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40

MY LITTLE PONY

1983



40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



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40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

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PONYVILLE IS IN TROUBLE!



OH NO!
WHAT CAN WE DO?



I DO NOT KNOW, BLUE BELLE. THE WORLD IS GOING TO END.



DOES IT HAVE TO END NOW?

I WAS HOPING I COULD TAKE A NAP.



I LOVE TO NAP, TOO, SNUZZLE, BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME.

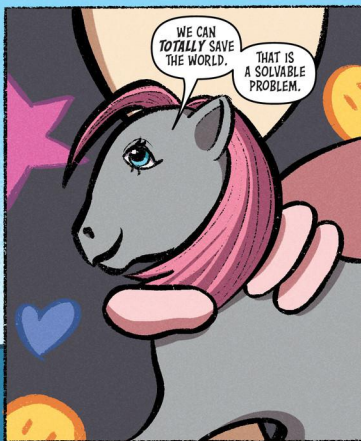
BUTTERSCOTCH JUST SAID THE WORLD IS ENDING!



THAT SEEMS LIKE A REALLY BIG PROBLEM FOR PONIES.

CAN'T WE HAVE A SMALLER PROBLEM?





WE CAN
TOTALLY SAVE
THE WORLD.

THAT IS
A SOLVABLE
PROBLEM.

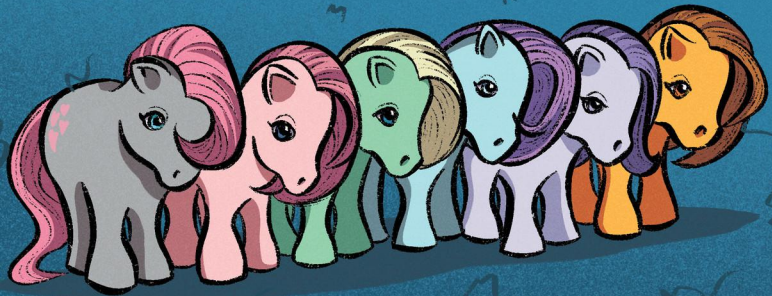


BECAUSE
TOGETHER...

1984.



...THERE'S
NOTHING THE PONIES
CAN'T DO!



BUTTERSCOTCH.



MELANIE'S PONY! SHE'S SUPER GREAT AT SPORTS LIKE RUNNING AND JUMPING. I PERSONALLY AM TERRIBLE AT THOSE THINGS.

BLUE BELLE.



SHE BELONGS TO KELLY, AND SHE'S A FOREST PONY. SHE LOVES TO GO WANDERING THROUGH THE WOODS TO FIND PRETTY FLOWERS!

MINTY.



THIS ONE'S TIFFANY'S. SHE LIKES TO SNOOZE IN MINT PLANTS ALL DAY. THAT SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD, IF YOU ASK ME.

SNUZZLE.



I SNUZZLE WITH HER EVERY NIGHT! SHE ALWAYS KNOWS IF YOU'RE LONELY AND WILL CHEER YOU UP.

COTTON CANDY.



SHE'S OBSESSED WITH SWEETS AND SWEET TREATS. THIS JUST MAKES SENSE TO ME.

SHE'S TIFFANY'S, TOO!

BLOSSOM.



THIS IS MY OTHER PONY, AND SHE LOVES TO GROW FLOWERS! I AM TRYING TO LEARN HOW TO GARDEN FOR HER.

THERE'S MELANIE!

SHE'S ALMOST ALWAYS AT DANCE CLASS OR GYMNASTICS WHEN SHE'S NOT HANGING OUT WITH US, AND I LOVE TO PLAY WITH ALL HER COSTUMES.



THAT'S KELLY.

SHE'S SO CONFIDENT AND COOL. EVERYONE LIKES HER, AND SHE HAS THE BEST FASHIONS. WE LOVE TO GO TO THE MALL TOGETHER.



THEN THERE'S TIFFANY.

SHE'S SOOO SMART. SHE READS SO MANY BOOKS AND IS ALSO AMAZING AT MATH. SOMETIMES SHE HELPS ME WITH MY HOMEWORK.



AND THAT'S ME! I'M JULIE.

YOU'D HAVE TO ASK MY FRIENDS ABOUT WHAT I'M LIKE, I GUESS, BUT MY MOMS ARE REALLY COOL, AND SO WE ALWAYS HANG OUT AT MY HOUSE WHEN WE PLAY.



THIS REALLY HAS BEEN THE BEST SUMMER EVER.

I JUST THOUGHT, YOU KNOW, SAVING THE WORLD WOULD BE COOL.

IT IS COOL!

IT'S JUST SO MUCH.

IT'S OUR LAST SUMMER BEFORE MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND WE'VE MOSTLY BEEN HANGING OUT IN MY BASEMENT PLAYING WITH OUR NEW PONIES, UNTIL IT'S--

GIRLS! TIME TO GO!





An isometric illustration of a farm. In the upper right, a red barn with a dark roof sits on a dirt area. To its left, a fenced-in area contains stacks of hay. A winding grey road curves from the bottom left towards the barn. In the foreground, a brown minivan is driving on a dark road that curves away from the farm. The background is filled with green trees and grass.

OUR BARN.

WE LOVE OUR LITTLE PONIES AT HOME.

BUT THERE'S MAGIC IN REAL PONIES, TOO.

WE ALL LOVE THEM. THEY'RE SO SMART, AND FUNNY, AND WEIRD.

OUR PARENTS POOLED SOME MONEY SO THAT WE COULD ALL LEASE PONIES FOR THE SUMMER. WE'RE SO LUCKY.

BUT BEST OF ALL...

...IT MEANS WE'VE GOTTEN TO HANG OUT WITH ONE ANOTHER, LIKE, ALL THE TIME.

HA HA HA



OF COURSE, OUR OTHER PONIES COME TO WATCH.

WE WOULD NEVER LEAVE THEM OUT.



SEE YOU AFTER PONY TIME, PONIES!

DON'T GET INTO ANY TROUBLE, OKAY?

WE ALWAYS LOVE TO COME TAKE CARE OF OUR PONIES, EVEN IF IT ISN'T A DAY WHEN WE'RE RIDING.



PONIES NEED LOVE AND CARE, JUST LIKE PEOPLE.

IT REALLY HAS BEEN THE PERFECT SUMMER,
FULL OF PONIES AND PLAYDATES.

BUT THERE'S THIS LITTLE PART OF ME
THAT'S SO, SO NERVOUS ABOUT THE FALL.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SEEMS SO BIG AND SCARY,
AND THERE WILL BE SO MANY NEW PEOPLE.

HEY...ARE YOU
GUYS STILL GONNA
BE MY FRIENDS? IN
MIDDLE SCHOOL?



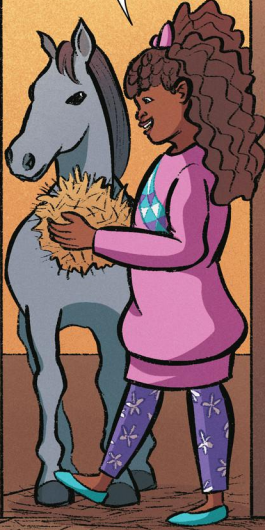
DUH.



TOTALLY.



DON'T BE A
DWEEB. OBVIOUSLY,
WE WILL.
AND--







I MEAN, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE.



BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SIGNIFICANT.



WHAT KIND OF OFFER ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE, HUGH?



AHA. SEE?

SOOO SMART.

SO WHAT'S ON THE TABLE?

THREE MILLION.

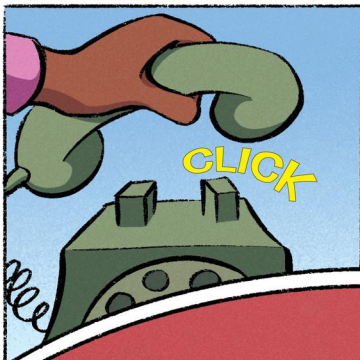
DOLLARS?!

YES. IT'S A SMALL PRICE FOR GROGAR DEVELOPMENTS TO PAY FOR SUCH AN IDEAL LOCATION.

THIS BARN IS THE PERFECT PLACE...

...TO BUILD MY BIGGEST EVER MALL!







SO WE PROMISED WE WOULD DO WHATEVER IT TOOK
TO SAVE OUR FAVORITE SPOT AND OUR SWEET PONIES.

BUT MIDDLE SCHOOL STARTS NEXT
WEEK. AND I GUESS I'M JUST WORRIED...



...WHAT HAPPENS IF WE CAN'T?

AND WHAT HAPPENS IF...

...WE STOP HANGING OUT
WITH ONE ANOTHER?



ONE WEEK LATER.



I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THIS...

...CAN I JUST
GO BACK TO OUR
SCHOOL?



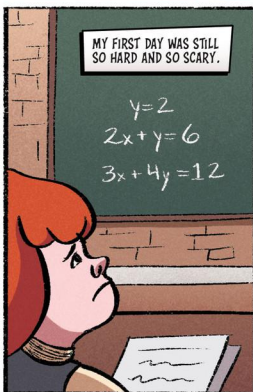
HEY.





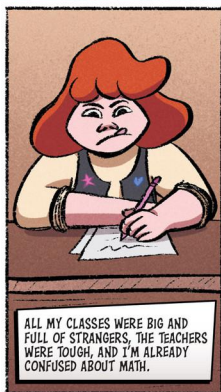


AND WITH OUR PONIES IN MY BAG,
I KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE OKAY.



MY FIRST DAY WAS STILL
SO HARD AND SO SCARY.

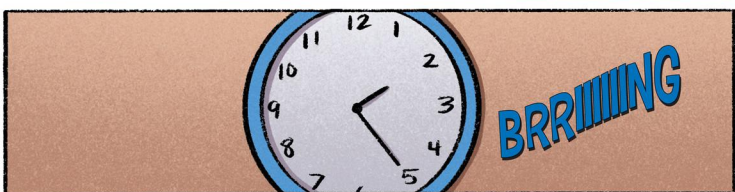
$$y=2$$
$$2x+y=6$$
$$3x+4y=12$$



ALL MY CLASSES WERE BIG AND
FULL OF STRANGERS, THE TEACHERS
WERE TOUGH, AND I'M ALREADY
CONFUSED ABOUT MATH.

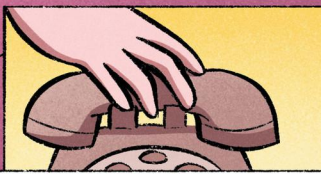


AND EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMED
LIKE IT MIGHT GO ON FOREVER
WITHOUT MY FRIENDS...



BRRRING





BUT IT WASN'T OKAY. NOT AT ALL.
EVERYONE GOT SO BUSY ON THEIR OWN.

CAUGHT UP IN GETTING GOOD GRADES...



...OR TRYING TO BE POPULAR...

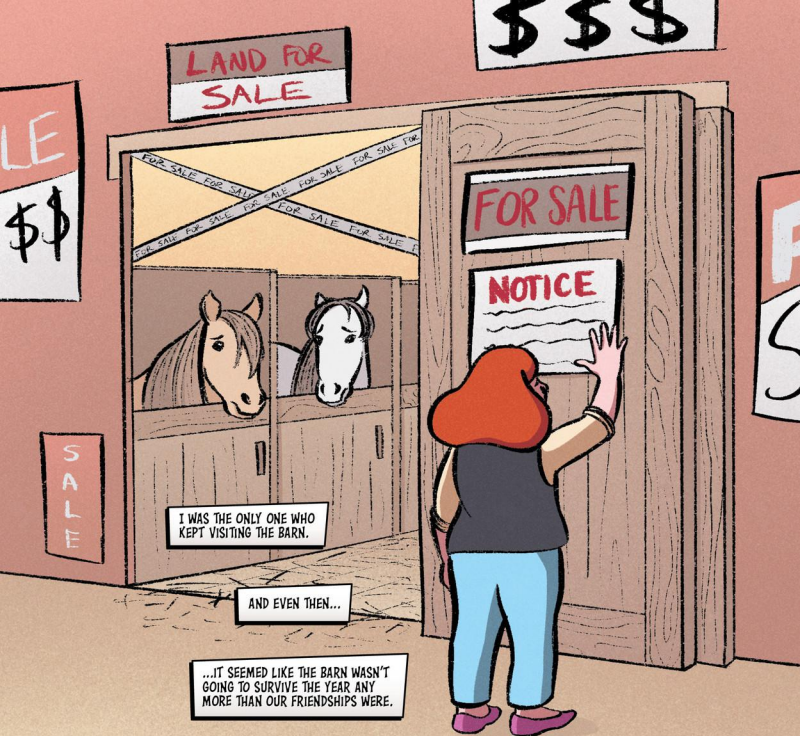




...OR NEW EXTRACURRICULARS OUR PARENTS WANTED US TO TRY.

IT SEEMED LIKE NOBODY HAD TIME FOR ME ANYMORE.

NOBODY HAD TIME FOR OUR PONIES. SOMETIMES NOT EVEN ME.



I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO
KEPT VISITING THE BARN.

AND EVEN THEN...

...IT SEEMED LIKE THE BARN WASN'T
GOING TO SURVIVE THE YEAR ANY
MORE THAN OUR FRIENDSHIPS WERE.

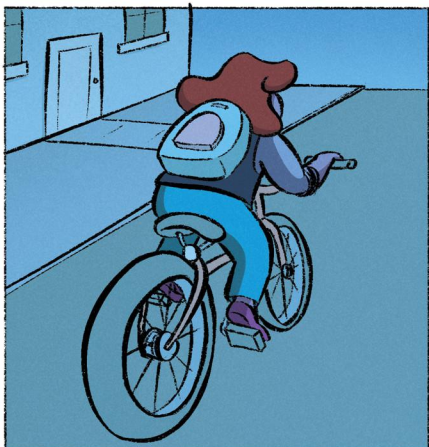
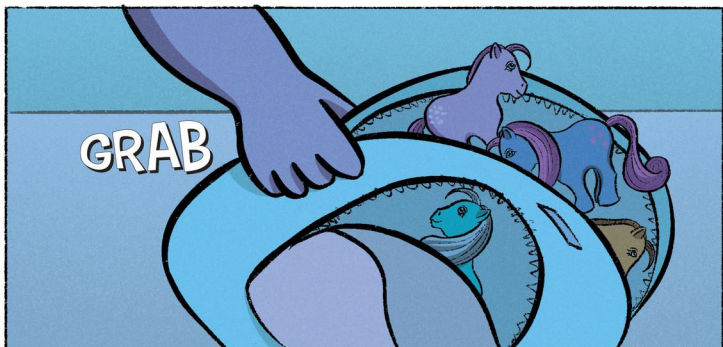
NOTICE
LAND USE PROPOSAL:
SHOPPING MALL
DEVELOPER: HUGH MANN

I KNEW I HAD TO DO
SOMETHING TO SAVE IT...

...BUT WHAT COULD
I DO ON MY OWN?

I STOPPED CALLING MY FRIENDS AND STARTED WAITING FOR THEM TO CALL INSTEAD, BUT...









IT WAS THERE.

THE MAGIC BOOK.

JUST LIKE I'D SEEN IN MY DREAM.



I DON'T KNOW HOW I KNEW IT...



...BUT I KNEW IT WOULD HELP ME
SAVE EVERYTHING THAT I LOVED.

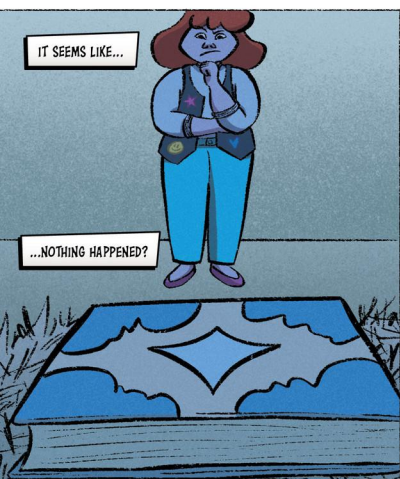
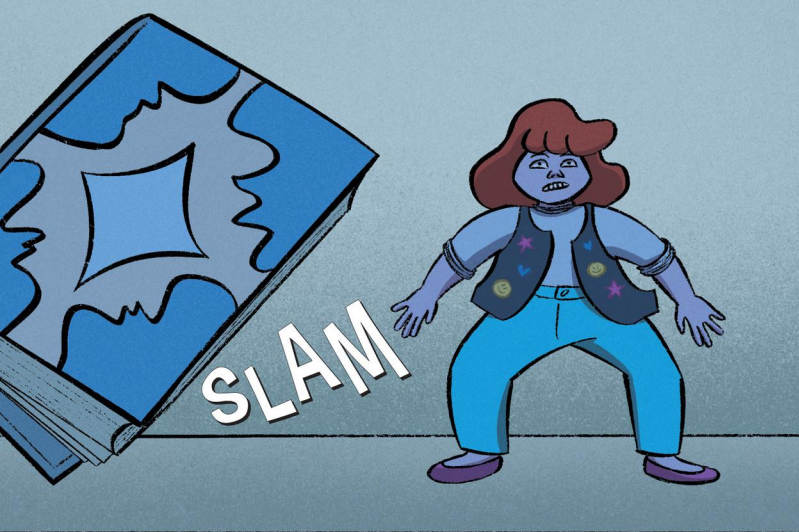
VIRTUE
EQUITUS
UNIVERSIL...





HAE CREATURA
VITAM
ADDUSEER...

...MITTERET
IN DOMUM
SOUM!

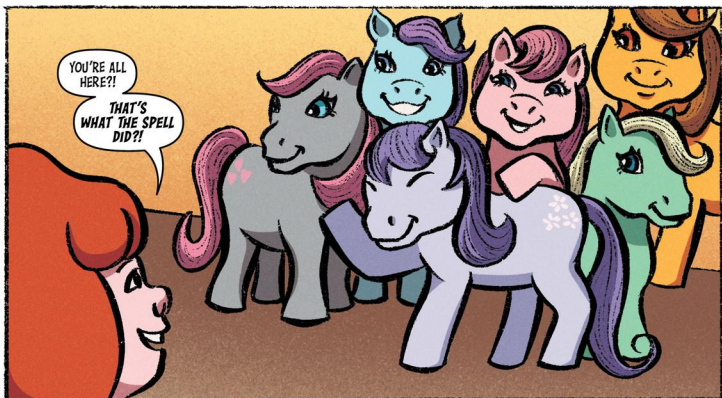






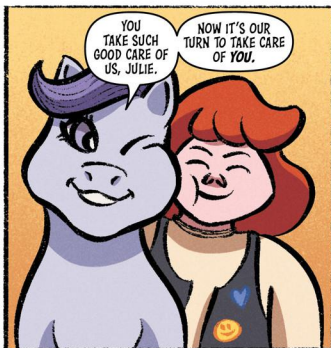
--THEY'RE REAL?!





YOU'RE ALL
HERE?!

THAT'S
WHAT THE SPELL
DID?!



YOU
TAKE SUCH
GOOD CARE OF
US, JULIE.

NOW IT'S OUR
TURN TO TAKE CARE
OF YOU.



WE'VE BEEN LISTENING,
AND WE KNOW THE BARN
IS IN TROUBLE.

THANK GOODNESS
YOU BROUGHT US BACK
TO OUR REAL FORMS
JUST IN TIME.



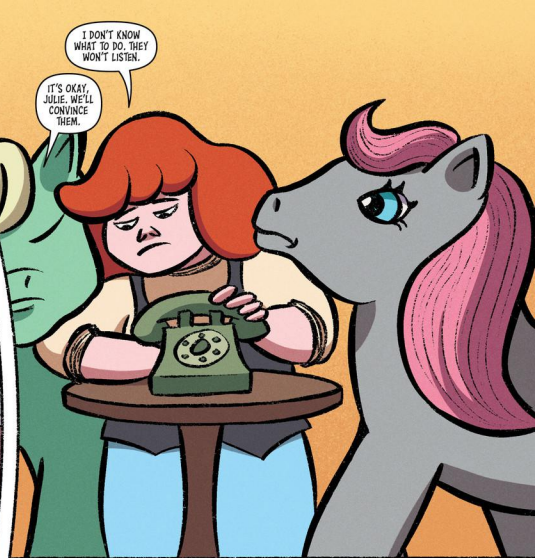
WE CAN'T LET
THIS BARN BE TORN
DOWN.

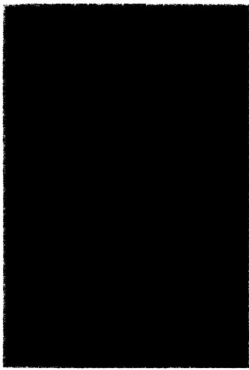
IT'S SUCH
A SPECIAL
PLACE.

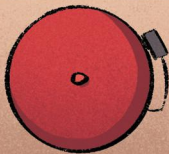


AND YOU AND
YOUR FRIENDS ARE
ALL SUCH SPECIAL
GIRLS.









BRIIIING

RECESS!



KELLY!
TIFFANY!



HAVE YOU
SEEN JULIE
TODAY?



I HEARD SHE DIDN'T
SHOW UP TODAY. THAT'S
WHAT WE WERE JUST
TALKING ABOUT.

I KNOW WE
HAVEN'T HUNG OUT
A LOT, BUT...

...SHE
NEVER
SKIPS
SCHOOL.



DO YOU THINK
SOMETHING BAD
HAPPENED AT
THE BARN?



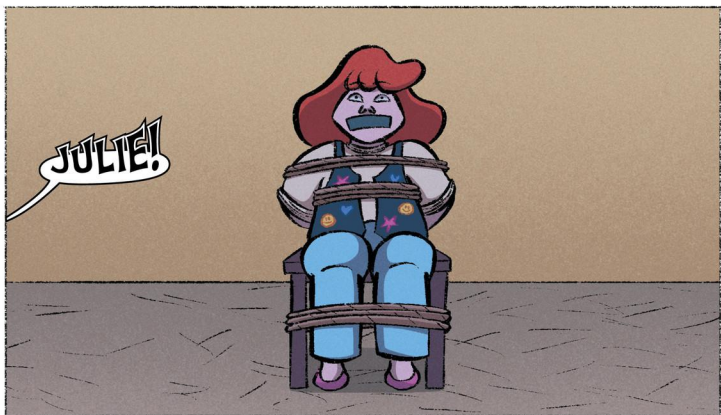
HAVE THE
NURSE SEND YOU
HOME SICK.

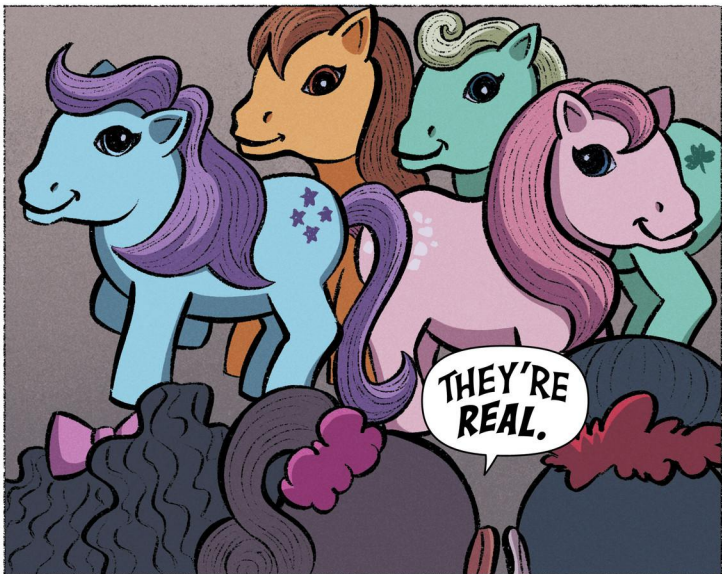
THEN
GET ON YOUR
BIKES...



"...WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE
OUR FRIEND IS OKAY."









YOU FELL
FOR MY TRAP.
PREDICTABLE.

I THREATENED TO RAZE THIS
PLACE TO THE GROUND TO BUILD
A **GLORIOUS SHOPPING MALL**,
AND YOUR LITTLE FRIEND HERE
CAME TO ITS RESCUE. BUT,
REALLY, TO **MINE**.

SHE FOUND MY LITTLE
SPELL BOOK AND RETURNED
YOUR **PONIES** TO THEIR TRUE
FORMS...PLAYING RIGHT
INTO MY HANDS.

BECAUSE
I NEED THESE
PONIES TO OPEN
THE PORTAL
AGAIN...

...BETWEEN
OUR **WORLDS**.

OVERLY VERBOSE VILLAIN MONOLOGUE!

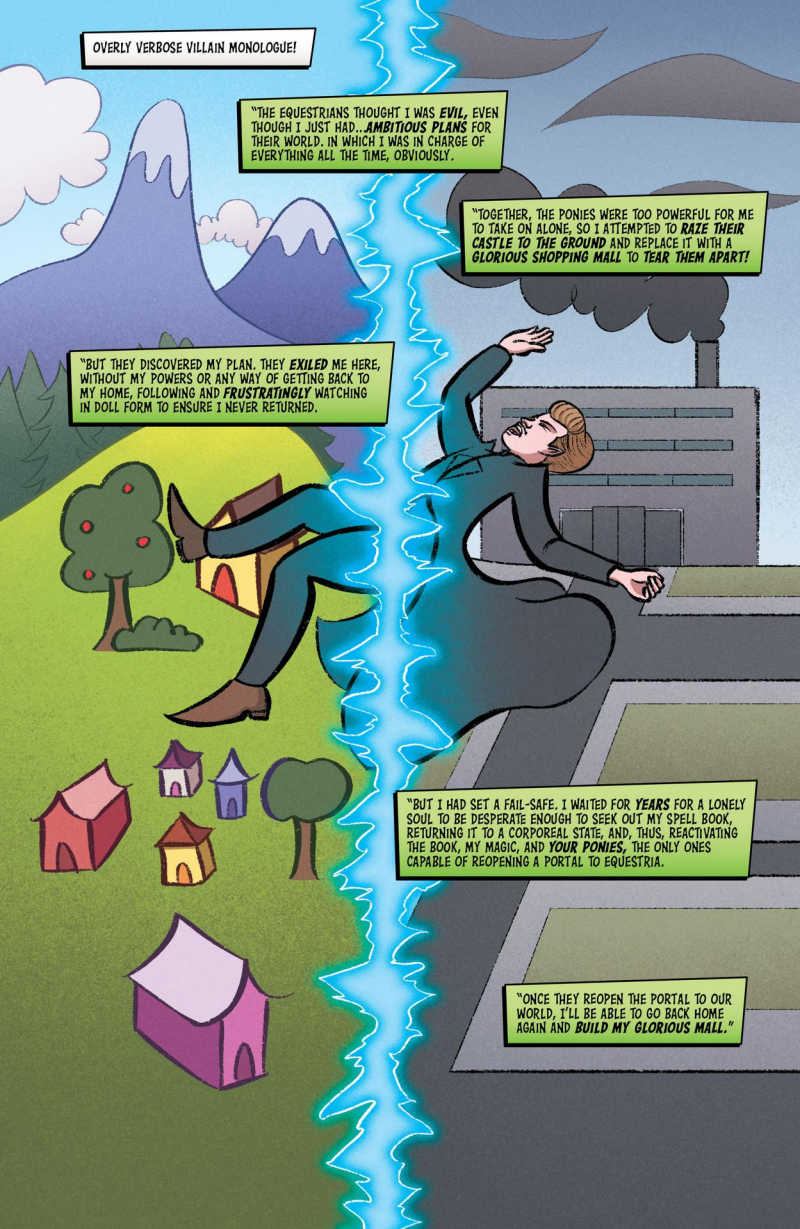
"THE EQUESTRIANS THOUGHT I WAS **EVIL**, EVEN THOUGH I JUST HAD...**AMBITIOUS PLANS** FOR THEIR WORLD. IN WHICH I WAS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING ALL THE TIME, OBVIOUSLY.

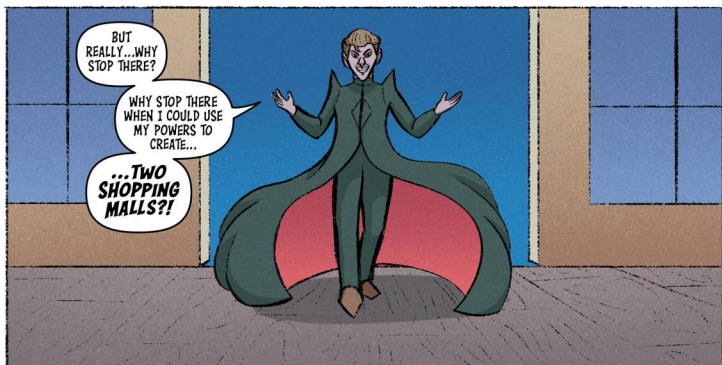
"TOGETHER, THE PONIES WERE TOO POWERFUL FOR ME TO TAKE ON ALONE, SO I ATTEMPTED TO **RAZE THEIR CASTLE TO THE GROUND** AND REPLACE IT WITH A **GLORIOUS SHOPPING MALL** TO TEAR THEM APART!"

"BUT THEY DISCOVERED MY PLAN. THEY **EXILED** ME HERE, WITHOUT MY POWERS OR ANY WAY OF GETTING BACK TO MY HOME, FOLLOWING AND **FRUSTRATINGLY** WATCHING IN DOLL FORM TO ENSURE I NEVER RETURNED.

"BUT I HAD SET A FAIL-SAFE. I WAITED FOR **YEARS** FOR A LONELY SOUL TO BE DESPERATE ENOUGH TO SEEK OUT MY SPELL BOOK, RETURNING IT TO A CORPOREAL STATE, AND, THUS, REACTIVATING THE BOOK, MY MAGIC, AND **YOUR PONIES**, THE ONLY ONES CAPABLE OF REOPENING A PORTAL TO EQUESTRIA.

"ONCE THEY REOPEN THE PORTAL TO OUR WORLD, I'LL BE ABLE TO GO BACK HOME AGAIN AND **BUILD MY GLORIOUS MALL.**"











BECAUSE
HERE'S THE THING
ABOUT US AND
OUR PONIES...



...WHEN WE COME TOGETHER...



...WE REALLY CAN SAVE THE WORLD.



YOU'LL NEVER
HURT ANYONE
AGAIN!



SLAM



WE DID IT!

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU.



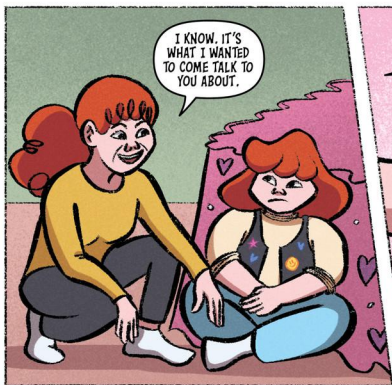




JULIE,
SWEETIE, ARE
YOU STILL
AWAKE?



MOM...
SOMETHING TERRIBLE
IS HAPPENING...



I KNOW. IT'S
WHAT I WANTED
TO COME TALK TO
YOU ABOUT.



THERE'S GREAT
NEWS!

THE BARN HAS
DECIDED **NOT** TO SELL.
THE DEVELOPER
PULLED OUT OF THE
DEAL!



WHAT?!



AND EVEN
BETTER...



JULIE!



WE'RE SO SORRY WE HAVEN'T BEEN BETTER FRIENDS.

WE CAME SO CLOSE TO LOSING THE BARN.

WE DIDN'T KEEP OUR PINKIE PROMISE, AND THAT'S REALLY, REALLY GNARLY.



SNIFFLE

WHAT CHANGED?





YOU KNOW...

...MIDDLE SCHOOL IS SCARY AND SOMETIMES LIFE IS HARD, BUT WITH MY FRIENDS AND MY PONIES...

...I THINK EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE JUST...



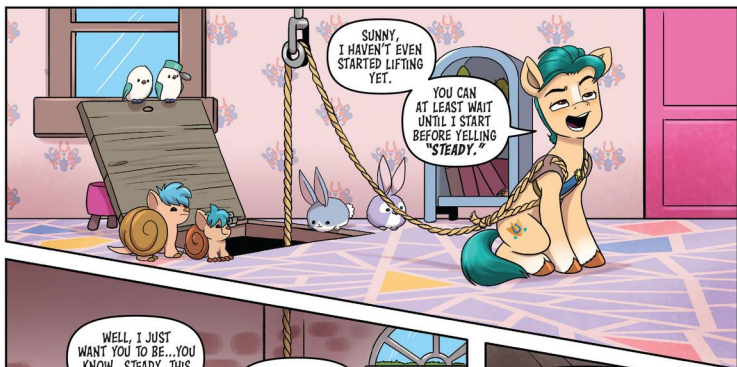
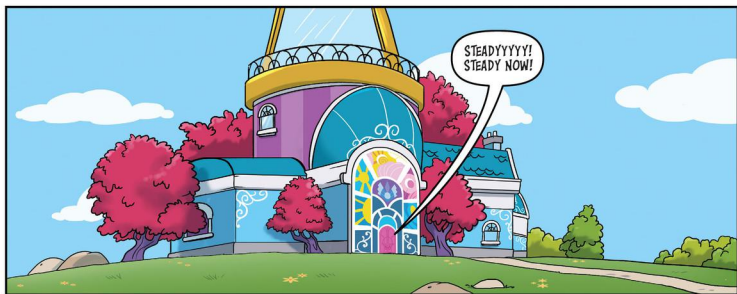
...MAGICAL.

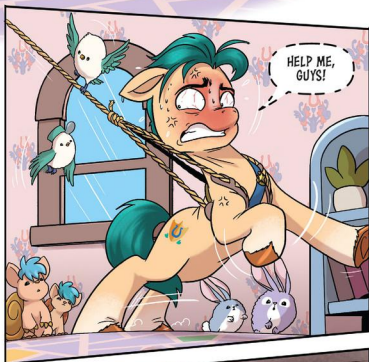
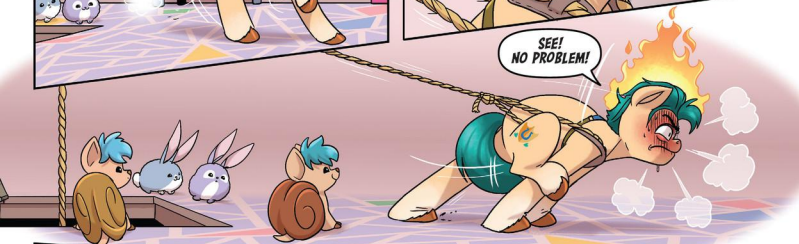


The end!

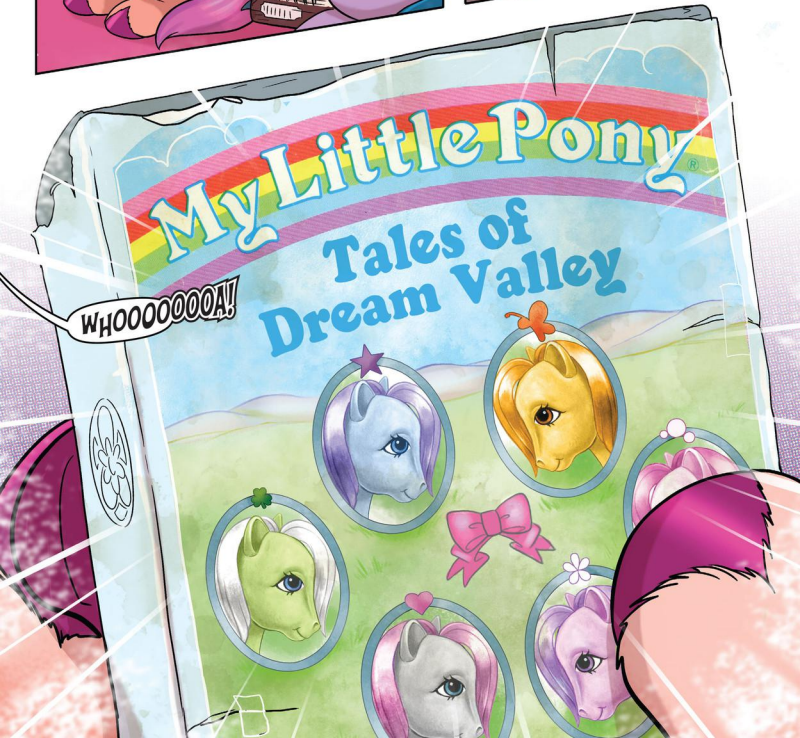














WHY DO THEY ALL LOOK SO SAD?

MAYBE THAT'S JUST HOW THEY USED TO LOOK?

I DON'T SEE ANY UNICORNS OR PEGASI. MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY'RE ALL SO SAD.



IS THIS SOME KIND OF LOVE POEM?

MY LITTLE PONY IS A PRETTY PONY WITH LONG, SHINY HAIR. SHE LIKES TO COMB HER HAIR SO IT STAYS SILKY AND SOFT.

YOU CAN BRAID HER HAIR AND TIE IT IN A RIBBON, TOO!



THAT'S SWEET...I THINK.

A LOT OF TALK ABOUT THIS PONY'S HAIR, THOUGH.



LOOK! THEY'RE HARD TO MAKE OUT, BUT I THINK THIS PAGE HAS THEIR NAMES!

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT PONIES! MAYBE WE CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM!



For as long as anyone can remember **Butterscotch** has always won Ponyland's Annual Gymkhana.


She's fast and nimble, strong and exceptionally athletic—over the hedges and fallen tree trunks, round the toadstools and through the gate to finish.



OOH! I BET ZIPP WOULD LIKE HER!

WHERE IS "PONYLAND"?

WHAT'S A "GYMKHANA"?



If ever a pony were a little bit sad or lonely, **Snuzzle** would be the first to notice and go over and nuzzle her head against theirs.

Soon they would cheer up and start to laugh and smile again.



IZZY, THAT SOUNDS LIKE YOU!

I WAS GONNA SAY IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU!

Blue Belle loves to explore the woods to find the first bluebells of spring.

She treads daintily through the bushes and pushes the leaves away until she smells the delicious perfume of her favorite flowers—
Ah! Lovely!



OH, SO SHE MUST HAVE BEEN AN HERBALIST OR SOMETHING.

MAYBE THEY WERE AN ANCIENT HUNTER-GATHERER CULTURE! MAYBE THIS WAS BEFORE WE HAD FARMS!



Over the hawthorn hedge, Minty had spotted a large patch of her favorite mint.

She knelt down to smell the delicious aroma, nibbled a leaf and then lay down right in it—rolling over and over, until her white body smelled of mint, too.



I DON'T GET IT.

MAYBE IT'S, LIKE...AN OLD PONIES' TALE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION?

SO...WAS MINTY ALWAYS HER NAME OR WAS IT A NICKNAME SHE GOT?





Cotton Candy loves sweet things, sweet nectar from the flowers, sweet honey from the bees, sweet grass from the valley. However, she is also a bit lazy and tries to find her treats a little too close to home. Blossom's garden is always a tempting place to grab a snack.



OH YES, DEFINITELY PONIES' TALES.

SEE, COTTON CANDY MUST BE THE TRADITIONAL TRICKSTER TYPE CHARACTER.

SEEMS KINDA MEAN.



Blossom keeps busy digging in her beautiful garden—as well as chasing Cotton Candy out of it! The ponies say that all the colors of the rainbow are reflected in her lovely flowers.



A FLOWER GARDEN? SO MUCH FOR THEM BEING HUNTER-GATHERERS.

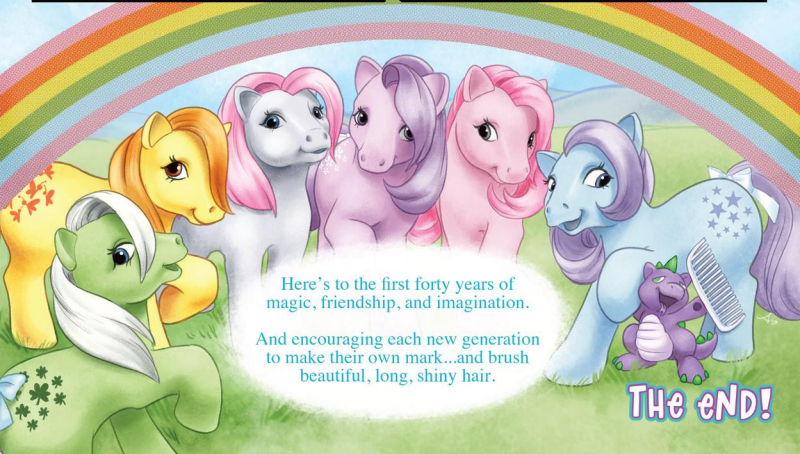
THAT WAS THE ONLY GOOD THEORY I HAD! I NEED TO DO MORE RESEARCH!



Dream Valley is home to Earth Ponies, Pegasi, Unicorns, Flutter Ponies, Sea Ponies, Grundles, and Bushwoolies.

Dream Castle was originally home to ponies but was given to the Grundles for helping Baby Lickety-Split and Spike.

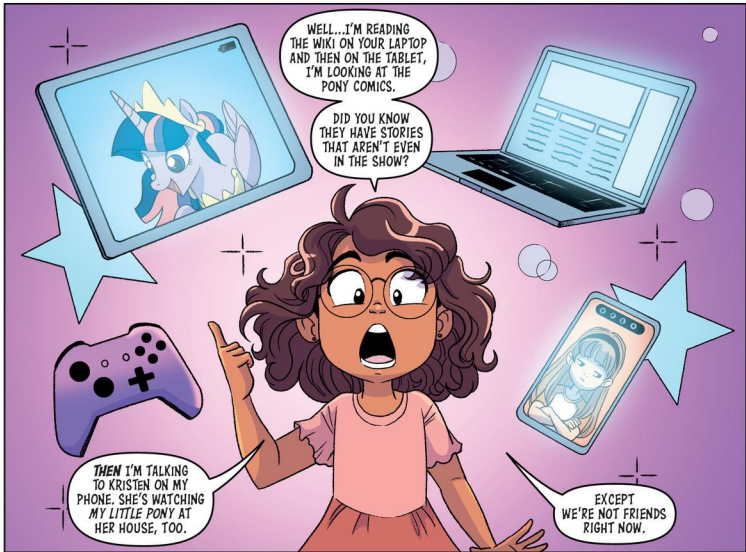
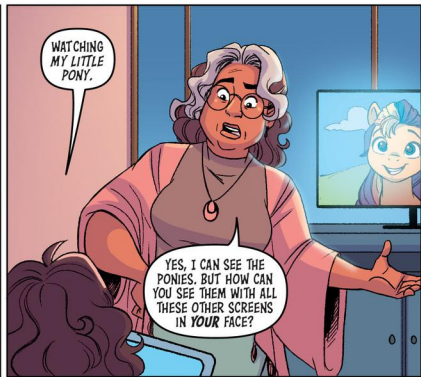




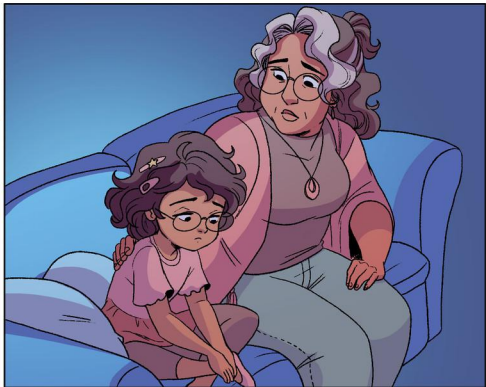
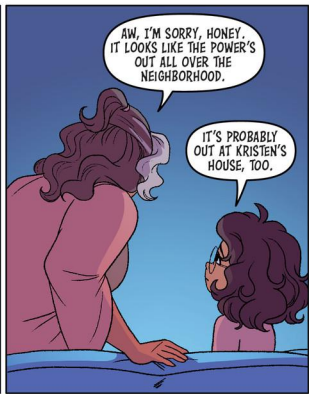












OH MY GOODNESS! AUNT VICKI, YOU HAD MY LITTLE PONIES, TOO?!

"THIS IS THE COOLEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN!"



"I WAS YOUR AGE WHEN I GOT THEM. SEE? THIS ONE'S CALLED MINTY..."

"AND THAT ONE'S BUTTERSCOTCH."



"AND THIS IS APPLEJACK!"



"THAT'S NOT APPLEJACK! SHE'S GOT TOO MANY APPLES FOR HER CUTIE MARK! AND WHERE'S HER HAT?!"



"THESE PONIES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES YOU WATCH, BUT THERE IS A TWILIGHT SOMEWHERE..."

"TWILIGHT SPARKLE?"



"NO, JUST TWILIGHT... WHERE DID I PUT HER?"

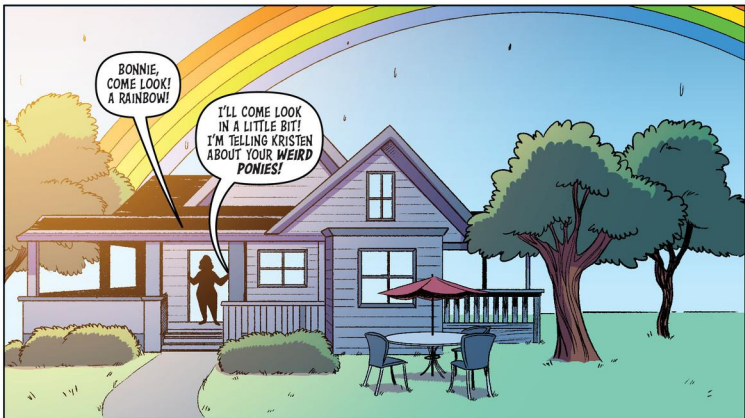
"OH WAIT..."

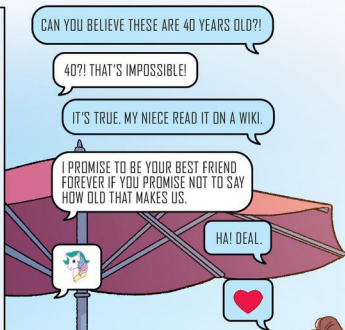
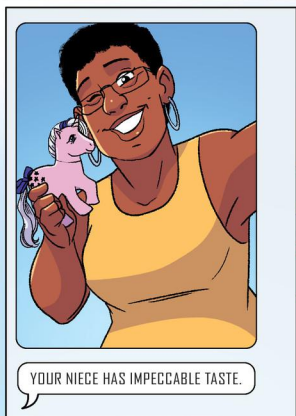
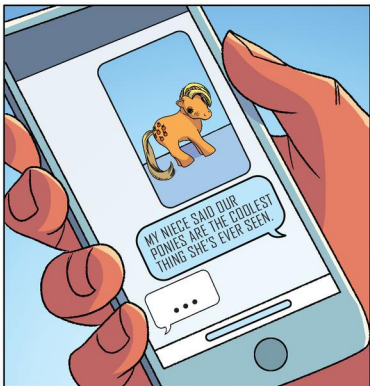












THE END!





art by **KEISHA OKAFOR**



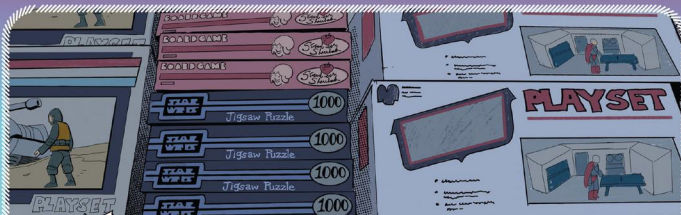
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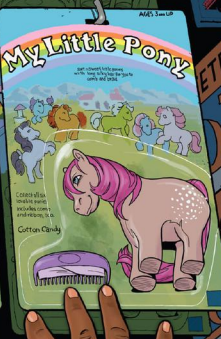
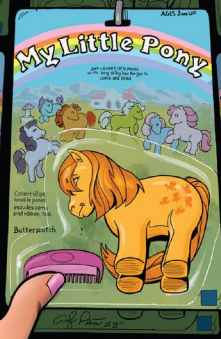
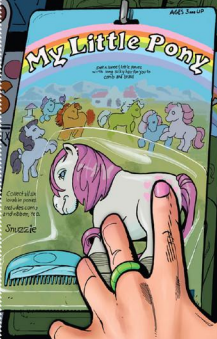
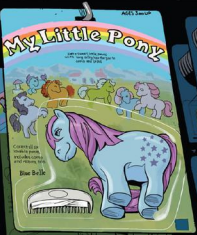
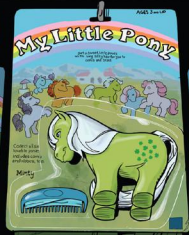


art by **ALEXA CORDEIRO**



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ALL AGES!

is W
TOYS

art by **ANDY PRICE**



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SDCC EXCLUSIVE COVER

THANK YOU
FOR 40
YEARS OF
PONIES!



MY
LITTLE
PONY

CAMP BIGHOOF

WHAT SECRET LURKS
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SKULL CAT

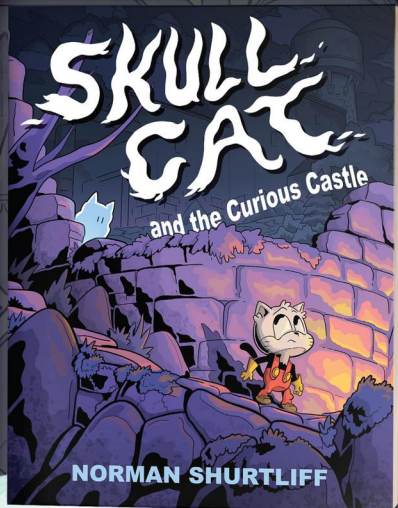
and the Curious Castle

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—Jens K Styve
Creator of the comic strip *Dunce*

"A DELIGHTFUL BLEND OF CUTE, CREEPY, AND ABSURD. I'VE GOT A LOT OF TIME FOR SKULL CAT!"

—Cam Kendell
Illustrator of *Fart Quest*



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BUT WHEN EVERYONE GOES MISSING, IS HE BRAVE ENOUGH TO BECOME A HERO?

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