READY TO DO YOUR MORNING SURVEY OF EQUESTRIA?
PONYVILLE SEEMS TO BE IN FINE HEALTH... MANEHATTAN IS ABUZZ WITH NORMALITY... CLOUDSDALE HAS NOT FALLEN FROM THE SKY... NO THREATS ARISING AT THIS TIME! SUCCESS!
HOW EXCITING TO SEE SO MANY PONIES OUT AND ABOUT DURING THE DAY! THE PEASANTRY OF OUR KINGDOM ENJOYING THE LAND... THRILLING!
LET'S NOT CALL THEM "THE PEASANTRY," PRINCESS. IT'S NOT... ENDEARING.
MORNING SAM.
NIGHT, RALPH.
NO? WHAT ABOUT THE SERFS?
THE PEONS?
NO.
DEFINITLY NOT.
CIVILIANS?
SIGH THAT WILL WORK.
THEN LET US RETURN TO WATCHING THE CIVILIANS LEAD THEIR SIMPLE LIVES!
ACTUALLY, WE MUST BE OFF. YOU HAVE TO BE PRESENT FOR THE ROYAL GUARD MORNING REPORT IN TWO MINUTES.


AH! THE ROYAL GUARD! ACTION! PERIL! I AWAIT THEIR THRILLING TALES OF THE DAY'S UPCOMING ADVENTURES!
AND THEN, WE ARE ALL GOING TO POLISH OUR ARMOR TO A GLEAMING SHINE! AFTER THAT, WE HAVE AN APPEARANCE AT THE BAKE SALE AT THE FILLY SCHOOL DOWN IN PONYVILLE! I PERSONALLY PLAN ON BUYING SOME LEMON BARS...
WE'RE GOING THROUGH A PEACEFUL SPELL. THE ROYAL GUARD DON'T HAVE MUCH TO DO RIGHT NOW.
12TH PRECINCT
12TH PRECIN
AND THEN, WE'RE GOING TO GO THROUGH THE EVERFREE FOREST ON PATROL. WE THOUGHT WE SAW A MONSTER THERE YESTERDAY!
OH GOODY! DID YOU?!
GOODNESS, NO! IT WAS JUST AN OPOSSUM. IT GAVE FLASH SENTRY OVER THERE QUITE THE START, THOUGH!
IT DID!
YAWN
DO ANY OF YOU HAVE ANYTHING INTERESTING TO REPORT?
PRINCESS! THESE ARE ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES WE NEED TO DISCUSS!
THIS THING ON MY HOOF IS GETTING WORSE. IT'S PRETTY INTERESTING. SHOULD I MENTION THAT?
LLES · DELI · HAY ·


KEEP OUT
CONDEMNED
BY CANTERLOT
CITY WORKS
KNOCK...
KNOCK-
KN-KNOCK
CONDEMNED
WHAT'S THE PASSWORD?
HOOFICURE.
PRINCESS CELESTIA! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE SEEN YOU! WELCOME!
Welcome to
Elite Equine
Spa


I THINK THAT MEETING WITH THE KITCHEN STAFF WENT *VERY* WELL, DON'T YOU?
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER HAD YOU LET ME SAMPLE THE DESSERTS THAT WERE PROFFERED.
NONSENSE! DO YOU *KNOW* HOW MUCH SUGAR IS IN CARROT CAKE? YOUR GLUCOSE LEVELS WILL THANK ME.
?
AND NOW WE HAVE A MEETING WITH THE DELEGATES FROM THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE'S WINTER SNOW DAY COMMITTEE.
I HOPE YOU LIKE SIGNING YOUR NAME OVER AND OVER ON LOTS OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS! I KNOW I DO!
WHAT?
AND, AS YOU CAN SEE, IF WE HOLD THE CEREMONIES AT 4:45 IN THE AFTERNOON *INSTEAD* OF 4:30, WE CAN MAKE SURE *EVERPONY* HAS TIME TO VISIT THE REFRESHMENT STANDS BEFORE THEY SIT DOWN FOR THE SHOW!
MAYBE WE SHOULD EVEN MAKE IT FIVE? PONIES COULD *ALSO* VISIT THE GIFT SHOP!
WHAT AN INSPIRED IDEA!
AND NOW *THIS* ONE IS FOR CANTERLOT'S AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE 348 DOVES FOR RELEASE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY. *THIS* ONE IS AN AGREEMENT THAT THE DOVES COULD ALSO BE IVORY IF A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF EGGSHELL WHITE DOVES CAN'T BE FOUND. AND *THIS* ONE IS *OUR* AGREEMENT TO FEED AND HOUSE THE DOVES UNTIL...
I MUST ADMIT, I'VE NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH SUCH MATTERS.
OH! PAPERWORK IS *MOST* EXCITING! YOUR SISTER JUST *LOVES* IT!
HOW DOES CELESTIA *DO* THIS ALL DAY? SHE MUST HAVE THE PATIENCE OF A ZEBRA.
AH! AND THAT'S THE LAST ONE. GOOD THING, WE'VE GOT TO GO TO THE THRONE ROOM TO HEAR DISPUTES!
DISPUTES?! THAT SOUNDS MARVELOUSLY ENTERTAINING! LET US BE OFF!

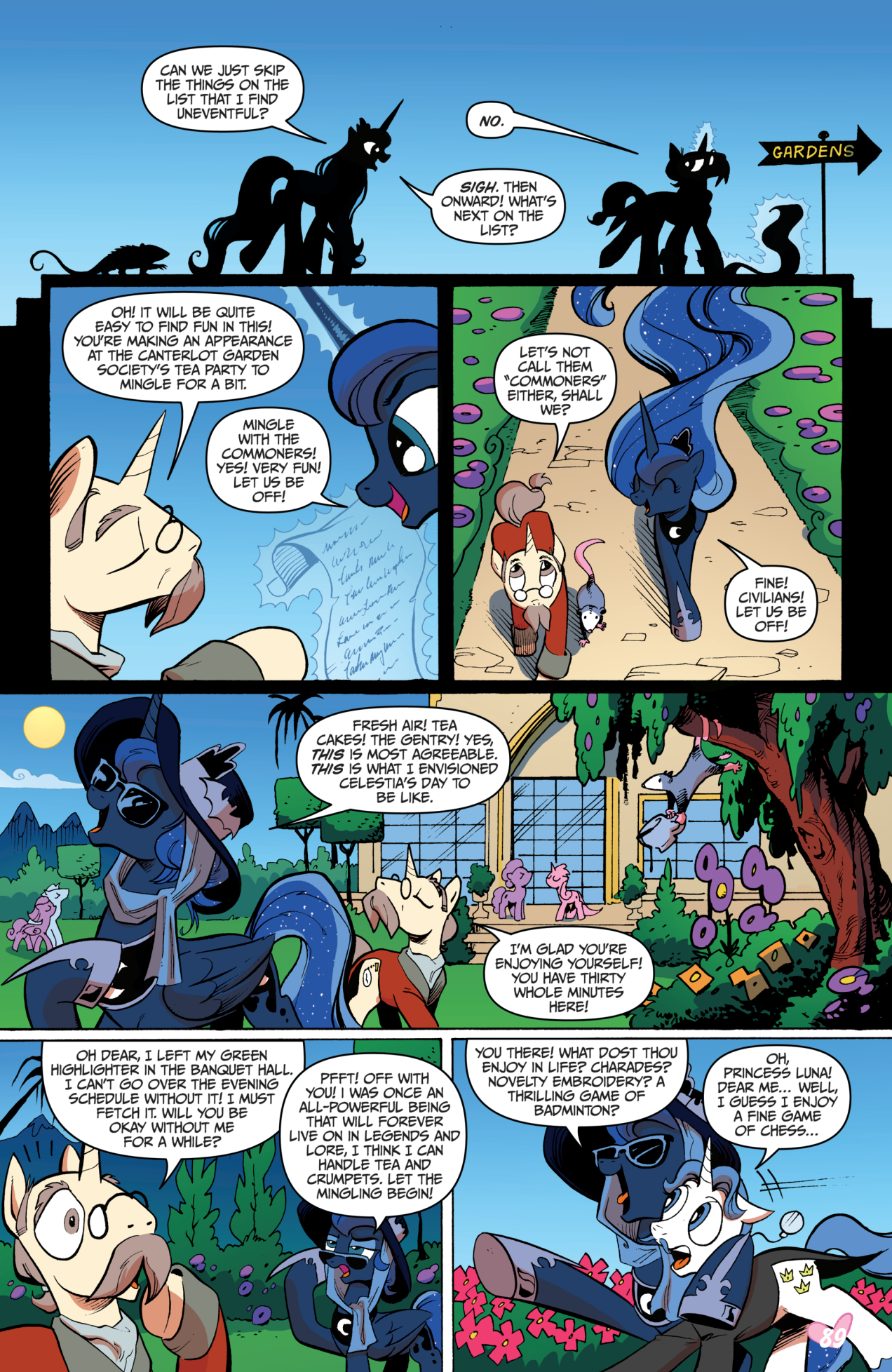

...AND THEN THEY TOOK MY CART!
HEY NOW! WE WON YOUR CART!
FAIR AND SQUARE!
YES... THIS IS MOST INTRIGUING... A GAME OF CHANCE GONE WRONG! SWINDLERS WREAKING HAVOC ON THE POPULOUS!
SWINDLERS IS SUCH A HARSH WORD...
LET US SING YOU ANOTHER SONG ABOUT HOW WE'RE THE INNOCENT PARTY HERE, PRINCESS!
NO NEED FOR DRAMATICS! I HAVE MY DECREE! WE SHALL CUT THE CART IN HALF! BOTH PARTIES SHALL RECEIVE A HALF AND BE HAPPY!
WHAT? NO! THAT'LL RUIN THE CART!
THAT ALL SEEMS WELL AND GOOD, BUT THERE ARE TWO OF US... CAN WE CUT IT INTO THIRDS?
AHA! THAT WAS TRICKERY! THOU WHO IS MOST UPSET ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CART IS THE TRUE OWNER! NEXT!
THOSE PONIES FLEECED ME OUT OF ALL MY FLEECE! MY SHEEP ARE BALD!
HEY NOW! WE WON ALL THAT WOOL!
FAIR AND SQUARE!
WOW... THAT DUDE IS DEEP!
THE SAME REASONING APPLIES! WE SHALL CUT THE SHEEP...
WELL WELL, LOOK AT THE TIME! PRINCESS, IT'S TIME TO GET TO THE REST OF YOUR MORNING. YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO DO!


THE STALLION TWINS WITH THE PROPENSITY TO SING SHALL RETURN ALL GOODS TO THOSE THEY HAVE WRONGED! YOU'RE ALL DISMISSED!
NOW, NOW, FOLKS! DON'T BE THAT WAY!
HOW ABOUT DOUBLE OR NOTHING?
NOW *THAT* IS A ROYAL OBLIGATION. I CAN'T REMEMBER A TIME I'VE HAD SUCH FUN! CAN WE DO THAT AGAIN?
I'M AFRAID NOT, YOU'RE ALL BOOKED UP RIGHT UNTIL SUNSET. THINGS TO DO, PONIES TO SEE!
PITY... THE PETTY SQUABBLES OF THE PEASANTRY WERE A DELIGHT! DO YOU THINK THEY'D COME TO COURT AT NIGHT? I SHOULD LIKE TO PASS MORE JUDGMENTS UPON THEM.
WHAT DID WE DECIDE ON WHEN IT CAME TO THE WORD "PEASANTRY"?
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE'RE ALMOST DONE WITH THE *MORNING* LIST! A FEW MORE THINGS AND THEN WE CAN START IN ON THE AFTERNOON!
...WAIT, IT'S ONLY NINE IN THE MORNING?
ACTUALLY, IT'S 9:07. WE'RE SEVEN MINUTES LATER THAN I'D LIKE TO BE... OH DEAR, PRINCESS CELESTIA WOULD NEVER BE *THIS* FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE. WE MUST MAKE UP THE TIME, WHAT WOULD SHE *DO* IF SHE KNEW WE WERE BEHIND ON OUR DOCKET?
REJOICE?
HMM?
CRISP CRISP CRISP
NOTHING!
GOOD! LET'S GET STARTED ON THIS SECTION I'VE HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE!

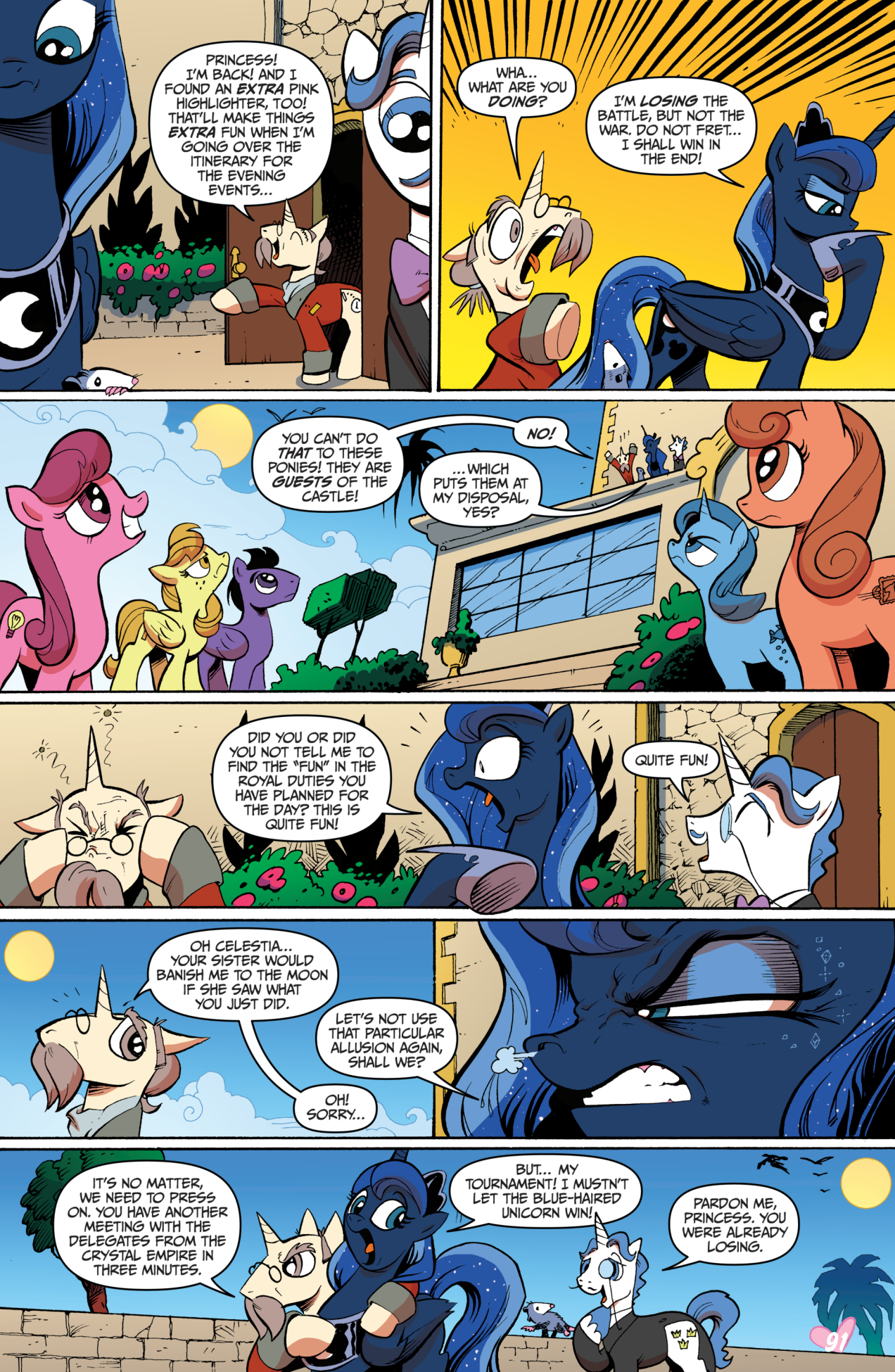

PANCAKE HOUSE
CRACK
CROWN POLISH
10 OZ.
FOOD
GRAND OPENING
COOKIES
CROWNS
WHAT'S HOT FOR FALL?


I'M DEAD ON MY HOOVES! HOW DOES CELESTIA LEAD SUCH A HECTIC LIFE? I'D RATHER TAKE ON A FULLY GROWN OWLBEAR ON MY OWN THAN DO ALL THAT AGAIN. DOES SHE DO THIS EVERY DAY?
SHE DOES INDEED... AND SHE DOES IT WITH BOTH GRACE AND DIGNITY. COME ALONG, LUNCH IS JUST A WALK THROUGH THE ENTIRE CASTLE AWAY! A QUICK JAUNT!
YOU DO REALIZE I'M NORMALLY ASLEEP RIGHT NOW, DON'T YOU?
OH PIFFLE. YOU FELL ASLEEP FOR FOUR WHOLE MINUTES DURING THAT PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD FOR "BEST ATTENDANCE" AT THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH PEP TO GET YOU THROUGH THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON!
WIFFLE WIFFLE WIFFLE...
I CAN HURT YOU.
I'M SURE YOU COULD, BUT IF YOU DO, YOU'LL NEVER GET YOUR LUNCH.
CAN I HAVE CAKE?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT ALL THAT REFINED SUGAR WILL DO TO YOU?
IT WILL MAKE ME MOST HAPPY.
...FINE. JUST DON'T BLAME ME WHEN YOUR CHOLESTEROL SUFFERS.


YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I REALLY EXPERIENCED WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE AWAKE AN ENTIRE DAY.
THE DAY IS SO FULL OF *LIFE*... AND LIFE IS SO... *LIVELY*! IT'S A JUMBLE OF CHAOS AND ACTIVITIES. EVERYPONY'S DAY IS SO FULL AS THEY HUSTLE ABOUT, DOING AS MUCH AS THEY CAN BEFORE THEY SLUMBER. I ONLY SEE THE TAIL END OF THAT AS I TAKE OVER MY WATCH OF THE NIGHT.
THE NIGHT CAN BE SO LEISURELY AND QUIET. EVEN WITH POTENTIAL OF NIGHT TIME CREATURES SKULKING ABOUT AND THE SNARL OF DREAMSCAPES, IT'S STILL SO PEACEFUL.
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT CELESTIA MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT THAT I WAS IN A BIT OVER MY HEAD IN THIS TASK... AND THIS FEELING OF DEFEAT LEAVES ME AGITATED. I DO NOT CARE FOR THIS FEELING.
BUCK UP, PRINCESS. YOU TOLD YOUR SISTER THAT YOU COULD HANDLE ALL THIS... SHE WOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU TRY IF SHE DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD DO IT. I'M SURE SHE'S SKULKING ABOUT THE CASTLE, SMILING FROM THE SHADOWS AT WHAT A GOOD JOB YOU'RE DOING!
WHY... THANK YOU, KIBITZ, THAT WAS MOST REASSURING!
...AND IF YOU *CAN'T* HANDLE IT, I'M SURE YOUR SISTER IS IN THE SHADOWS, READY TO STEP BACK INTO HER DUTIES.
LUXURY YACHTS
THE SWELL OF REASSURANCE HAS BEEN RUPTURED.
JUST TRY TO LOOK FOR THE FUN IN EVERYTHING YOU'RE DOING TODAY! THAT'S WHAT YOUR SISTER DOES! WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS!


CAN WE JUST SKIP THE THINGS ON THE LIST THAT I FIND UNEVENTFUL?
NO.
SIGH. THEN ONWARD! WHAT'S NEXT ON THE LIST?
GARDENS
OH! IT WILL BE QUITE EASY TO FIND FUN IN THIS! YOU'RE MAKING AN APPEARANCE AT THE CANTERLOT GARDEN SOCIETY'S TEA PARTY TO MINGLE FOR A BIT.
MINGLE WITH THE COMMONERS! YES! VERY FUN! LET US BE OFF!
LET'S NOT CALL THEM "COMMONERS" EITHER, SHALL WE?
FINE! CIVILIANS! LET US BE OFF!
FRESH AIR! TEA CAKES! THE GENTRY! YES, THIS IS MOST AGREEABLE. THIS IS WHAT I ENVISIONED CELESTIA'S DAY TO BE LIKE.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF! YOU HAVE THIRTY WHOLE MINUTES HERE!
OH DEAR, I LEFT MY GREEN HIGHLIGHTER IN THE BANQUET HALL. I CAN'T GO OVER THE EVENING SCHEDULE WITHOUT IT! I MUST FETCH IT. WILL YOU BE OKAY WITHOUT ME FOR A WHILE?
PFFT! OFF WITH YOU! I WAS ONCE AN ALL-POWERFUL BEING THAT WILL FOREVER LIVE ON IN LEGENDS AND LORE, I THINK I CAN HANDLE TEA AND CRUMPETS. LET THE MINGLING BEGIN!
YOU THERE! WHAT DOST THOU ENJOY IN LIFE? CHARADES? NOVELTY EMBROIDERY? A THRILLING GAME OF BADMINTON?
OH, PRINCESS LUNA! DEAR ME... WELL, I GUESS I ENJOY A FINE GAME OF CHESS...


CHESS?! I ENJOY CHESS GREATLY! I WHILED MANY A BANISHED HOUR AWAY ON THE MOON PLAYING CHESS! WE SHALL PLAY... NOW! IT WILL BE DELIGHTFUL!
AH... ISN'T THAT LOVELY? BUT, YOU SEE... I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A CHESS BOARD ON ME...
?
IT IS OF NO CONCERN. WE SHALL MAKE DO.
MY ROOK AT A1 TAKES YOUR KNIGHT AT A6! A FOOLISH MOVE TO LEAVE IT SO OPEN, NICELY COIFFED CITIZEN!
AH! BUT NOW MY ROOK MAY TAKE YOURS, PRINCESS! A8 TO A6!
THAT MOVE DISPLEASED ME.
!


PRINCESS! I'M BACK! AND I FOUND AN EXTRA PINK HIGHLIGHTER, TOO! THAT'LL MAKE THINGS EXTRA FUN WHEN I'M GOING OVER THE ITINERARY FOR THE EVENING EVENTS...
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M LOSING THE BATTLE, BUT NOT THE WAR. DO NOT FRET... I SHALL WIN IN THE END!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO THESE PONIES! THEY ARE GUESTS OF THE CASTLE!
NO!
...WHICH PUTS THEM AT MY DISPOSAL, YES?
DID YOU OR DID YOU NOT TELL ME TO FIND THE "FUN" IN THE ROYAL DUTIES YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR THE DAY? THIS IS QUITE FUN!
QUITE FUN!
OH CELESTIA... YOUR SISTER WOULD BANISH ME TO THE MOON IF SHE SAW WHAT YOU JUST DID.
LET'S NOT USE THAT PARTICULAR ALLUSION AGAIN, SHALL WE?
OH! SORRY...
IT'S NO MATTER, WE NEED TO PRESS ON. YOU HAVE ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE DELEGATES FROM THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE IN THREE MINUTES.
BUT... MY TOURNAMENT! I MUSTN'T LET THE BLUE-HAIRED UNICORN WIN!
PARDON ME, PRINCESS. YOU WERE ALREADY LOSING.


WE SHALL HAVE THIS OUT, FANCY PONY! WE ARE NOT DONE!
DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN MOVE NOW?
NO... I THINK WE SHOULD ALL WAIT UNTIL SHE COMES BACK.
YES! AWAIT MY RETURN. WE WILL FINISH THIS.

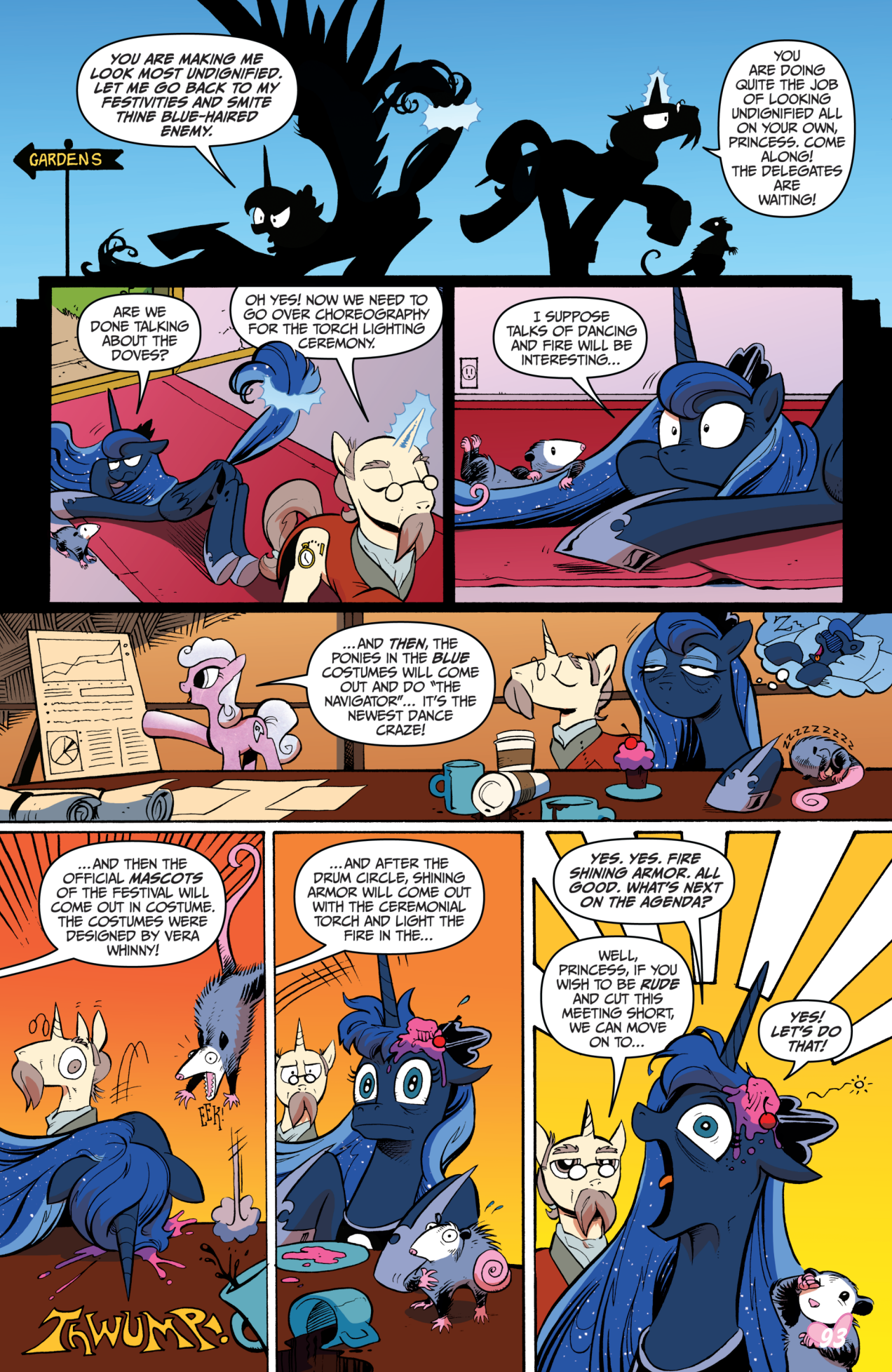
MEANWHILE

THANK YOU SO MUCH, EVERYPONY. I CAN'T REMEMBER A TIME WHEN I'VE FELT SO WONDERFULLY RELAXED.
NO, THANK *YOU!* IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE, PRINCESS. DON'T WAIT SO LONG TO COME SEE US NEXT TIME!


I CAN ONLY HOPE I CAN SNEAK IN ANOTHER DAY LIKE THIS SOON. IT WAS LOVELY.


THOUGH, I SHOULD GET BACK TO THE CASTLE TO SEE HOW LUNA IS DOING. SHE MUST BE EXHAUSTED.
CHOCOLATE-COVERED STRAWBERRIES AND SPARKLING MINERAL WATER BEFORE YOU GO?


YOU KNOW, I BET LUNA'S DOING MARVELOUSLY! KIBITZ IS A WORKHORSE. HE'LL MAKE SURE EVERYTHING GETS DONE!


YOU ARE MAKING ME LOOK MOST UNDIGNIFIED. LET ME GO BACK TO MY FESTIVITIES AND SMITE THINE BLUE-HAIRED ENEMY.
GARDENS
YOU ARE DOING QUITE THE JOB OF LOOKING UNDIGNIFIED ALL ON YOUR OWN, PRINCESS. COME ALONG! THE DELEGATES ARE WAITING!
ARE WE DONE TALKING ABOUT THE DOVES?
OH YES! NOW WE NEED TO GO OVER CHOREOGRAPHY FOR THE TORCH LIGHTING CEREMONY.
I SUPPOSE TALKS OF DANCING AND FIRE WILL BE INTERESTING...
...AND *THEN*, THE PONIES IN THE *BLUE* COSTUMES WILL COME OUT AND DO "THE NAVIGATOR"... IT'S THE NEWEST DANCE CRAZE!
Zzz
NZZZZZZZZ
...AND THEN THE OFFICIAL *MASCOTS* OF THE FESTIVAL WILL COME OUT IN COSTUME. THE COSTUMES WERE DESIGNED BY VERA WHINNY!
EEK!
THWUMP!
...AND AFTER THE DRUM CIRCLE, SHINING ARMOR WILL COME OUT WITH THE CEREMONIAL TORCH AND LIGHT THE FIRE IN THE...
YES. YES. FIRE SHINING ARMOR. ALL GOOD. WHAT'S NEXT ON THE AGENDA?
WELL, PRINCESS, IF YOU WISH TO BE *RUDE* AND CUT THIS MEETING SHORT, WE CAN MOVE ON TO...
YES! LET'S DO THAT!


OH, NO, PRINCESS! WE ARRANGED FOR A FULLY CHOREOGRAPHED DEMONSTRATION OF THE OPENING CEREMONIES FOR YOU TO REVIEW...
YES. THOSE THINGS. I MUST GO DO... THOSE THINGS. WAIT, I HAVE TO DO WHAT?
THAT WON'T DO. SHE HAS ANOTHER DIRIGIBLE TO CHRISTEN, SHE MUST MAKE A FIVE-MINUTE APPEARANCE AT THE WONDERBOLT'S DERBY TO PRESENT AN AWARD, A DRESS FITTING TO ATTEND, AND SHE'S JUDGING THE CANTERLOT FLOWER SHOW ALL BEFORE DINNER.
OH MY. WELL, THAT IS A PICKLE. SHE MUST APPROVE THE OPENING CEREMONIES.
THEY'RE APPROVED.
OH, PRINCESS! YOU CAN'T APPROVE THINGS WITHOUT REVIEW, THAT'S JUST SILLY!
1701
SUNSHINE CAB
CIDER
RODEO
EXOTIC FRUITS AND OATS
HOW'S MY HAULING
SECURITY
FIREWORKS
PUBLIC ENEMY
-NO PARKING-
CLUB CRAZY HORSE
FLEA CIRCUS
LIONS & TIGERS & BEARS ...YOU KNOW THE REST
GAMES OF CHANCE
GAMES OF SKILL
OBSERVATORY


I KNOW! LET'S JUST DO ALL OF THOSE THINGS AT ONCE. MUCH MORE EFFICIENT THAT WAY, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHAT.
SPLENDID IDEA! I BET CELESTIA HERSELF WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN THOUGHT OF IT!
BRING IT ALL IN!
CAKES
POPCORN
APPLES
SNOW CONES
COSTUME BALL
FASHIONS BY
BLAME MY SISTER
COMICS
CIDER
Flower Delivery
The AMAZING SEA SHOW
FEATURING BRUCE THE SHARK
Paust's
TRAVELING CIRCUS


TWITCH
LOOK AT ALL THE TIME WE'RE SAVING!
TOSS
THAT WAS MY GRANDPONY'S!
ENOUGH! SILENCE, SUBORDINATES.
I DON'T THINK "SUBORDINATES" WAS CALLED FOR.


I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS... THIS PANDEMONIUM. WE ARE IN A SITUATION... AND WE WILL BE DEALING WITH IT MY WAY.
...BUT THE LIST!
THAT IS HAND-MADE SADDLE ARABIAN PARCHMENT!
FLOOMP
Sigh...
CITIZENS! COME FORTH AND LET ME BESTOW WHATEVER AGREEMENTS, ENDOWMENTS, GIFTS, BLAH BLAH BLAH YOU ARE HERE FOR. COME ALONG! FORM A LINE!
FOR DEFENDING PONYVILLE FROM RAMPANT FIREWORKS
SHE'S HANDLING ALL THAT RATHER WELL, ISN'T SHE?


SHE IS. IT WASN'T VERY NICE OF YOU TO PILE ALL THAT ON HER AT ONCE, YOU KNOW.
NONSENSE. SHE WAS CLEARLY READY FOR SOME ADVANCED SCHEDULING.
CELESTIA! THANK *GOODNESS* YOU'RE BACK...
KIBITZ HERE WAS JUST TELLING ME WHAT A WONDERFUL JOB YOU DID TODAY! THANK YOU SO MUCH.
YOU'RE QUITE WELCOME... BUT, I MUST ADMIT...
I HAD NO IDEA YOUR DAILY ROUTINE WAS SO DIFFICULT! IT IS MOST UNPLEASANT. TAKE BACK YOUR DUTIES AT ONCE. I BEG OF YOU. GIVE ME BACK MY QUIET EVENINGS OF PROWLING FOR BEASTLY CREATURES AND DREAMINGS OF ZIHUATANEJO.
YOU ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF RULING ANY TIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT... IF YOU EVER HAVE THE INCLINATION TO DO MY JOB AGAIN, YOU JUST LET ME KNOW.
GAH!
I THINK YOU MAY HAVE THE DAY BACK FOR A TIME, I AM PERFECTLY HAPPY WITH THE NIGHT.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT. WELL! IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY. I'M OFF TO BED! GOODNIGHT EVERYPONY.
HEY...
COME BACK HERE! I WANT TO GO TO BED TOO!
...WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO GET YOU SOME TEA?
THIS TEA IS COLD.
DO YOU THINK SHE'LL EVER COME BACK?
The End!!
THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS FROM ALL THE CREATORS OF THE MICRO SERIES!


I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING!
I'LL BET I COULD FLY!
I'M SWITCHING YOU TO DECAF!
JAVA
ART BY Andy Price


THE PREVIOUS NIGHT...
THAT MANTICORE WAS A DELIGHT! WHAT A ROUSING BOUT OF HOOFTICUFFS.
YES PRINCESS... ROUSING
WE SHOULD ENJOY MORE OF SUCH FRIVOLITY.
Luna Gets a Pet
by Katie Cook


TAP TAP TAP...
HMM... PERHAPS I SHOULD ADOPT SUCH A FELLOW CREATURE OF THE NIGHT AS A BELOVED COMPANION...


YOINK
I'M OFF TO HUNT THE NIGHT WOODS FOR MY PERFECT ANIMAL COMRADE...
...ONE, THAT IF A FIGURE OF ACTION WAS TO BE MADE OF ME, COULD BE SOLD AS AN ADORING ACCOMPANIMENT THAT HOLDS AN ACCESSORY FOR MY BRUSHABLE MANE.


MY SPIDEY SENSE IS TINGLING...
OH! THAT'S WHY!
JIM
BUNJA!

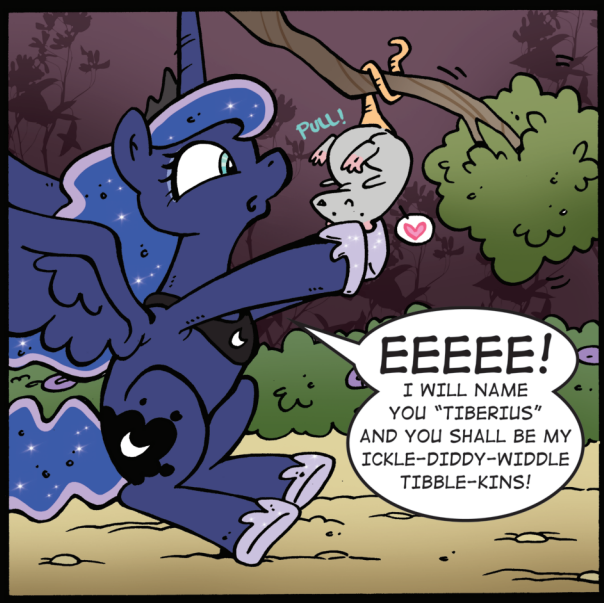

I'M OFF TO FIND... A PET!


OH! AN OWLBEAR! TEMPTING AS A FRIEND YOU MAY BE, I FEAR COPYRIGHT ISSUES.


BATS... TOO EXPECTED.
Jason!
CHIRP!
A CRICKET... TOO BORING.
SQUISH
CHIRP!
CHIRP!


AN OWL... BEEN DONE.
A SKUNK... TOO PUNGENT.
A MOLE... TOO VISUALLY IMPAIRED TO ENJOY MY VISAGE
HELP!


HMM...


PULL!
EEEEE!
I WILL NAME YOU "TIBERIUS" AND YOU SHALL BE MY ICKLE-DIDDY-WIDDLE TIBBLE-KINS!


COME TIBBLES! IT IS ALMOST THE DAWN AND OUR DAY IS NEARLY DONE!
NO IT ISN'T...



ART BY Sara Richard


ART BY Sara Richard



ART BY Sara Richard

my LITTLE PONY™





Four individual tales highlighting some of the Pony's favorite friends–the Cutie Mark Crusaders, Princess Celestia, Spike, and Princess Luna.





IDW