

IDW
ISSUE
44

my LITTLE PONY

Friendship
is Magic



ZAHLER • FLEECES • BRECKEL

AMF!16



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YESTERDAY...

NO!

NO!

NO!

IT'S NOT ENOUGH!

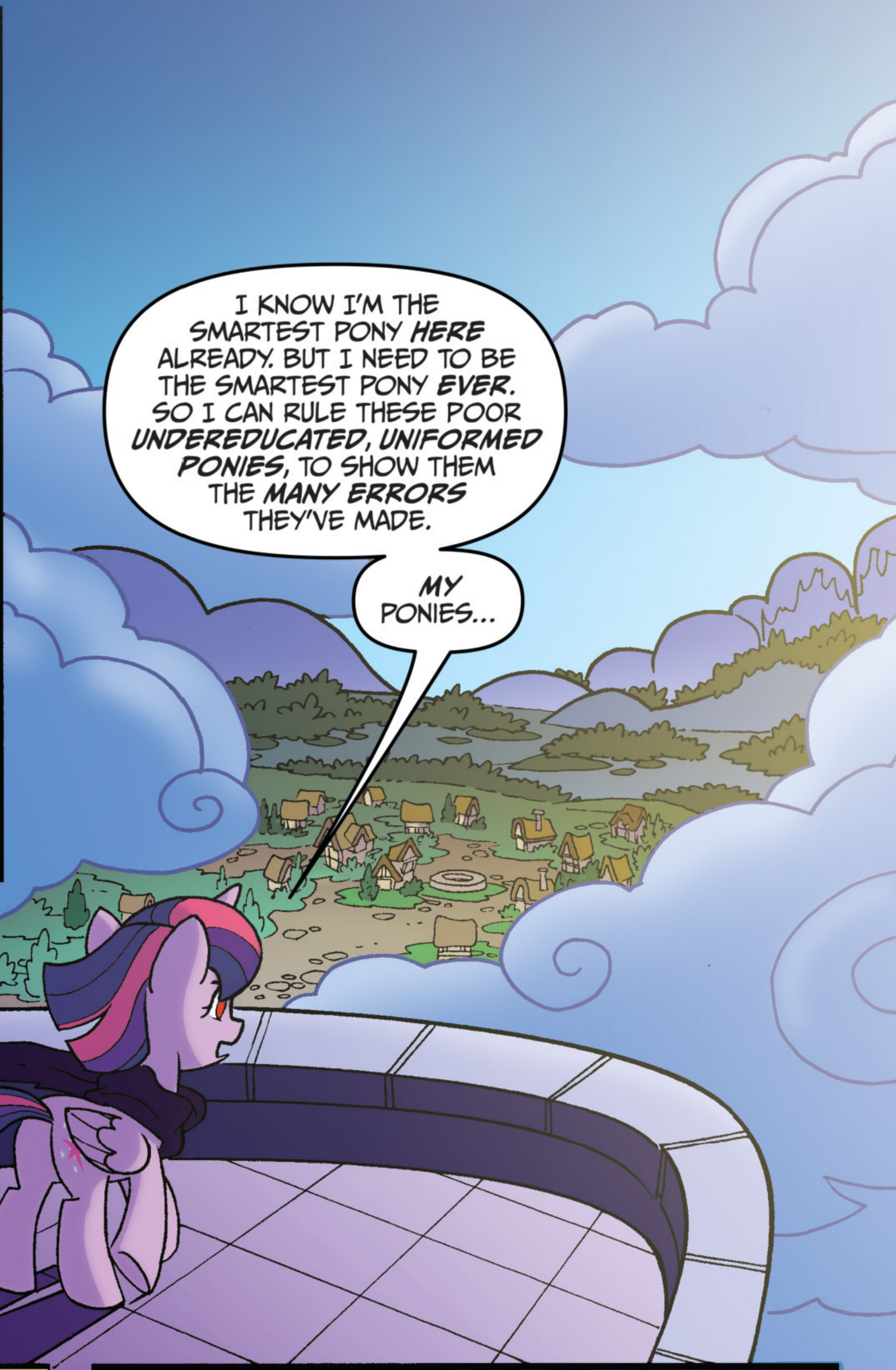




ALL THESE BOOKS, ALL THIS INFORMATION, AND I CAN'T LEARN IT FAST ENOUGH. I NEED MORE!



KNOWLEDGE IS PRECIOUS, AND I NEED MUCH MORE OF IT IF I'M GOING TO LEAD WISELY!



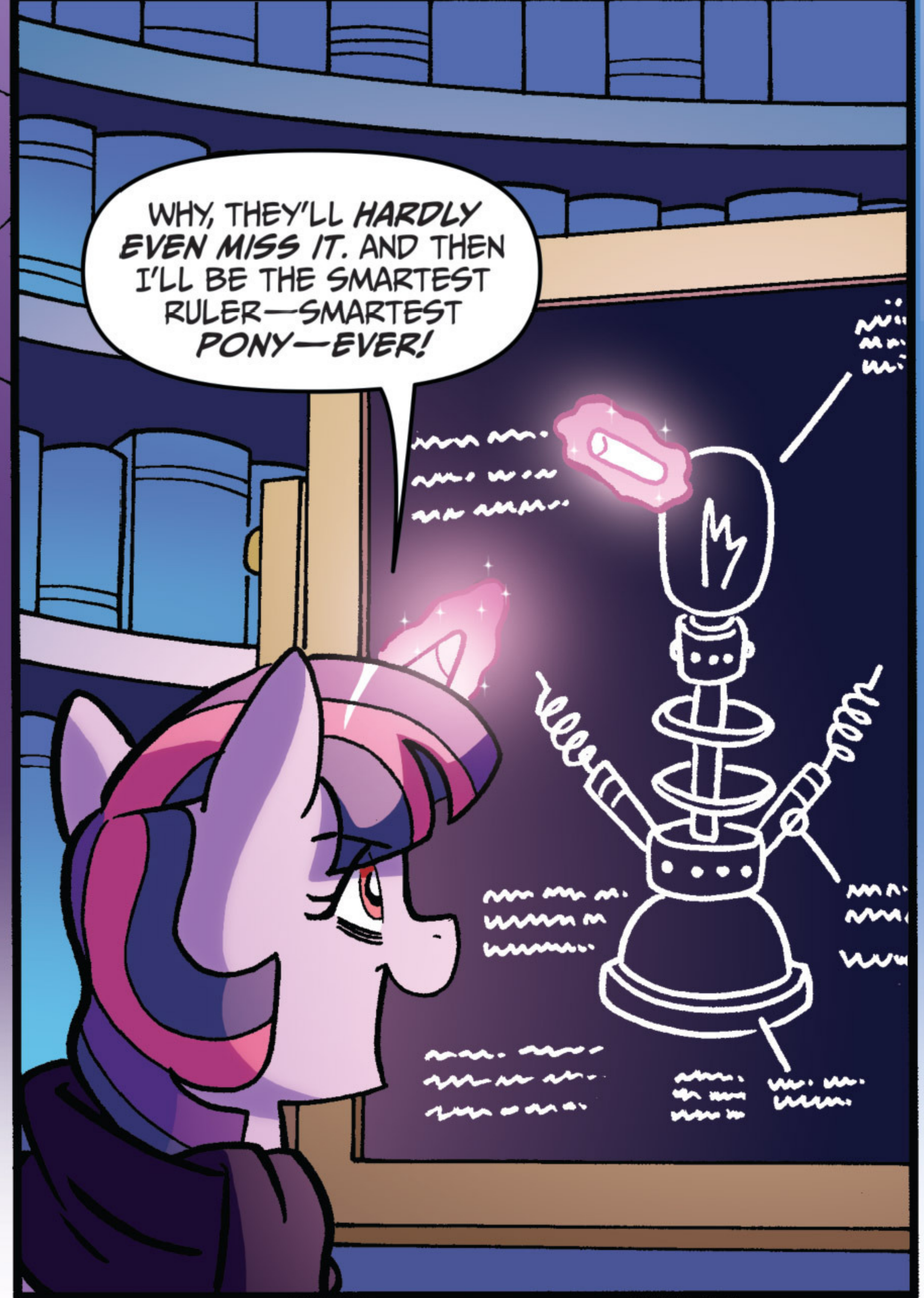
I KNOW I'M THE SMARTEST PONY *HERE* ALREADY. BUT I NEED TO BE THE SMARTEST PONY *EVER*. SO I CAN RULE THESE POOR UNDEREDUCATED, UNIFORMED PONIES, TO SHOW THEM THE MANY ERRORS THEY'VE MADE.

MY PONIES...



WAIT, MY PONIES WON'T NEED TO THINK, WILL THEY? I'LL BE DOING THEIR THINKING FOR THEM, MAKING SURE THEY ONLY MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES.

AND IF THEY DON'T NEED TO THINK, THEY CAN SPARE A LITTLE BIT OF THEIR BRAINPOWER, CAN'T THEY?



WHY, THEY'LL HARDLY EVEN MISS IT. AND THEN I'LL BE THE SMARTEST RULER—SMARTEST PONY—EVER!



BUT IF JUSTICE CONFLICTS WITH SELF-INTEREST, ISN'T IT BETTER FOR ONE TO ACT UNJUSTLY WHEN ONE CAN?

BUT JUSTICE IS A VIRTUE! ACTING JUSTLY, NOT JUST TO AVOID PUNISHMENT, IS IN ONE'S SELF-INTEREST. I THINK THE PHILOSOPHER SOW CRATES SAID—



SAID... UM, SAID... UH, I DUNNO.

YOU WERE MAKING A POINT ABOUT JUSTICE?

F-ZAP!



UM, POINT. HUH. THAT'S A FUNNY WORD.

POINT. POINT. POINT.

F-ZAP!



YOU ARE TAKING WHAT YOU WANT! YEAAAHH!

AND I STILL WANT MORE.



YOU HAVE A PLAN! YEAH!

YEAH!

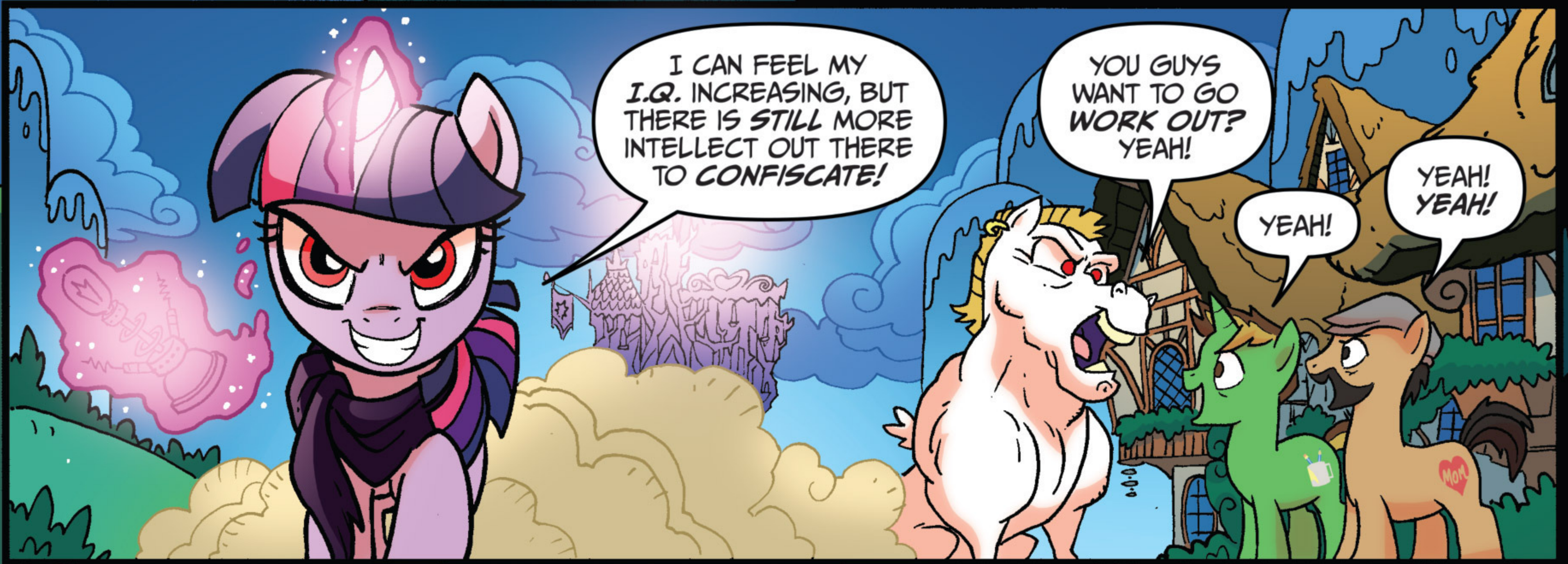
OH, YEAAAHH!



DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE EVIL, BUT YOU ARE KILLING IT! YEAH YEAH!

SOMETIMES THE CUPBOARD IS EMPTY, APPARENTLY.

YEAAAHH!



I CAN FEEL MY I.Q. INCREASING, BUT THERE IS *STILL* MORE INTELLECT OUT THERE TO CONFISCATE!

YOU GUYS WANT TO GO WORK OUT? YEAH!

YEAH!

YEAH! YEAH!

NOW...

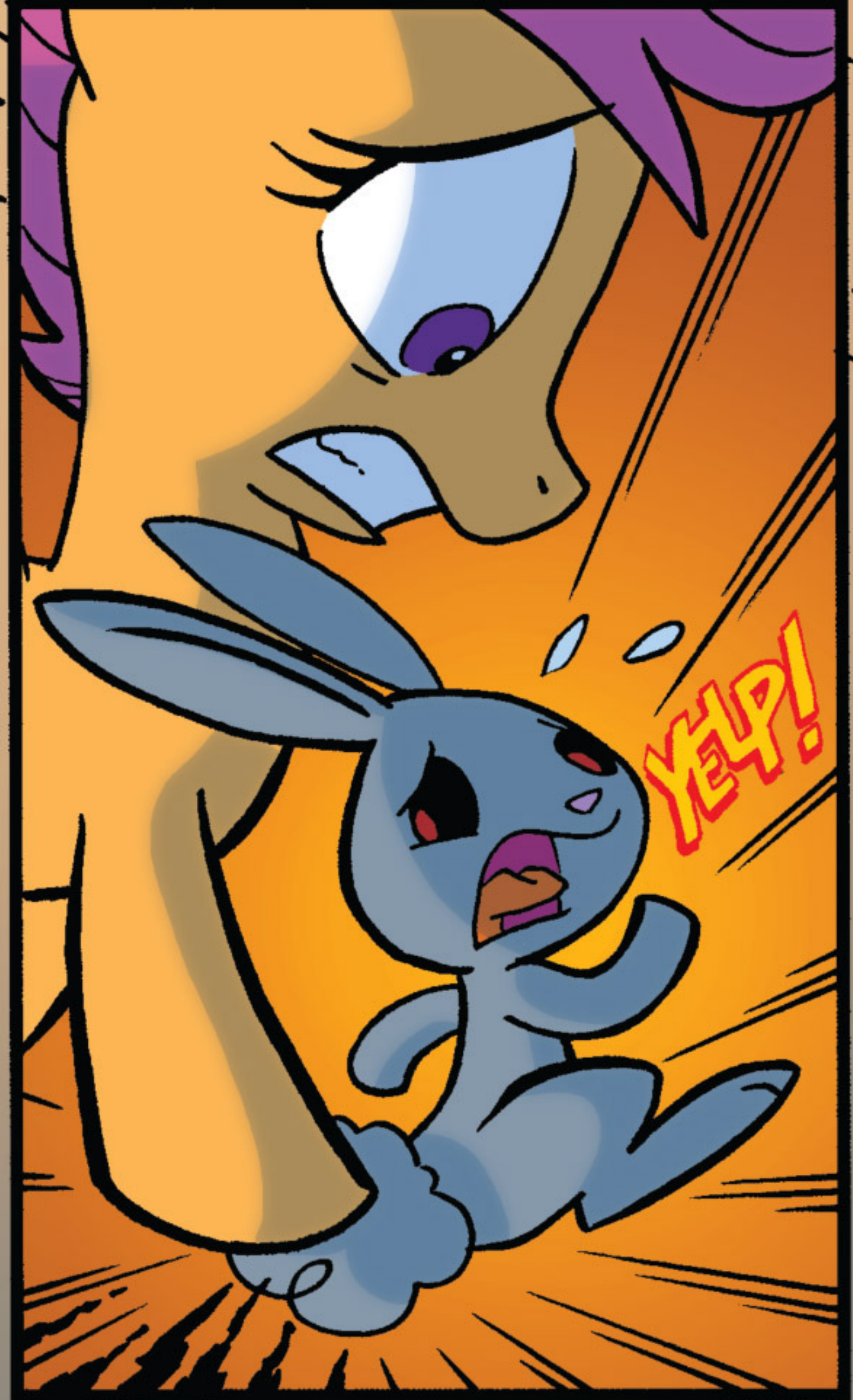
COME ON! IT'S THIS WAY TO ZECORA'S! HURRY UP!

I'M RUNNING AS FAST AS I CAN, SCOOTALOO.

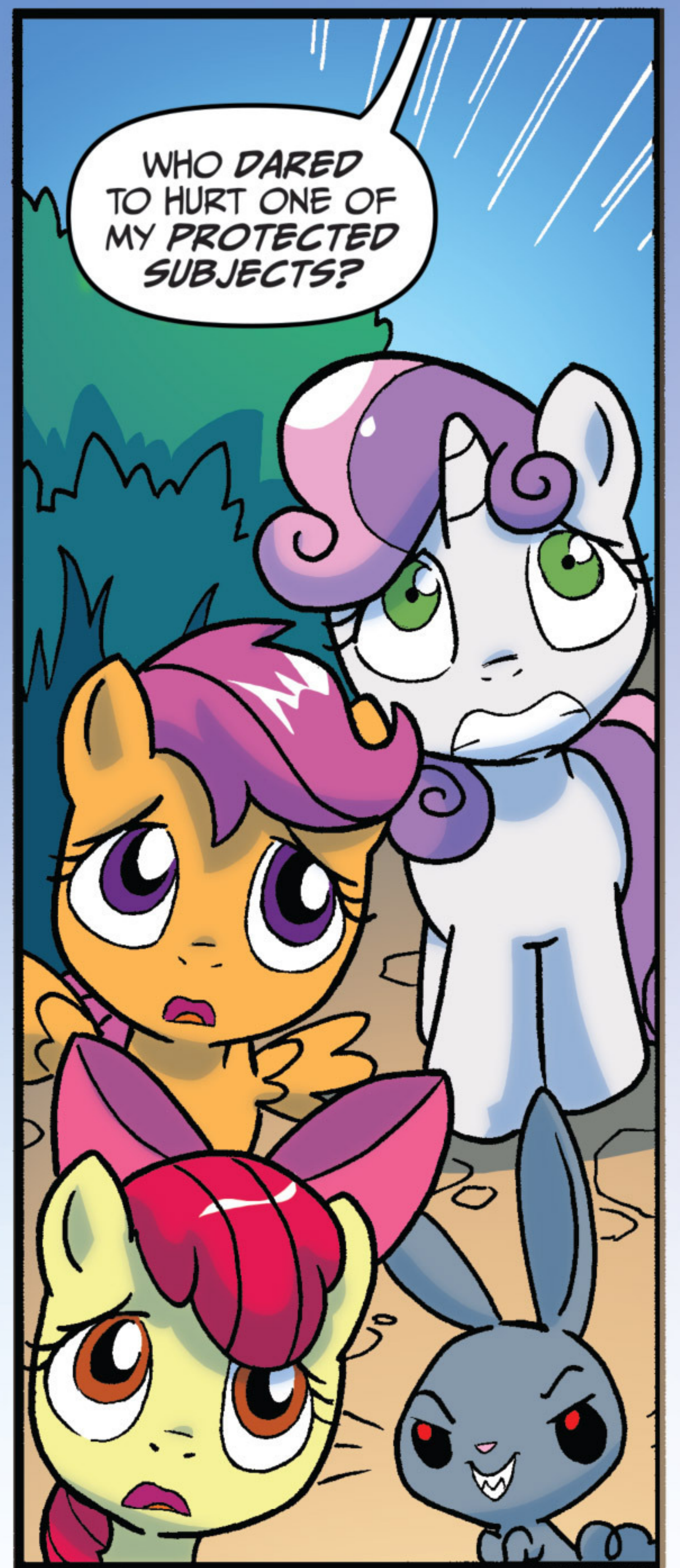
DO YOU REALLY THINK ZECORA CAN CHANGE EVERYPONY BACK FROM BEING EVIL?



PRINCESS LUNA SEEMS TO THINK SO, APPLE BLOOM, AND RIGHT NOW THAT'S ALL WE HAVE.



YEP!

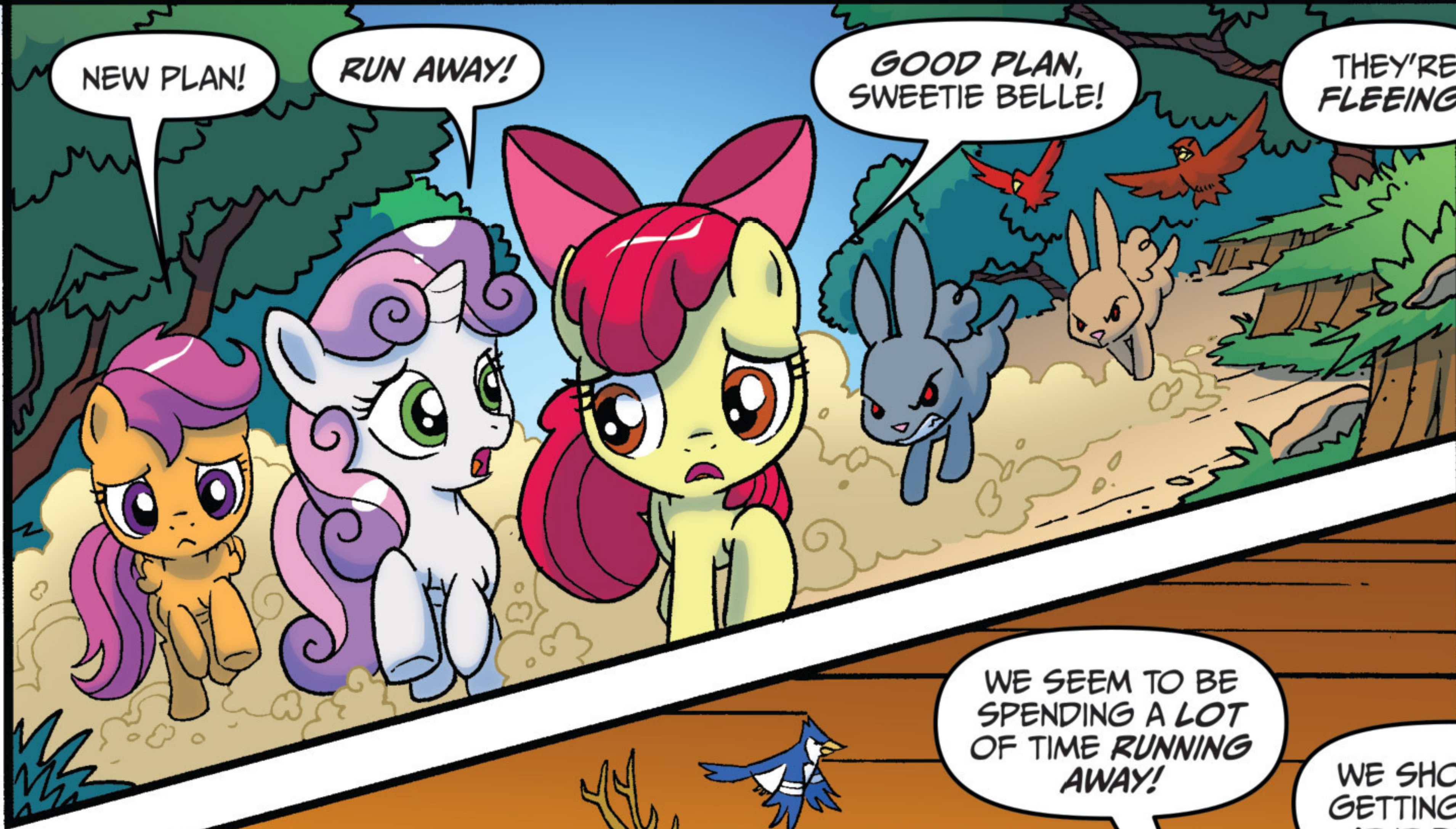




SUCH A CRIME SHALL NOT BE TOLERATED.



WILL IT, MY LITTLE FRIENDS?



NEW PLAN!

RUN AWAY!

GOOD PLAN, SWEETIE BELLE!

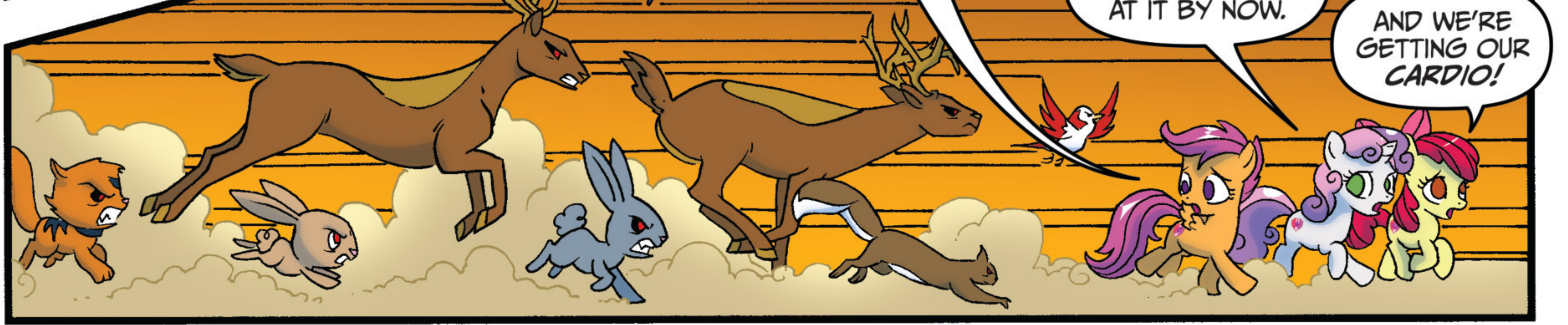
THEY'RE FLEEING!



APOLOGIES, MY FLEA FRIENDS. I THINK THAT TERM IS OFFENSIVE.

ALL OF YOU! STOP THEM! THEY MUST FACE FOREST JUSTICE!

AND WE'RE GETTING OUR CARDIO!



WE SEEM TO BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME RUNNING AWAY!

WE SHOULD BE GETTING GOOD AT IT BY NOW.

BACK IN PONYVILLE.

PRESENTS?
THAT SEEMS
ODD.

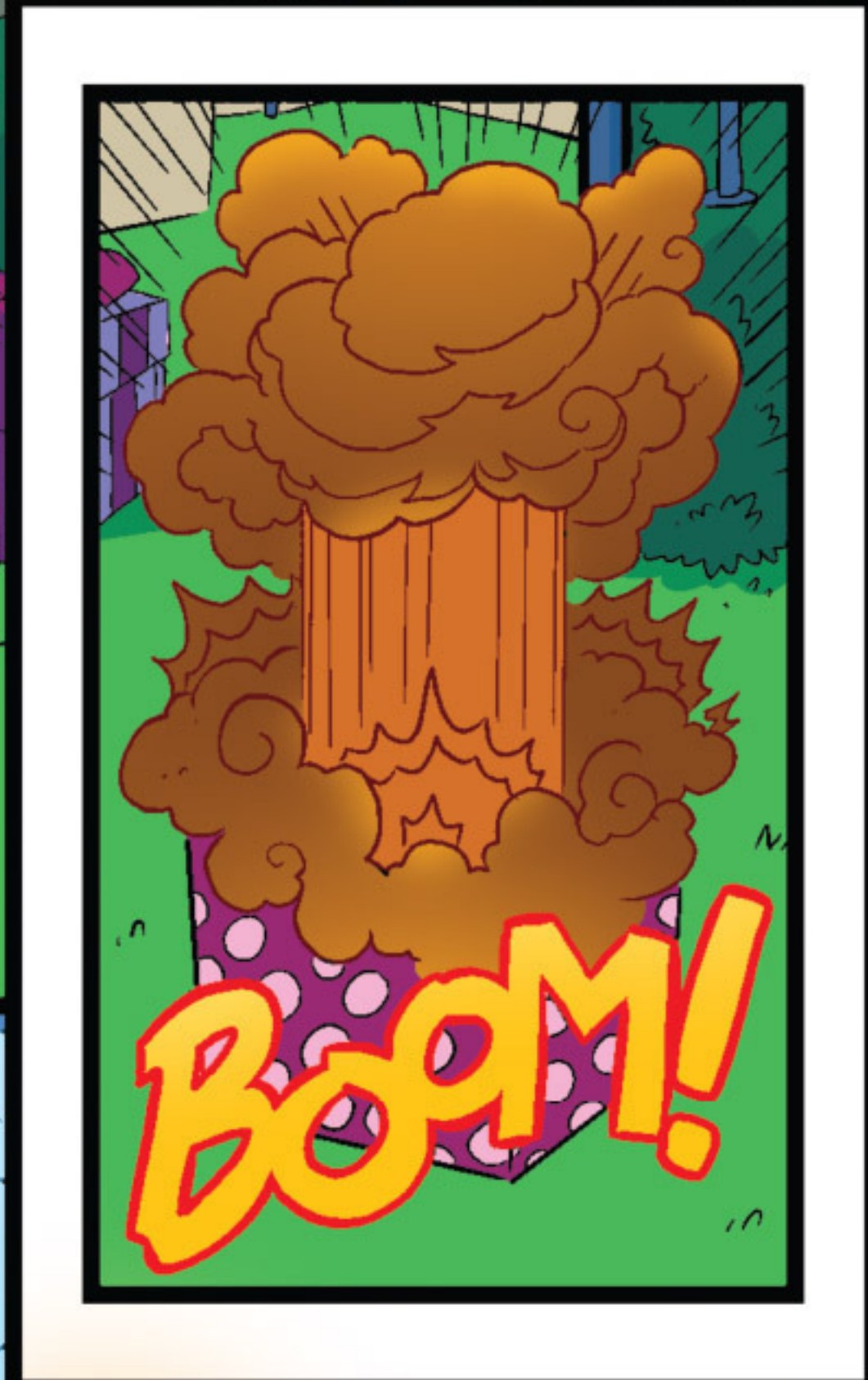
MAYBE TWILIGHT
HAS CHANGED HER
MIND AND IS TRYING
TO BUY OUR LOYALTY
THROUGH FAVORS?

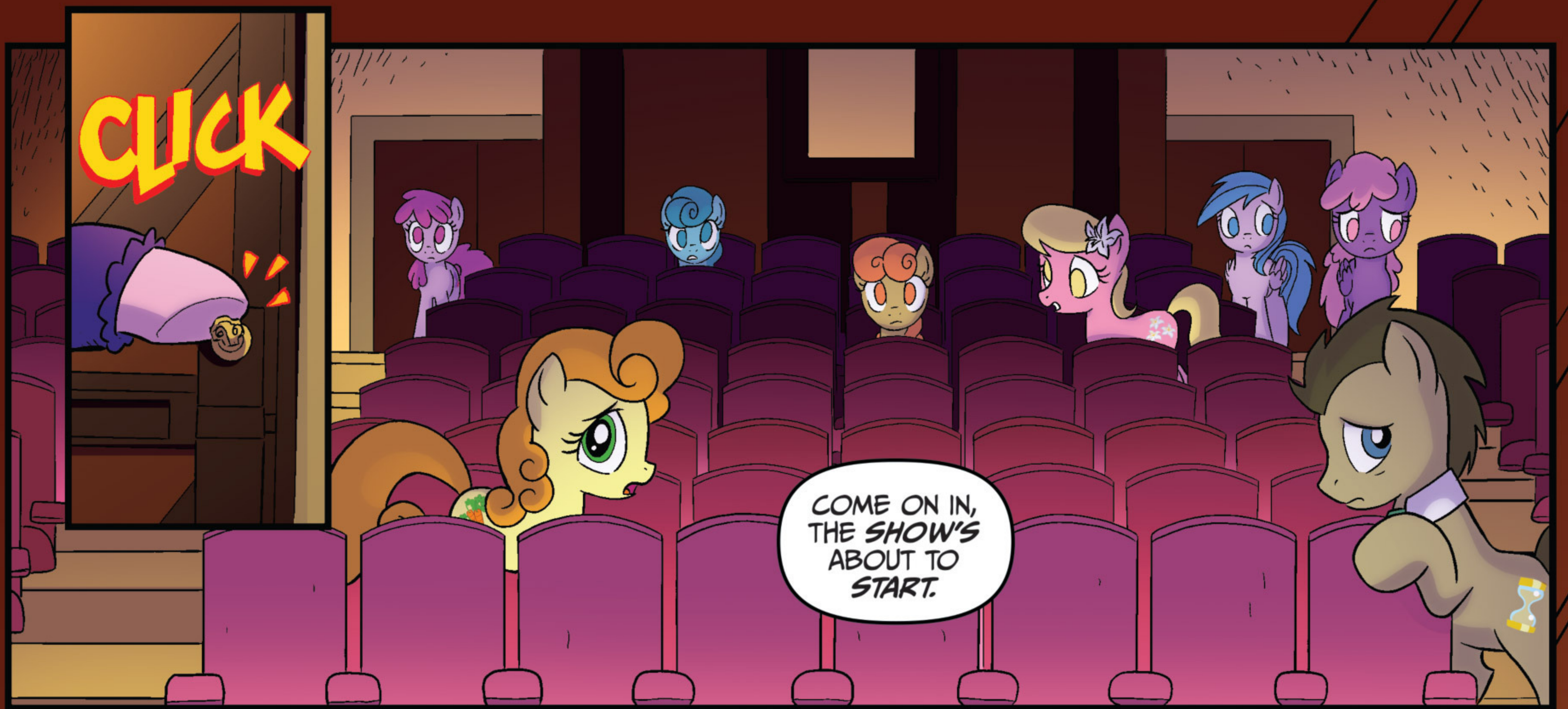
BUYING AND
BRIBING OUR
AFFECTIONS?
POLITICIANS ARE
ALL THE
SAME.

DUH...

PONYALTO

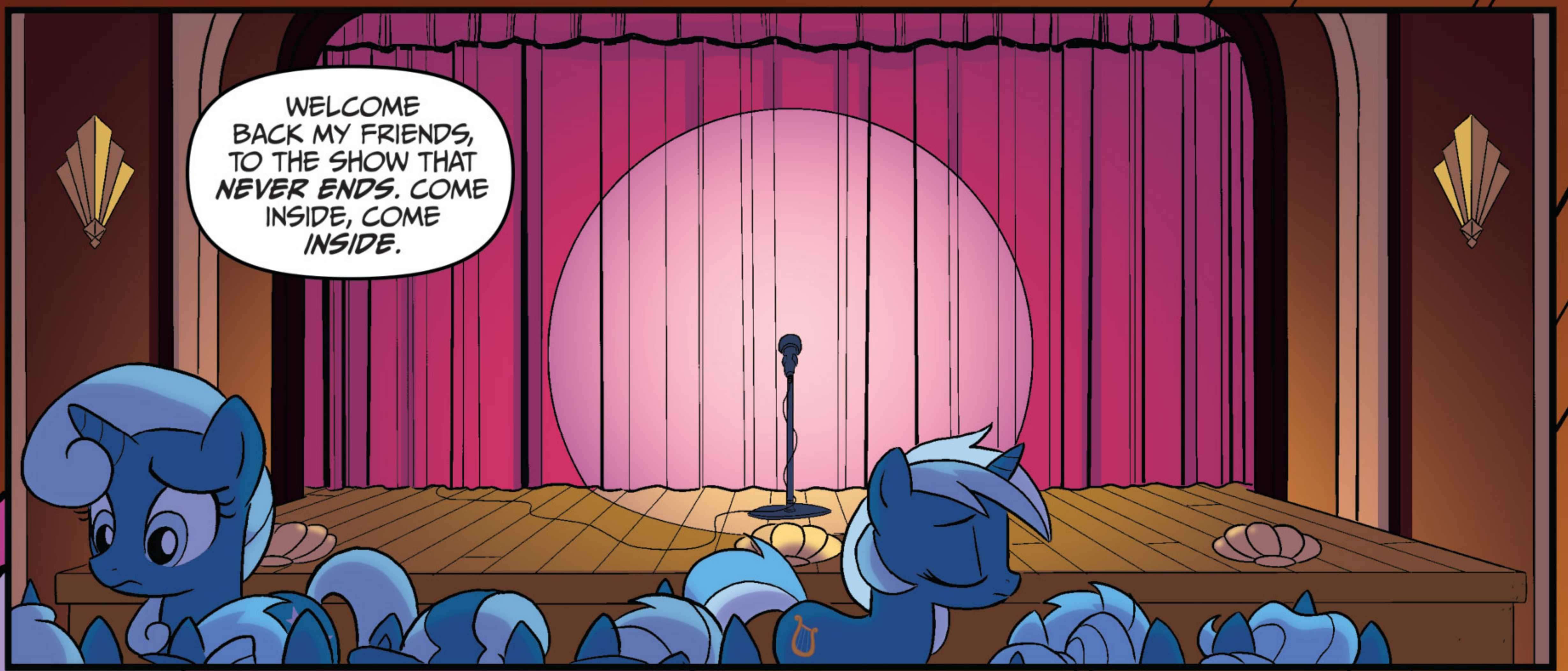
TONIGHT
SUSPONIA



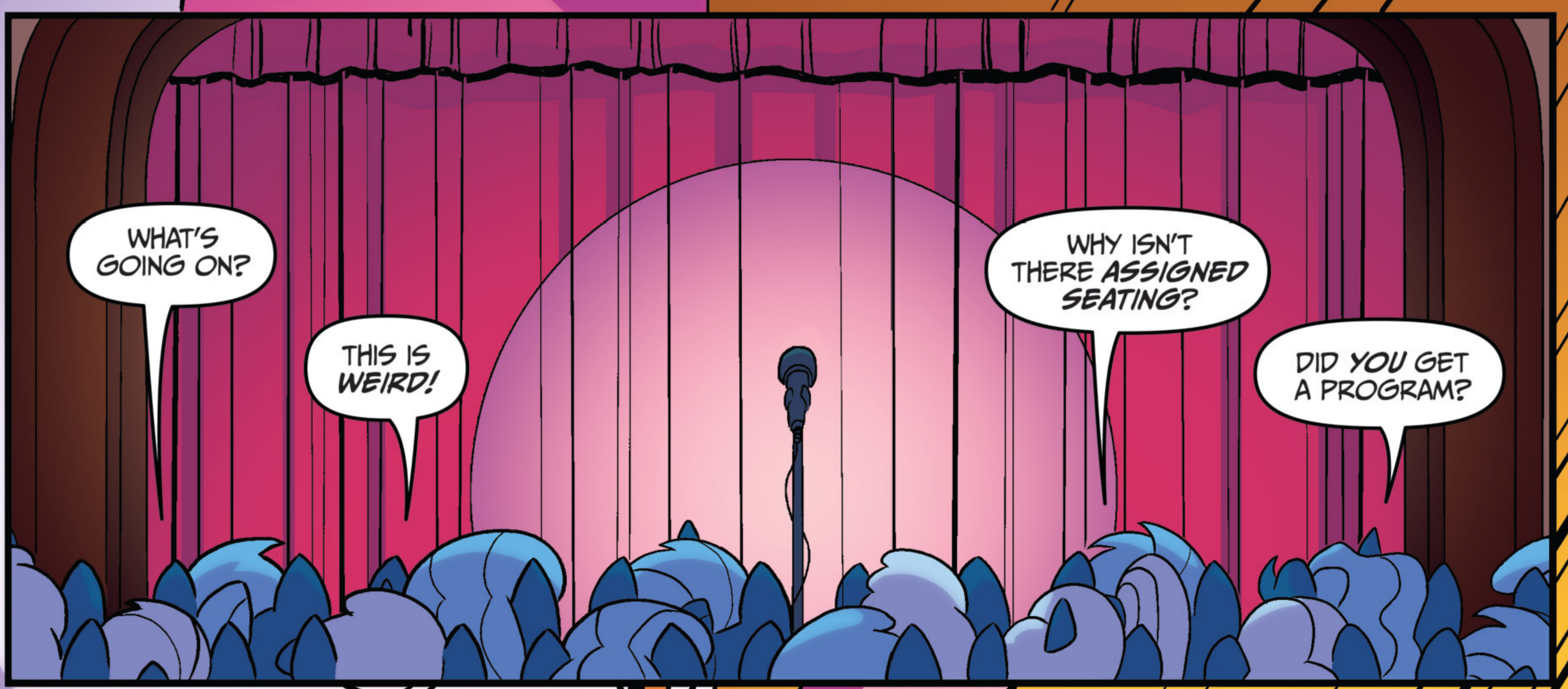


click

COME ON IN,
THE *SHOW'S*
ABOUT TO
START.



WELCOME
BACK MY FRIENDS,
TO THE SHOW THAT
NEVER ENDS. COME
INSIDE, COME
INSIDE.



WHAT'S
GOING ON?

THIS IS
WEIRD!

WHY ISN'T
THERE *ASSIGNED*
SEATING?

DID YOU GET
A PROGRAM?



SHOWTIME.



HEY, EVERYPONY!
WELCOME TO MY **ONE PONY SHOW!** DON'T TRY TO LEAVE, AS IF YOU COULD.

I LOCKED ALL THE DOORS AND I PUT **GLUE** ON YOUR SEATS!



WHAT A **GOOD-LOOKING, CAPTIVE AUDIENCE** WE HAVE TONIGHT! I HOPE YOU JUST LOVE THE SHOW.

FOR YOUR SALES.



SO, I'M **PINKIE PIE** AND I'LL BE YOUR ENTERTAINMENT TODAY. I'VE GOT A NEW ROUTINE THAT I'M DYING TO SHOW YOU. IT'LL SLAY YOU!



SO, FIRST, I **MUSTACHES** YOU, WHY ARE MUSTACHES SO FUNNY?



THUMBS? WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THUMBS?



WHAT? IS **PHYSICAL COMEDY** TOO GOOD FOR YOU?



"SO HE WAS ALL **YAKKITY YAK** YAK YAK."

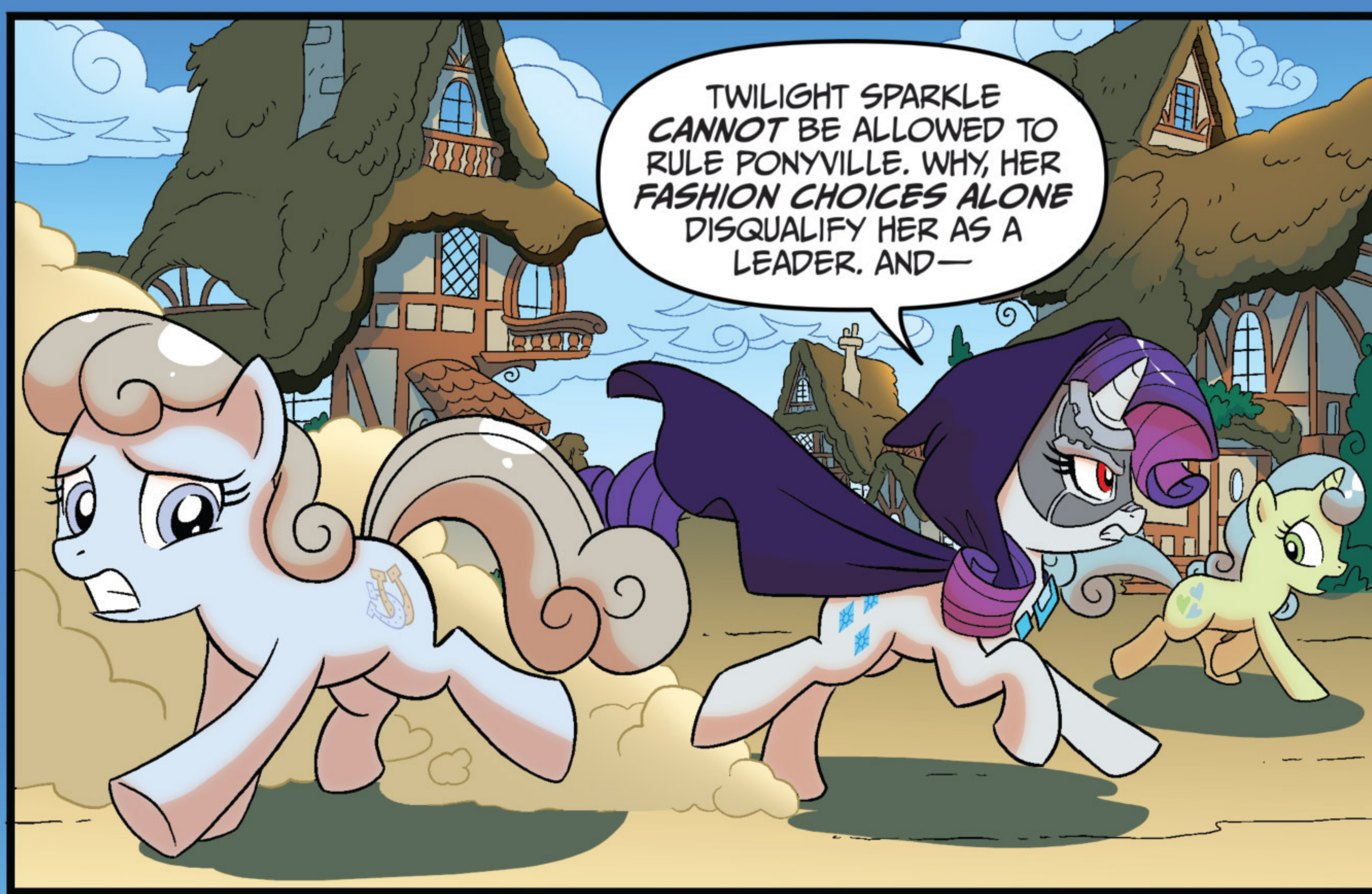
"HEY! THAT'S MY GRANDFATHERS NAME!"

"DON'T TALK BACK!"



I THINK I WOULD HAVE **PREFERRED** THE EXPLOSIONS.

I LIKE IT!



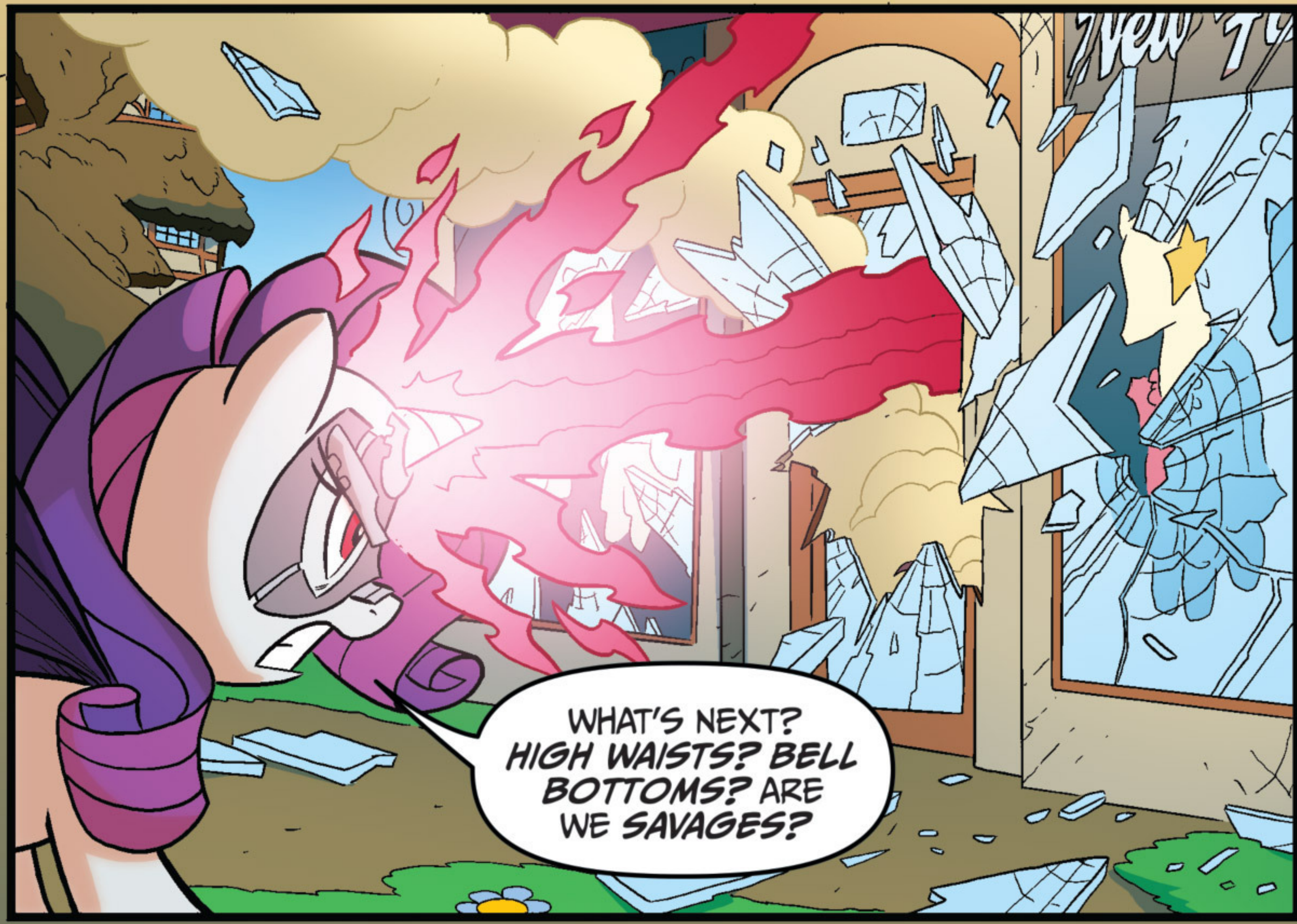
TWILIGHT SPARKLE CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO RULE PONYVILLE. WHY, HER FASHION CHOICES ALONE DISQUALIFY HER AS A LEADER. AND—



GASP! WHAT?! THIS CANNOT STAND!



SHOULDER PADS! THOSE ATROCITIES WILL NEVER COME BACK INTO STYLE, NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!



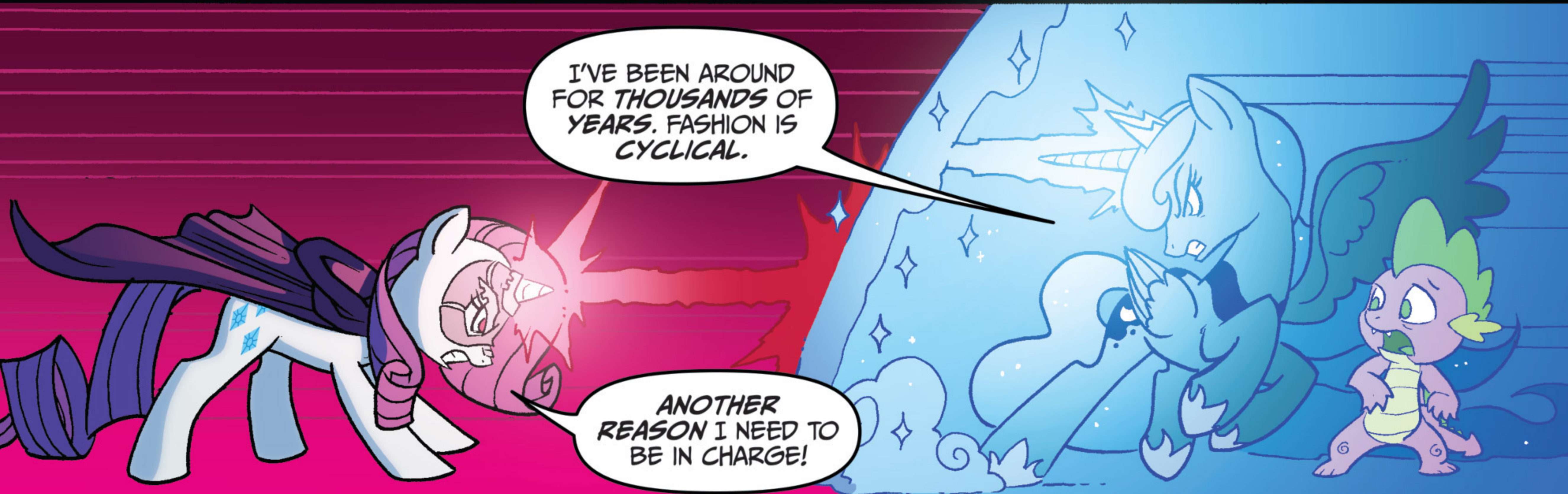
WHAT'S NEXT? HIGH WAISTS? BELL BOTTOMS? ARE WE SAVAGES?



PRINCESS LUNA! I'VE FOUND HER!



SPIKE? ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FASHION CRIME?



I'VE BEEN AROUND FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. FASHION IS CYCLICAL.

ANOTHER REASON I NEED TO BE IN CHARGE!

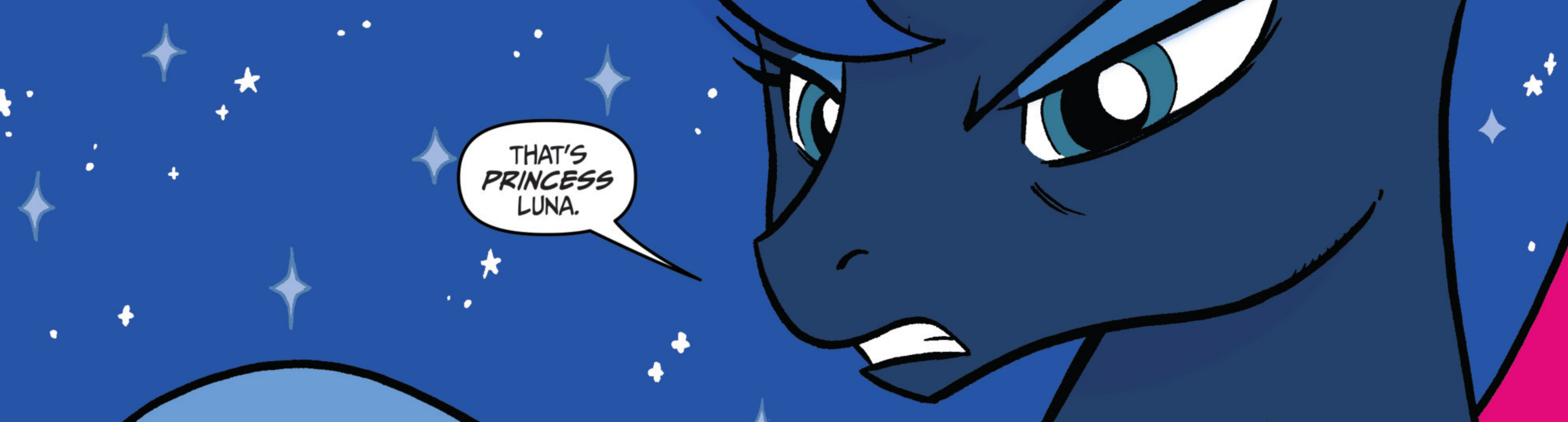


SPIKE, GET OUT OF HERE. THE DARK MAGIC IS MAKING HER STRONGER. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN KEEP THIS UP.



UNH!

YOU AND YOUR SISTER WILL SOON BE IN THE DONATION BIN OF HISTORY, LUNA.



THAT'S PRINCESS LUNA.

THE EVERFREE FOREST...

ZECORA'S HUT!
WE'RE ALMOST
THERE.

HOPEFULLY, WE
WON'T GIVE HER
A SCARE!

SERIOUSLY?
WE'RE STARTING
THE RHYMING
ALREADY?

ZECORA!
LET US IN!
LET US IN!

WHY MUST YOU
BELLOW? JUST
KNOCK AND
CALMLY SAY
"HELLO!"

SOMETHING
MUST BE VERY
BAD FOR YOU TO
RISK MAKING ME
SO MAD.

**BANG! BANG!
KNOCK!
SLAM!**

JUST IN
TIME!

SOME
STRANGE WATER
MADE OUR FRIENDS
TURN EVIL. WE NEED
YOUR HELP TO
TURN THEM
BACK.

YOUR STORY IS
TROUBLING AND IT
SEEMS THAT CHAOS IS
DOUBLING. WE MUST
RETURN OURSELVES TO
TOWN AND INVESTIGATE
HOW EVERYTHING
WENT DOWN.

ALSO,
FLUTTERSHEY IS
LEADING AN ARMY
OF FOREST ANIMALS
AGAINST US BECAUSE
I ACCIDENTALLY
STEPPED ON
A BUNNY.

WELL, WE HAVE
TO GET THROUGH
FLUTTERSHEY'S
FURRY ARMY
FIRST.

UNLOCK THE
DOOR AND WE WILL
ESCAPE THEM, WE FOUR.

THAT'S A LOT OF ANGRY FOES, COMPLETE WITH AN INTIMIDATING POSE.



ZECORA, ARE YOU PROTECTING THESE CRIMINALS? THEY HARMED ONE OF MY CREATURES.

SINCE WHEN ARE THE ANIMALS OF THE WOODS EXCLUSIVELY YOUR GOODS?

NOW, APPLE BLOOM—

—MAKE THAT JUJU BAG GO BOOM!



—KOFF KOFF!— DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!

NO, YOU DID THE BEST YOU COULD. THEY'RE VERY TRICKY. AND A THREAT.

THAT CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO STAND.

BOOM!



MEANWHILE...

OOF!
YOU DARE?!

HEY! THIS
IS MY SHOW! NO
CROSSOVERS!

YOU'RE *STRONG*,
I'LL GIVE YOU
THAT.

YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
SEE *HOW*
STRONG.

HAVE YOU *NO*
RESPECT FOR
THE THEATER? FOR
COMIC TIMING?
THIS *ISN'T* FUNNY.
I'LL SHOW YOU
FUNNY!

FIRST RULE
OF COMEDY IS
SURPRISE.

SURPRISE? BUT
YOU *ALWAYS* USE
YOUR PARTY
CANNON!

WHY DO I HAVE
A FEELING IT'S *NOT*
REALLY GOING TO
BE FUNNY?

IT'S A REAL
CANNON NOW!
SURPRISE!

BOOM!

TIME TO
BRING DOWN
THE HOUSE!

OKAY,
OBVIOUS, BUT
A CLASSIC.



SPIKE, ARE YOU OKAY?

I'LL SURVIVE. BUT I LOST TRACK OF PINKIE PIE.

T NIGHT S SPO IA



WE'VE GOT ZECORA!

THANK GOODNESS. AT LEAST SOMETHING HAS BROKEN OUR WAY.

OTHER THAN THE THEATER.

MAN, I HAD TICKETS TO SEE THAT CELESTIA RAP MUSICAL THERE NEXT WEEK, TOO.

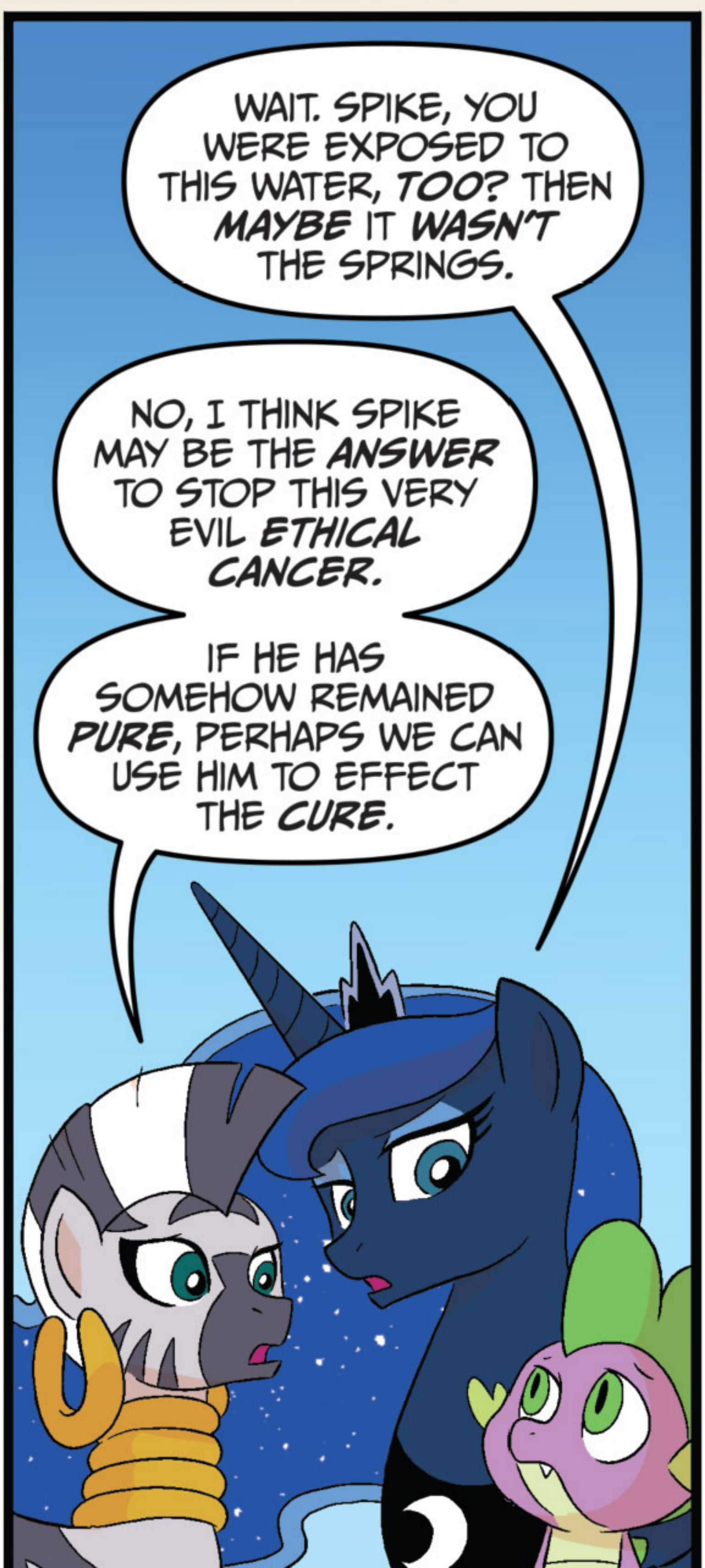


ZECORA, DO YOU HAVE ANY INSIGHT INTO HOW WE CAN RECTIFY THIS SITUATION?

I MUST LEARN WHAT OCCURRED BEFORE WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHY OUR FRIENDS MORALS BECAME BLURRED.

SPIKE, YOU SAY THERE WAS SOME EVIL SPRINGS THAT MADE OUR FRIENDS INTO THESE EVIL THINGS?

YES, WE ALL TOOK A DIP IN IT—



WAIT. SPIKE, YOU WERE EXPOSED TO THIS WATER, TOO? THEN MAYBE IT WASN'T THE SPRINGS.

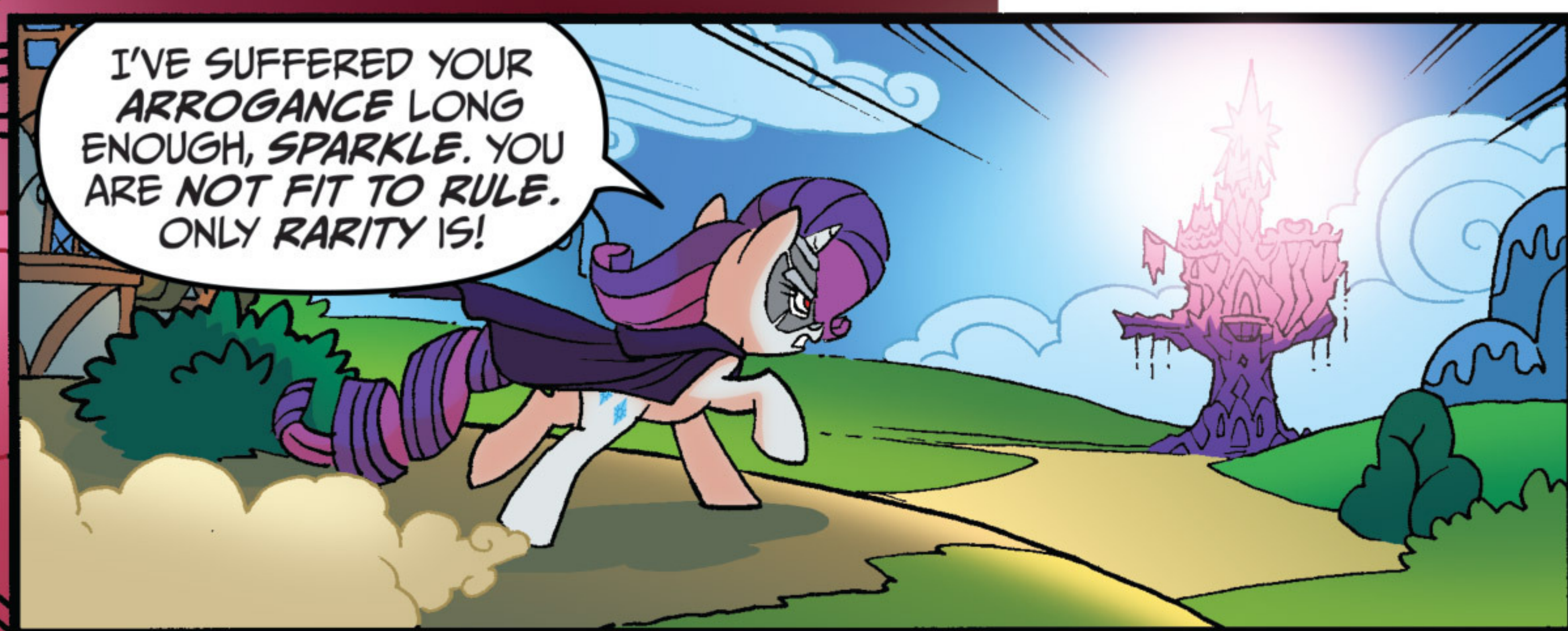
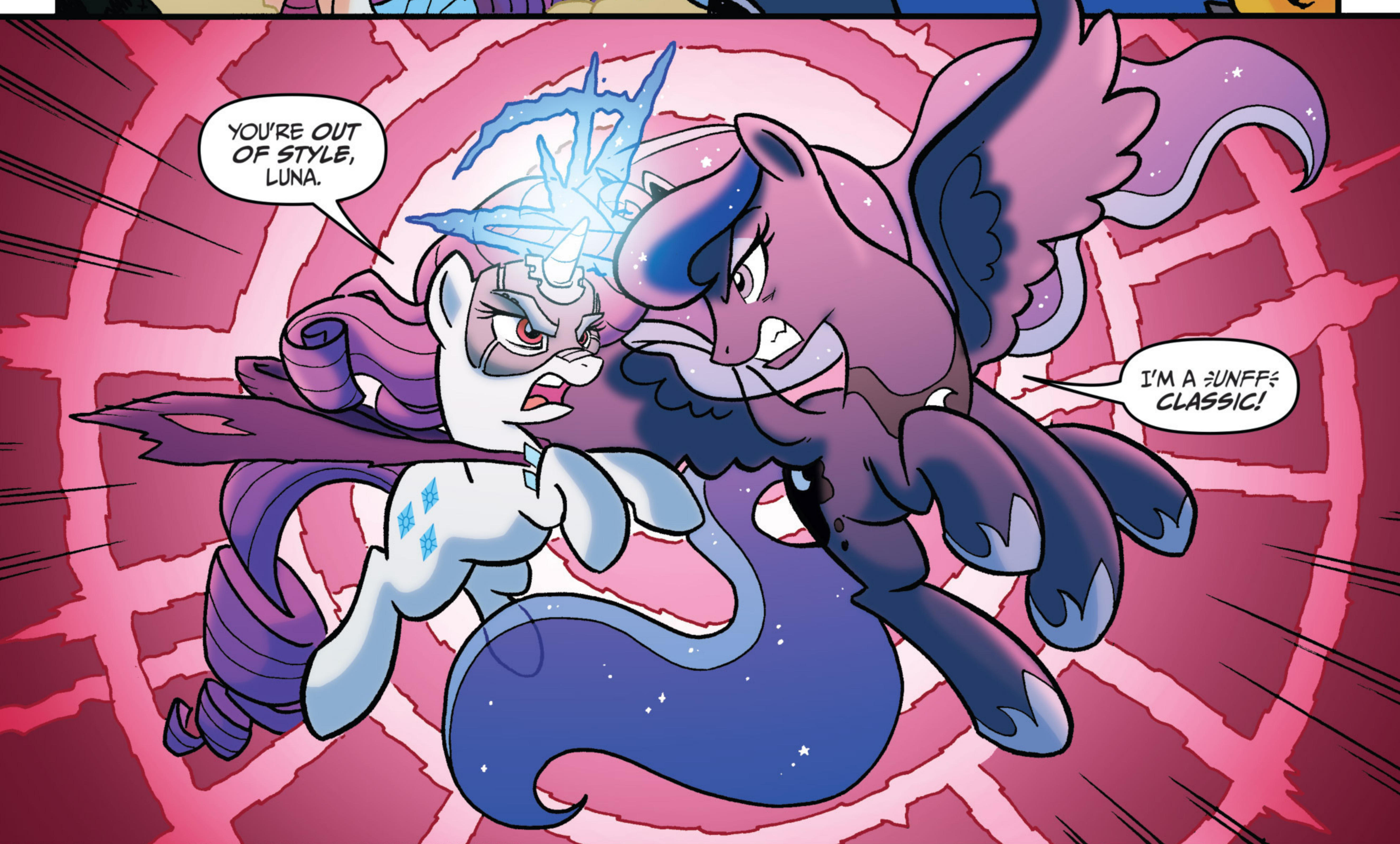
NO, I THINK SPIKE MAY BE THE ANSWER TO STOP THIS VERY EVIL ETHICAL CANCER.

IF HE HAS SOMEHOW REMAINED PURE, PERHAPS WE CAN USE HIM TO EFFECT THE CURE.



LET ME TAKE SPIKE ASIDE AND SEE IF THE SOLUTION IS IN HIS HIDE.

-ULP- MY HIDE?





LOOK AT THEM, MY FRIENDS. THEY CAUSE SUCH DESTRUCTION. THEIR CITY IS A BLIGHT IN OUR FOREST.



YES, ANGEL BUNNY, OUR FOREST. THE FOREST WAS HERE LONG BEFORE PONYVILLE.

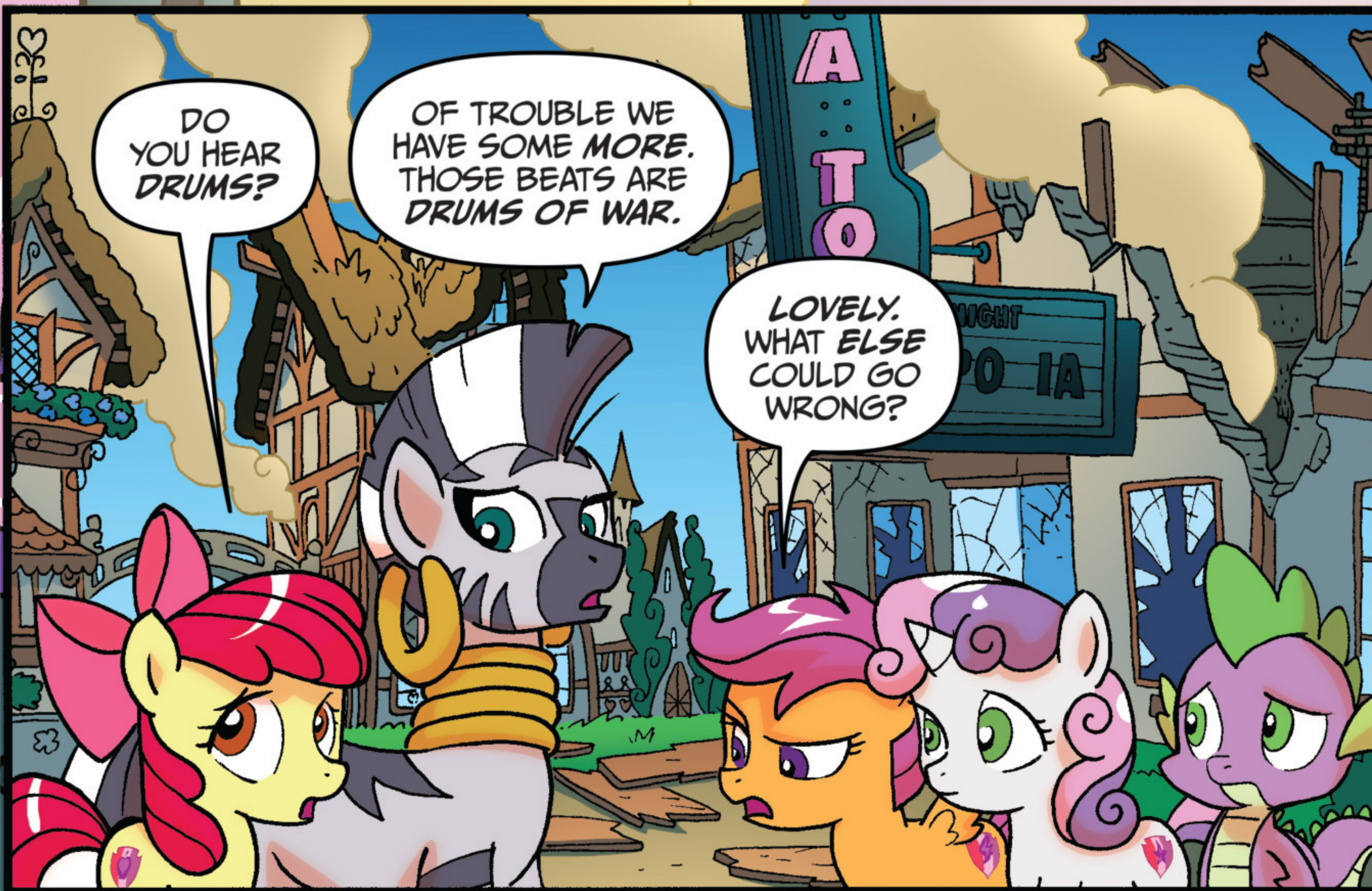


AND IT WILL BE HERE LONG AFTER.



LET US MAKE READY.

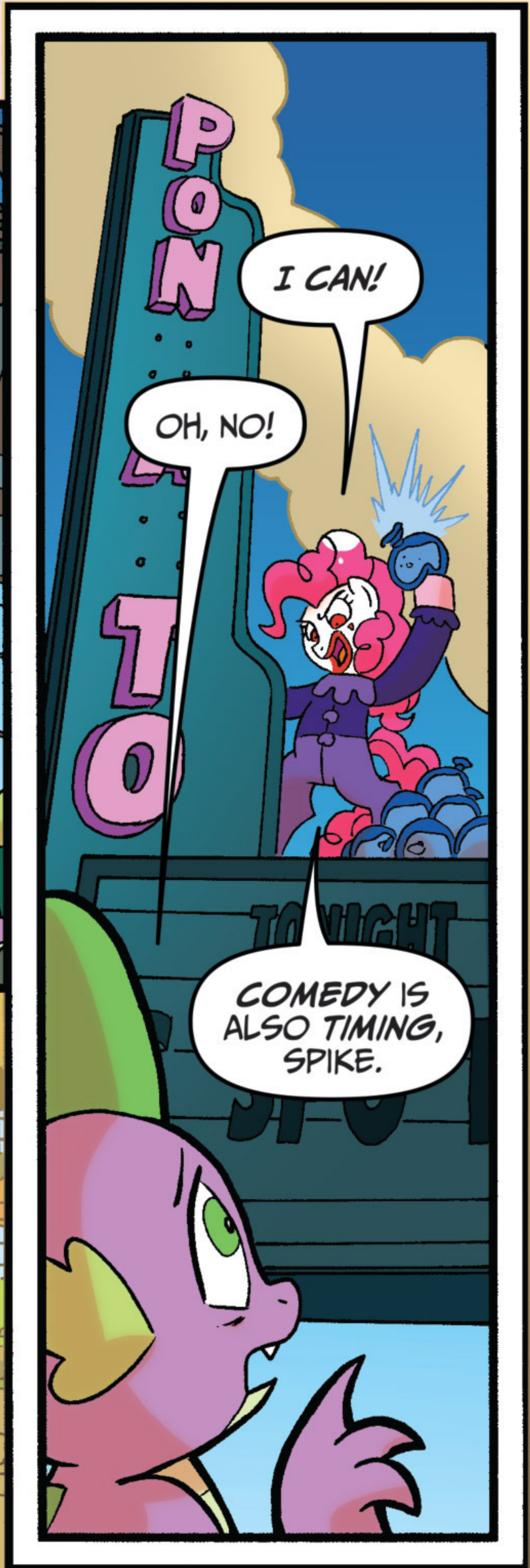
FOR WAR!



DO YOU HEAR DRUMS?

OF TROUBLE WE HAVE SOME MORE. THOSE BEATS ARE DRUMS OF WAR.

LOVELY. WHAT ELSE COULD GO WRONG?



I CAN!

OH, NO!

COMEDY IS ALSO TIMING, SPIKE.



SPLISH SPLASH LET'S MAKE THIS A BASH!

LETS SEE WHO WE CAN DRENCH AND GET THEM OFF THE BENCH.

I CAN RHYME, TOO, ZECORA.



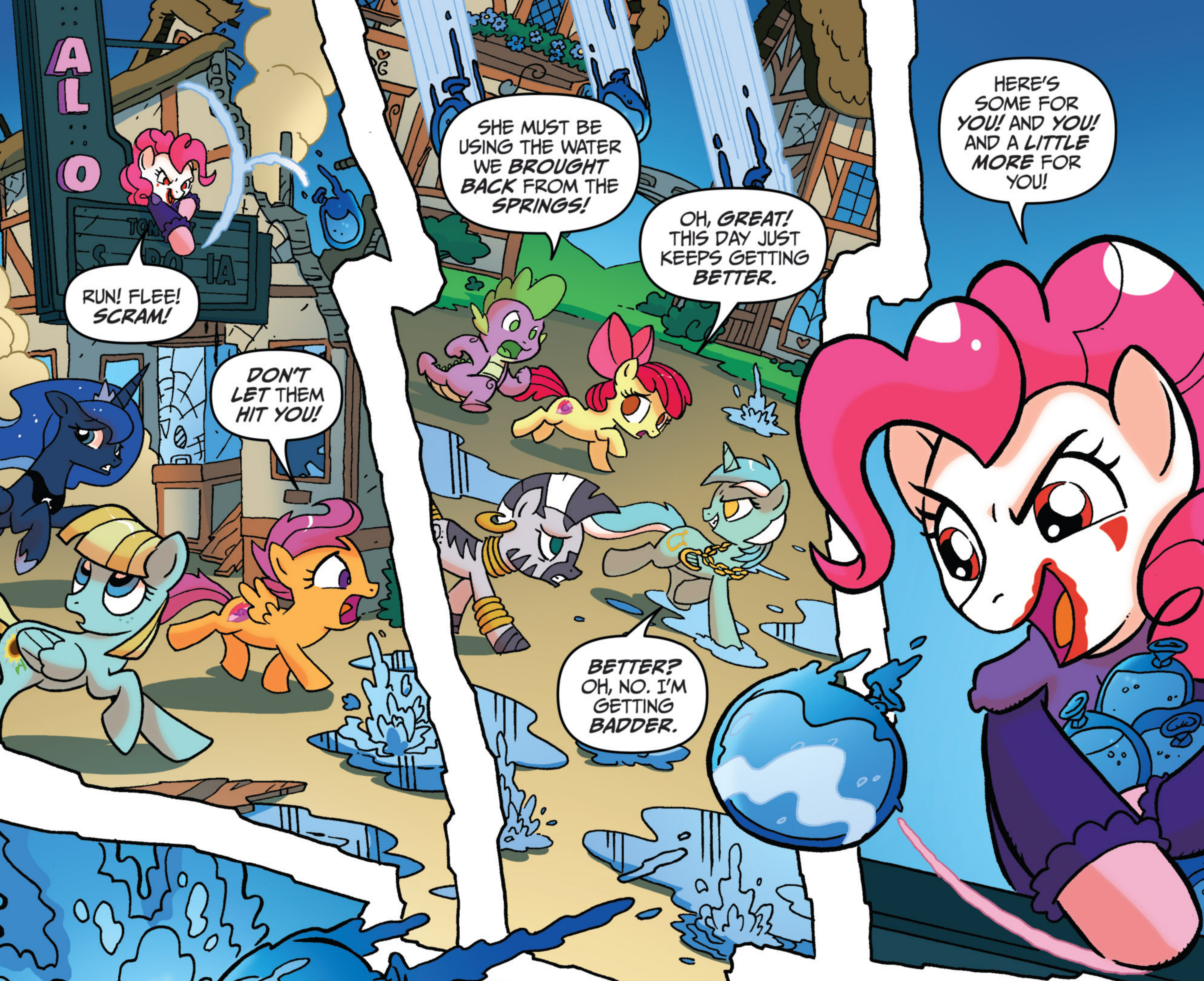
WHY HAVE I BEEN WASTING MY TIME BUYING MUSIC?

I CAN JUST STEAL IT!



TO HECK WITH YOU, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS! MY TUNES MUST BE FREE!

THE WATER BALLOONS! THEY'RE FILLED WITH THE EVIL WATER!



SHE MUST BE USING THE WATER WE BROUGHT BACK FROM THE SPRINGS!

OH, GREAT! THIS DAY JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER.

HERE'S SOME FOR YOU! AND YOU! AND A LITTLE MORE FOR YOU!

RUN! FLEE! SCRAM!

DON'T LET THEM HIT YOU!

BETTER? OH, NO. I'M GETTING Badder.

SPLASH!

THAT WAS CLOSE!

OH NO...!

TOO CLOSE.

YES...!



**NIGHTMARE MOON
HAS RETURNED!**



TO BE CONCLUDED!

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Ted Adams here. I'm going to be your monthly guide through the IDW/Top Shelf checklist, pointing out our big hits and bringing your attention to some gems that you might otherwise miss.

Chris Ryall's dream has come true: IDW is publishing **Rom**. IDW and Hasbro have been working together on comics for more than a decade and I don't think a week's gone by when Chris hasn't been trying to find a way for us to publish **Rom**.

His dreams came true when we launched **Rom** as part of this year's Free Comic Book Day event and continue in July with the release of the first issue. Chris is joined on writing duties by **Christos Gage** and long-time IDW artist, **David Messina**, is handling the art. The heavy-hitters providing covers for the first issue include **J.H. Williams III**, **P. Craig Russell**, **Michael Golden**, **Sal Buscema**, **Zach Howard**, and **Tom Whalen**.

July is also **Rom cover month** at IDW and you'll find him featured on **Action Man** #2, **Back to the Future** #10, **G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero** #230, **Jem and the Holograms** #17, **Judge Dredd** #8, **Micronauts** #4, **My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic** #44, **My Little Pony: Friends Forever** #30, **Star Trek** #59, **Transformers** #55, **Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye** #55, and **Transformers: Till All Are One** #2.

The **Powerpuff Girls** are back in a big way at Cartoon Network with an all-new 40-episode series that premiered in April. We've got a new series, **Powerpuff Girls** #1, that takes place directly in the world of the new show with stories written by show writers **Jake Goldman** and **Haley Mancini** and drawn by **Derek Charm**. Ask your retailer about the extra-rare variant cover by **Jay Hasrajani**, one of the show's animators.

A hidden gem from IDW this month is **Angora Napkin: Cuddle Core Collected Edition**. A 320-page collection of **Troy Little**'s cult-classic, Eisner-Nominated series that includes a DVD with the animated TV show that brings the characters to life.

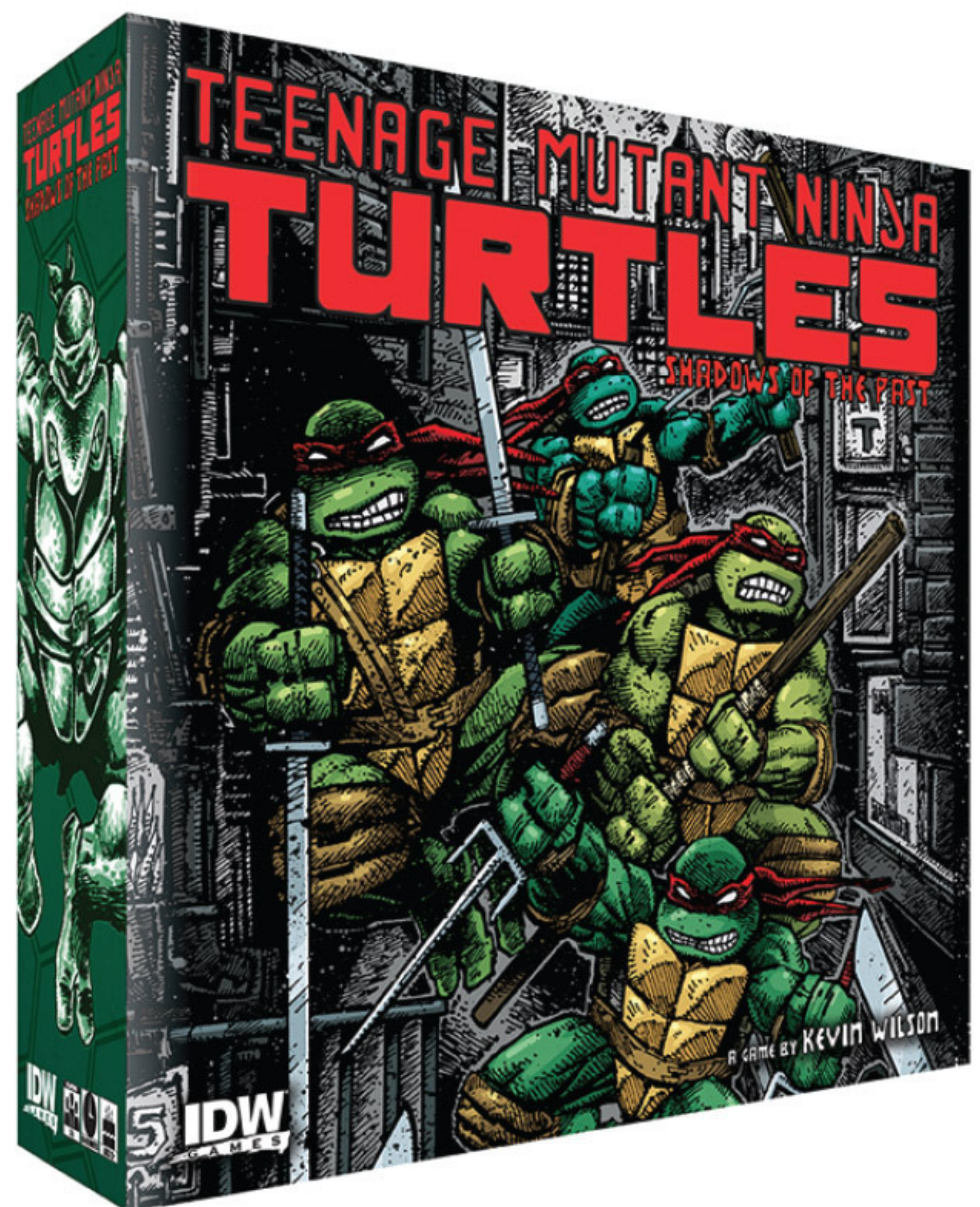
Mickey Mouse Shorts: Season One #1 is based on the Disney TV animation by **Paul Rudish**. In the first issue, Mickey battles his way through a Tokyo bullet train during rush hour, an unlikely character competes in a dog show, and Donald suffers from... Flipperboobootosis?! This one also has a rare variant

cover drawn by one of the shows animators, **Tara Billinger**.

EuroComics brings us one of my favorite titles, **Alack Sinner**, by **Carlos Sampayo** and **Jose Muñoz**. This is the first of two volumes that will collect, for the first-time in English, all of the **Alack Sinner** comics by this legendary Argentinian team. **Sinner** is a hard-boiled private detective whose adventures are played out to a jazz soundtrack in a noir New York from 1975 through the 2000s. This one gets my highest recommendation.

Another one of my favorites is **Bill Sienkiewicz's The New Mutants: Marvel Artist Select Series**. The title is a mouthful but this is the latest in the line of hardcover books we're doing with Marvel. Every copy is signed by Sienkiewicz, comes in a slipcover and is strictly limited to 999 copies. If you've read my other columns, you know that one of my sweet spots for comics is Marvel in the '70s and '80s and there's not much I like more than the issue collected here (**New Mutants** #'s 18 to 31, as well as, a bonus story by **Chris Claremont** and **Sienkiewicz**).

While we're talking about Marvel, this month's Artist's Edition is **Marvel Covers: The Modern Era**. There are two covers to choose from—a Spidey cover by **Todd McFarlane** and a Wolvie cover by **Sam Kieth**. Inside the book you'll find covers by Art Adams, J. Scott Campbell, Jim Lee, Sam Kieth, Todd McFarlane, John Romita, Jr., Joe Quesada, Marc Silvestri, and more.



IDW Games has **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Shadows of the Past**, designed by **Kevin Wilson**. This is a miniatures combat, scenario-driven campaign game that features story content from the IDW **TMNT** comic. Every game comes with more than 40 sculpted minis, 12 unique maps and over 100 cards featuring all-new art by **Tony Vargas**.

Wow, what a month. I can't wait for July to get here. See you in 30...

Strawberry Shortcake™



FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

CHECK OUT A SNEAK PEEK OF THE AWESOME NEW ISSUE...

.....

Strawberry Shortcake™



The Cane Critique

WRITTEN BY: Georgia Ball
ART BY: Amy Mebberson
COLORS BY: Fernando Peniche
LETTERS BY: Robbie Robbins

A Talent for Making You Cry

WRITTEN BY: Kristen Gudsnuk
ART BY: Nicoletta Baldari
COLORS BY: Nicoletta Baldari
LETTERS BY: Christa Miesner



EDITED BY: David Hedgecock
PUBLISHER: Ted Adams

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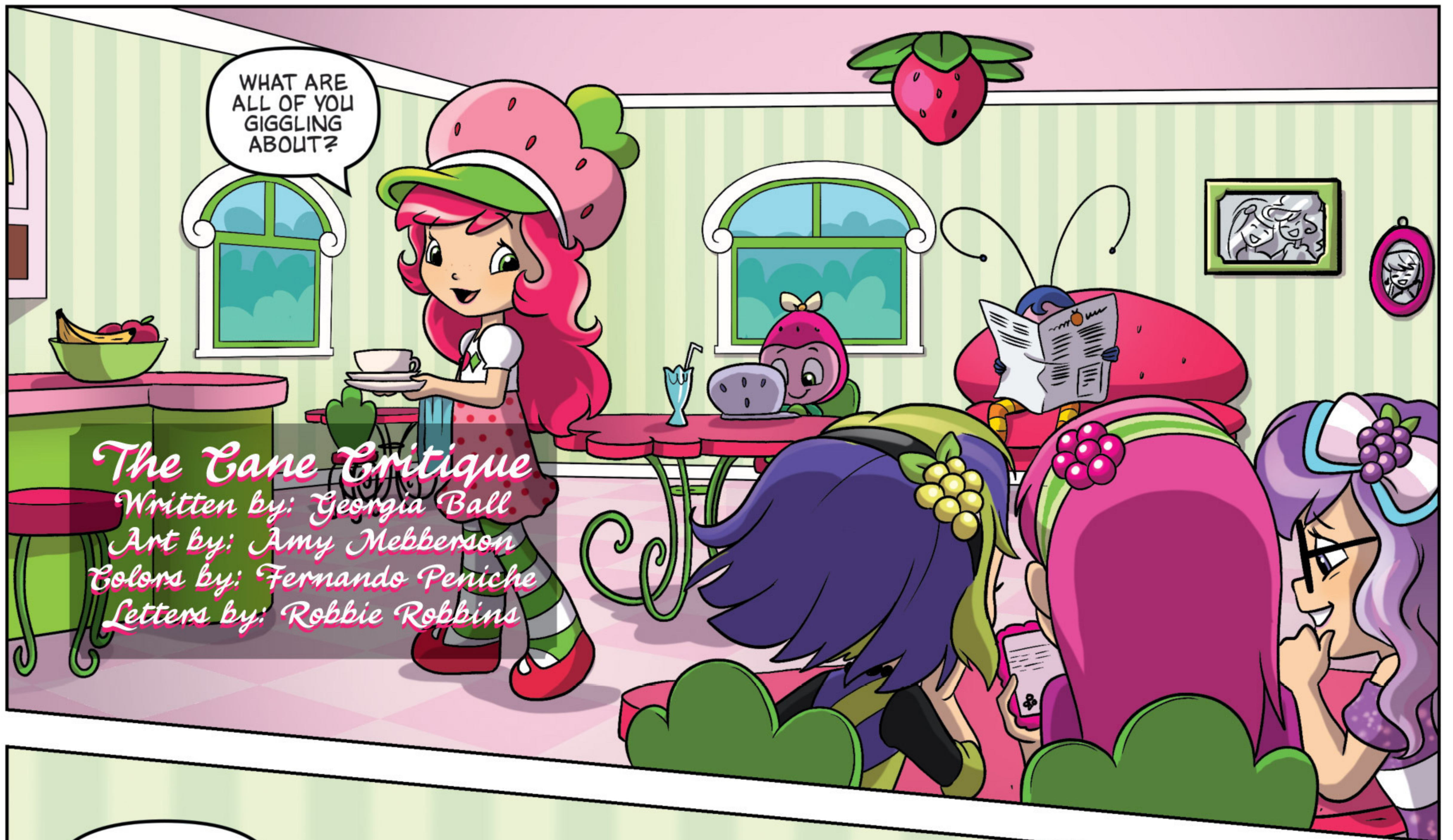
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WHAT ARE ALL OF YOU GIGGLING ABOUT?

The Cane Critique
Written by: Georgia Ball
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Letters by: Robbie Robbins

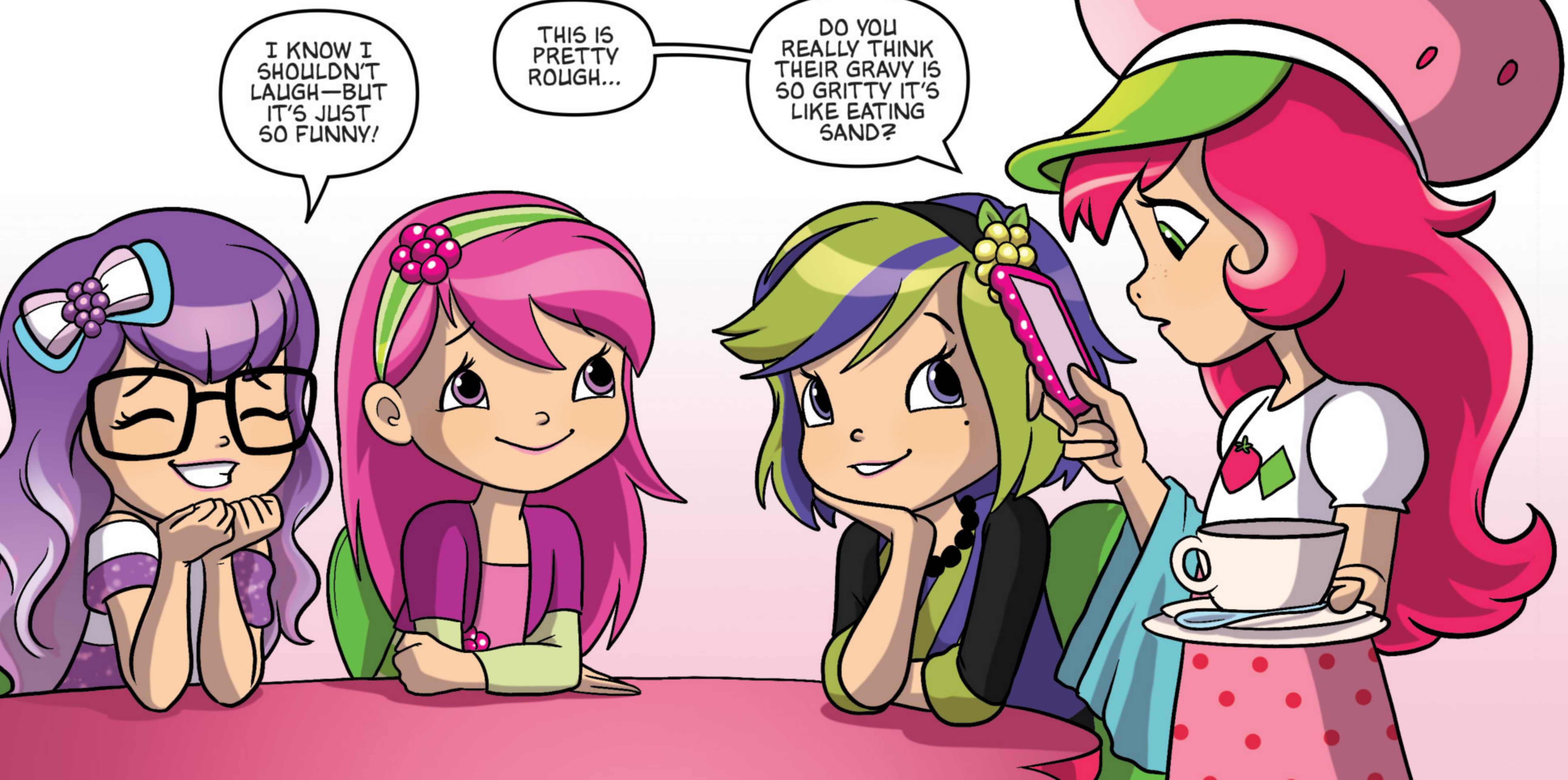


RAISIN CANE'S REVIEW OF THE CHOWHOUSE IN CAROB COUNTY.

SHE'S MY COUSIN, SO OF COURSE IT'S DRIPPING WITH SASS.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU AND SWEET HAD A COUSIN.

WE DON'T REALLY HANG OUT.

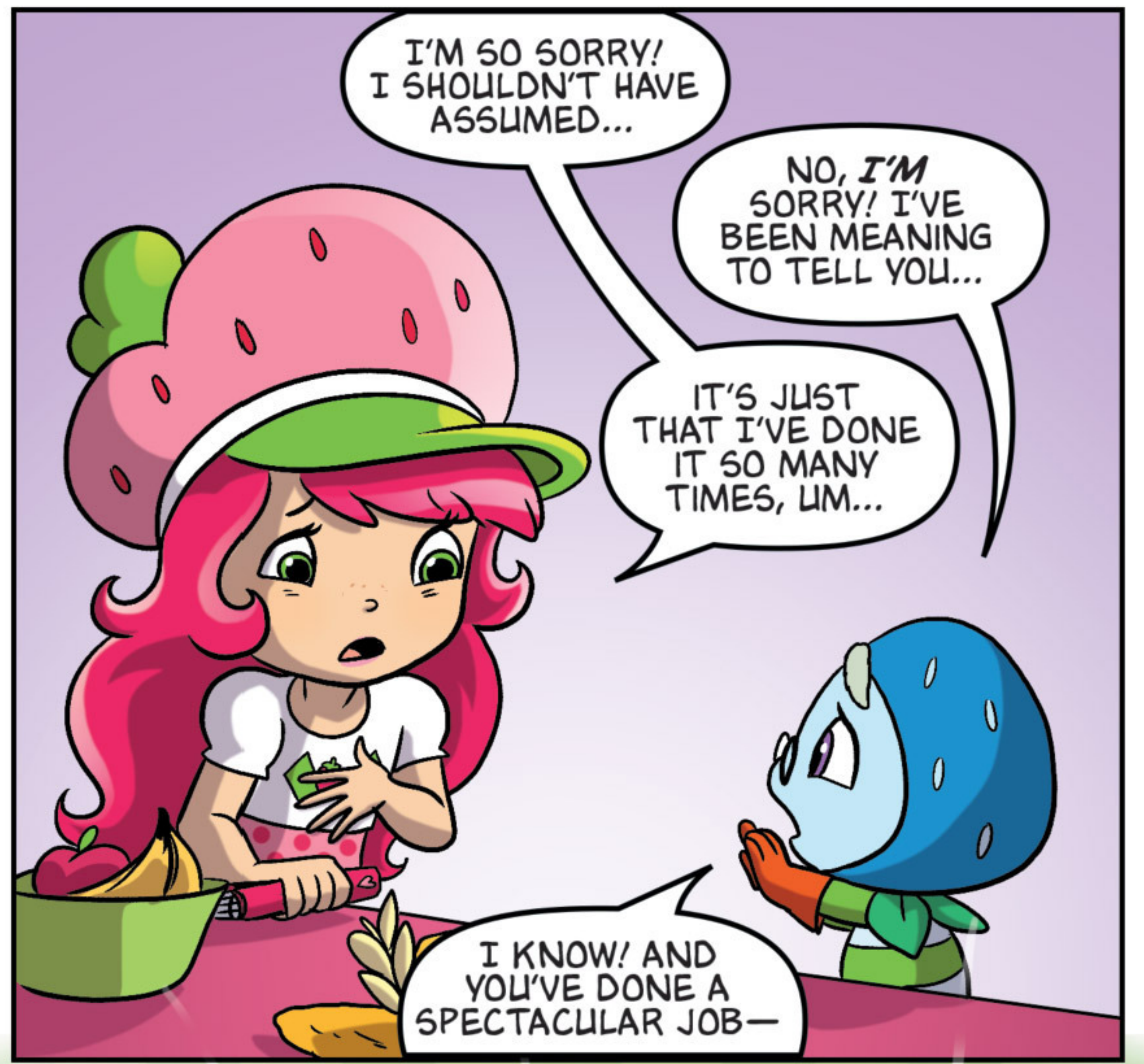


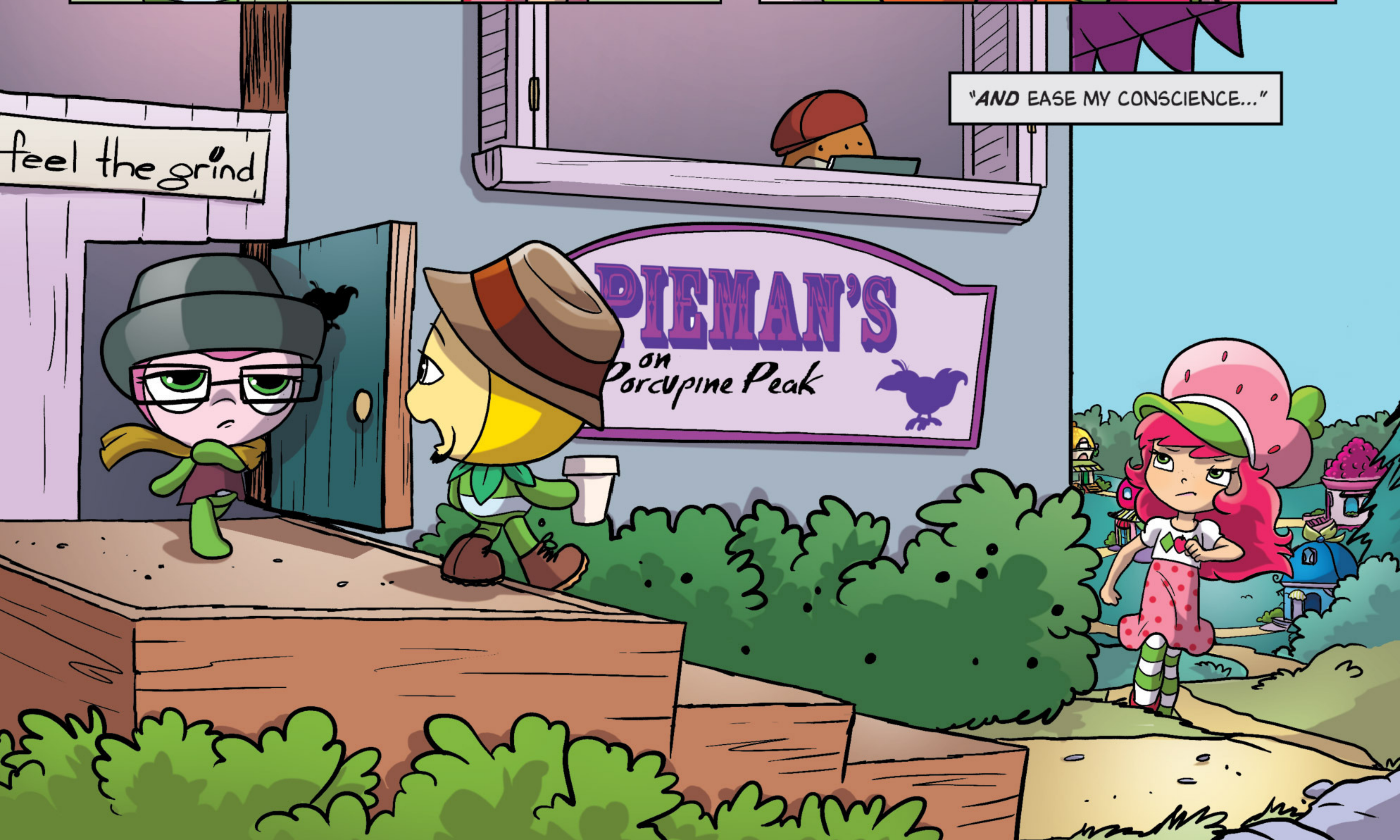
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T LAUGH—BUT IT'S JUST SO FUNNY!

THIS IS PRETTY ROUGH...

DO YOU REALLY THINK THEIR GRAVY IS SO GRITTY IT'S LIKE EATING SAND?



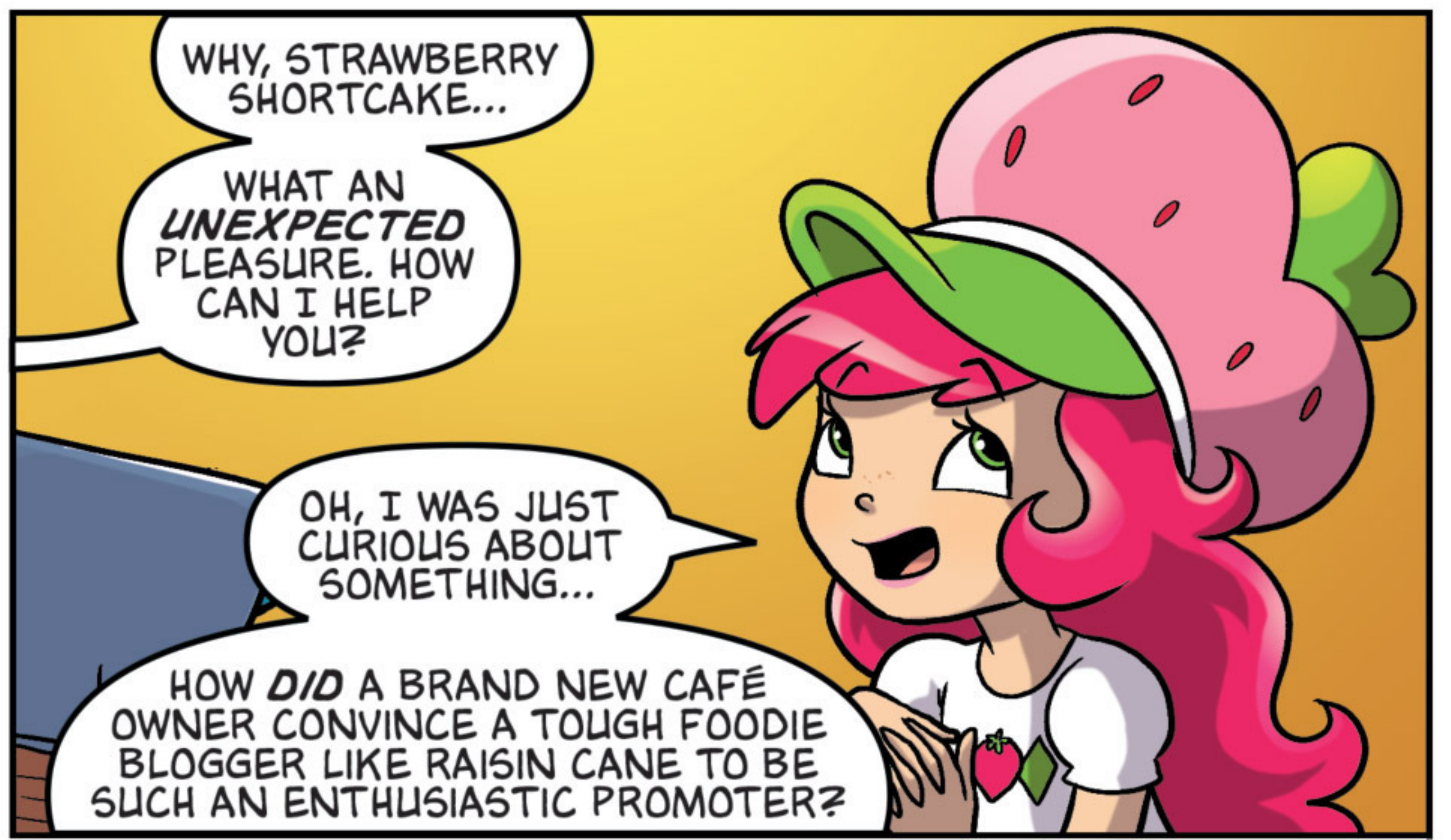






SO THEN I ASKED THE GUY, "WHY CLEAN YOUR SOCKS ANYWAY? ISN'T THAT JUST GIVING IN TO THE SYSTEM?"

SERVICE PLEASE?

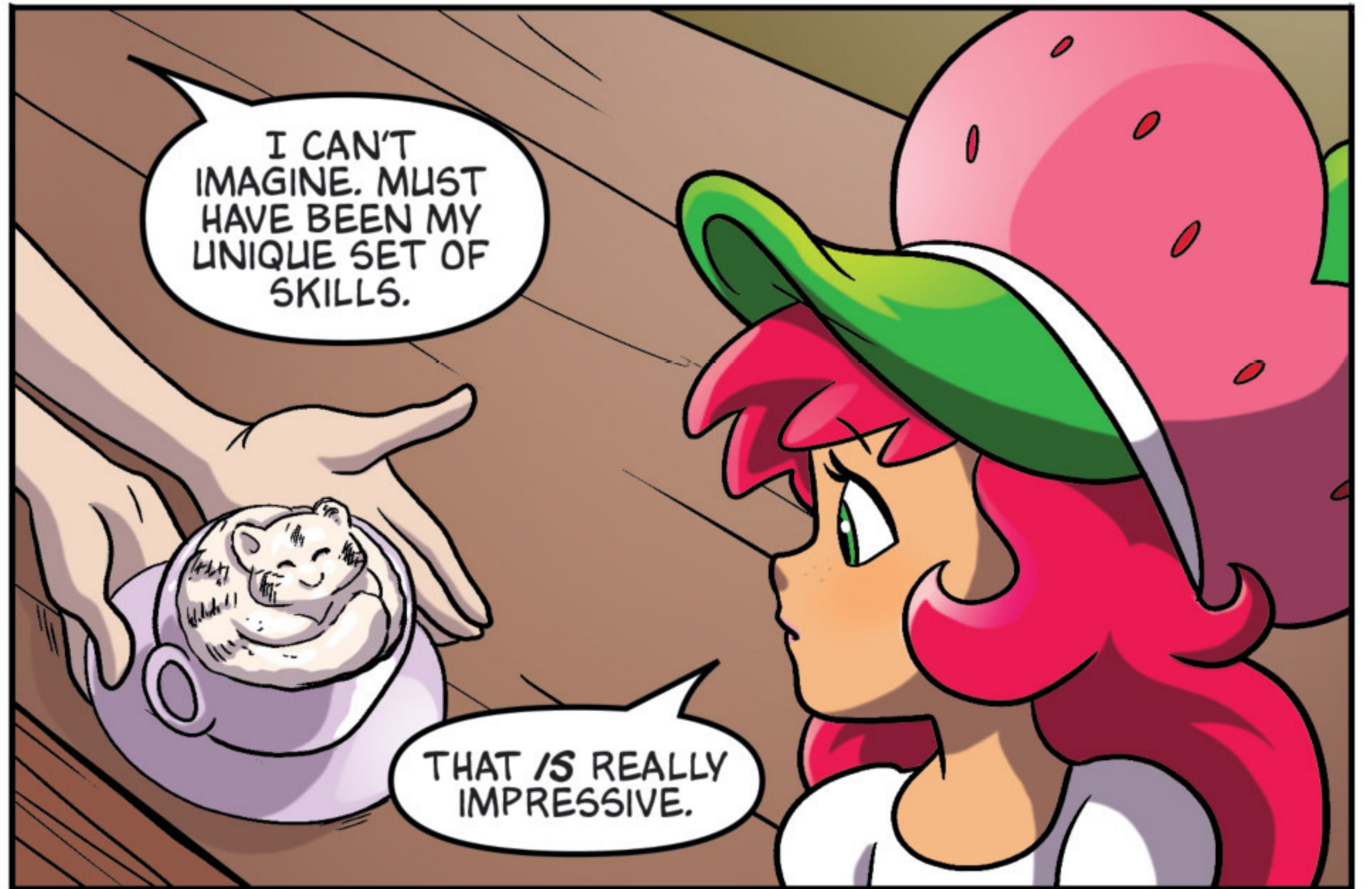


WHY, STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE...

WHAT AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

OH, I WAS JUST CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING...

HOW DID A BRAND NEW CAFE OWNER CONVINCE A TOUGH FOODIE BLOGGER LIKE RAISIN CANE TO BE SUCH AN ENTHUSIASTIC PROMOTER?



I CAN'T IMAGINE. MUST HAVE BEEN MY UNIQUE SET OF SKILLS.

THAT IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE.



ALL RIGHT THEN... IF YOU'RE SO GOOD AT WINNING OVER THE CRITICS—

—YOU SHOULD BE COMPLETELY OK WITH HAVING A TASTING CHALLENGE TO DECIDE WHO CATERES THE BLOOM REUNION.

MOST VOTES FROM THE AUDIENCE WINS.



IS THERE TEA IN HERE SOMEWHERE?



I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE—

AND MY FOOD IS GOING TO KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF.

WELL, IF IT DOES...

AT LEAST MY SOCKS WILL BE CLEAN.

Strawberry Shortcake™



TO BE CONTINUED IN...

ISSUE #4 OF STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

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