

IDW
ISSUE
56
COVER A

my LITTLE PONY

Friendship
is Magic



RICE • GARBOWSKA • BRECKEL



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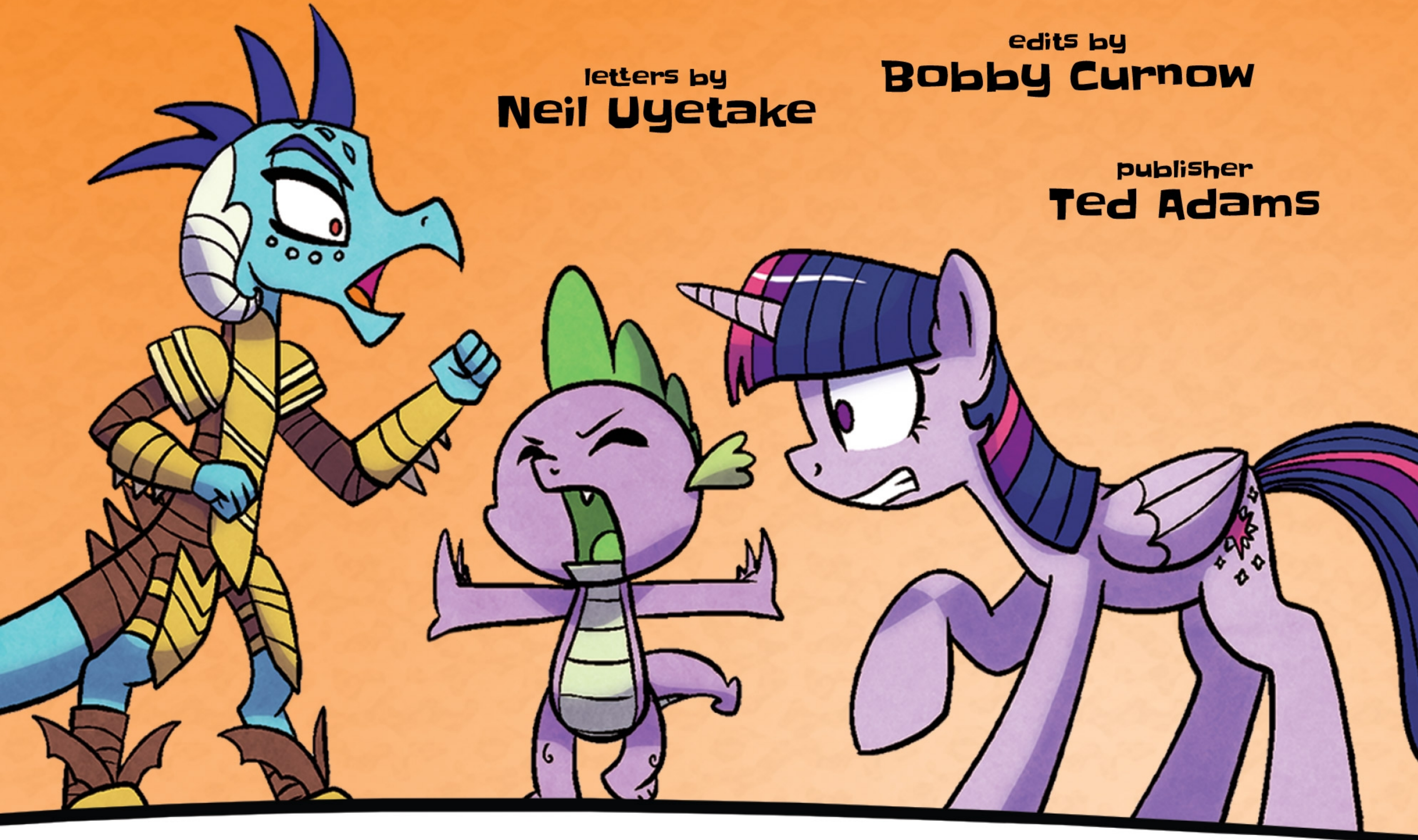
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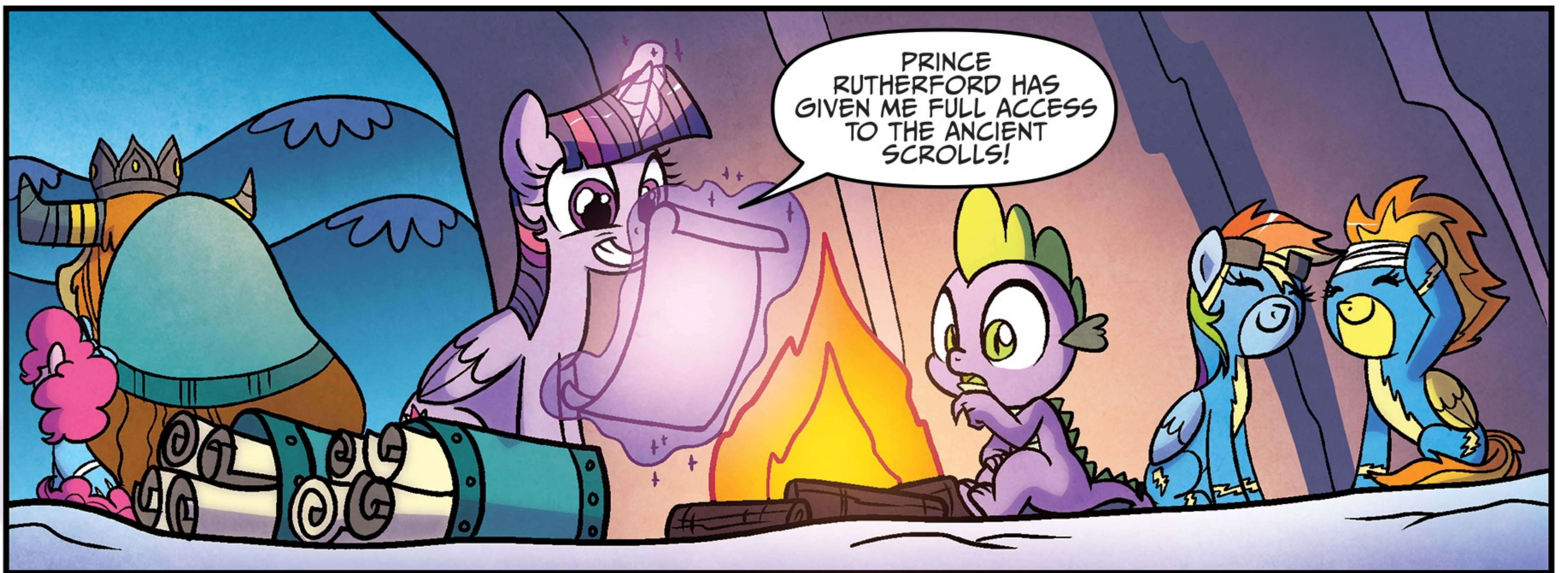
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I GUESS THERE IS ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS DRAGON ATTACK ON YAKYAKISTAN.



PRINCE RUTHERFORD HAS GIVEN ME FULL ACCESS TO THE ANCIENT SCROLLS!



I DON'T THINK ANYPONY HAS HAD THIS MUCH INSIGHT INTO YAK CULTURE.

NOT EVEN PINKIE PIE.



BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING TO INDICATE A SACRED BOND BETWEEN THE YAKS AND DRAGONS.

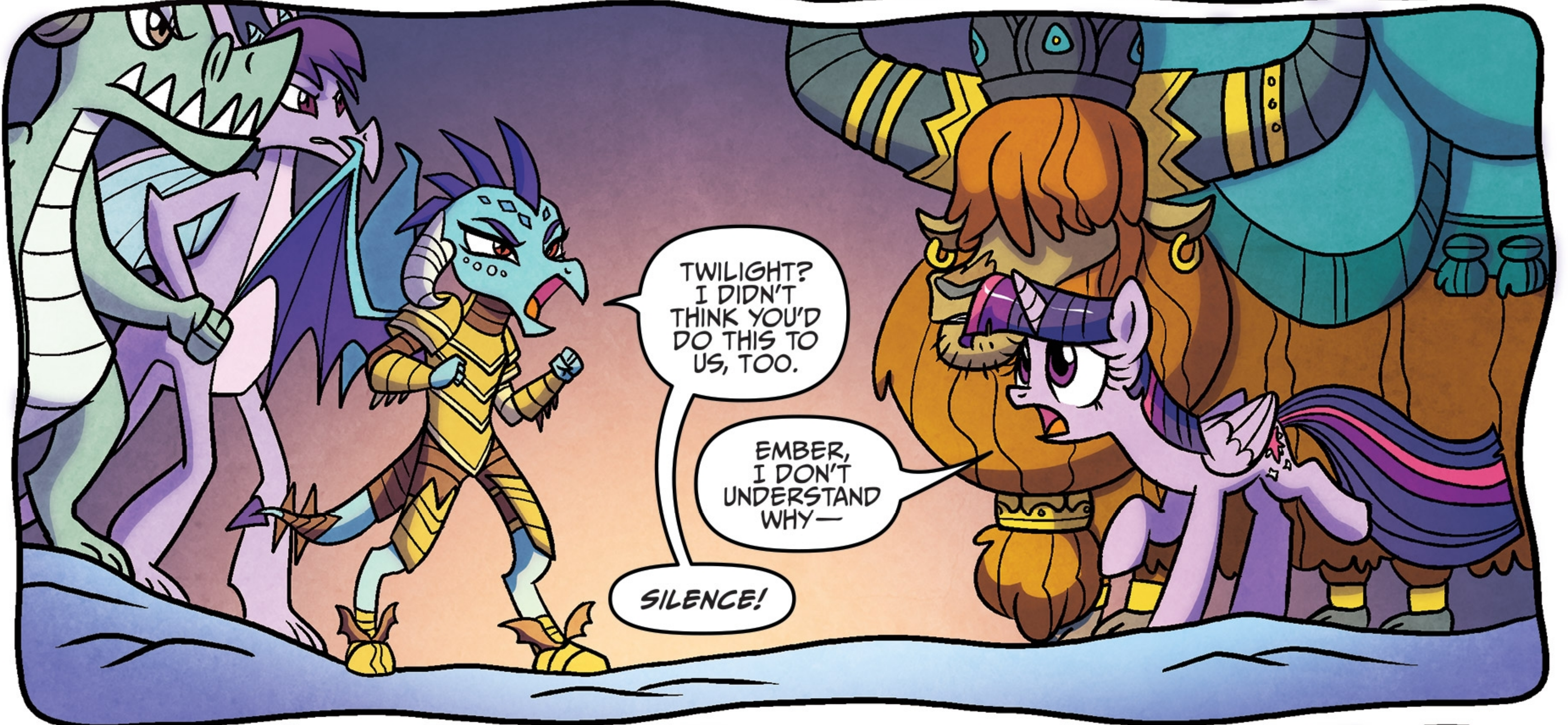
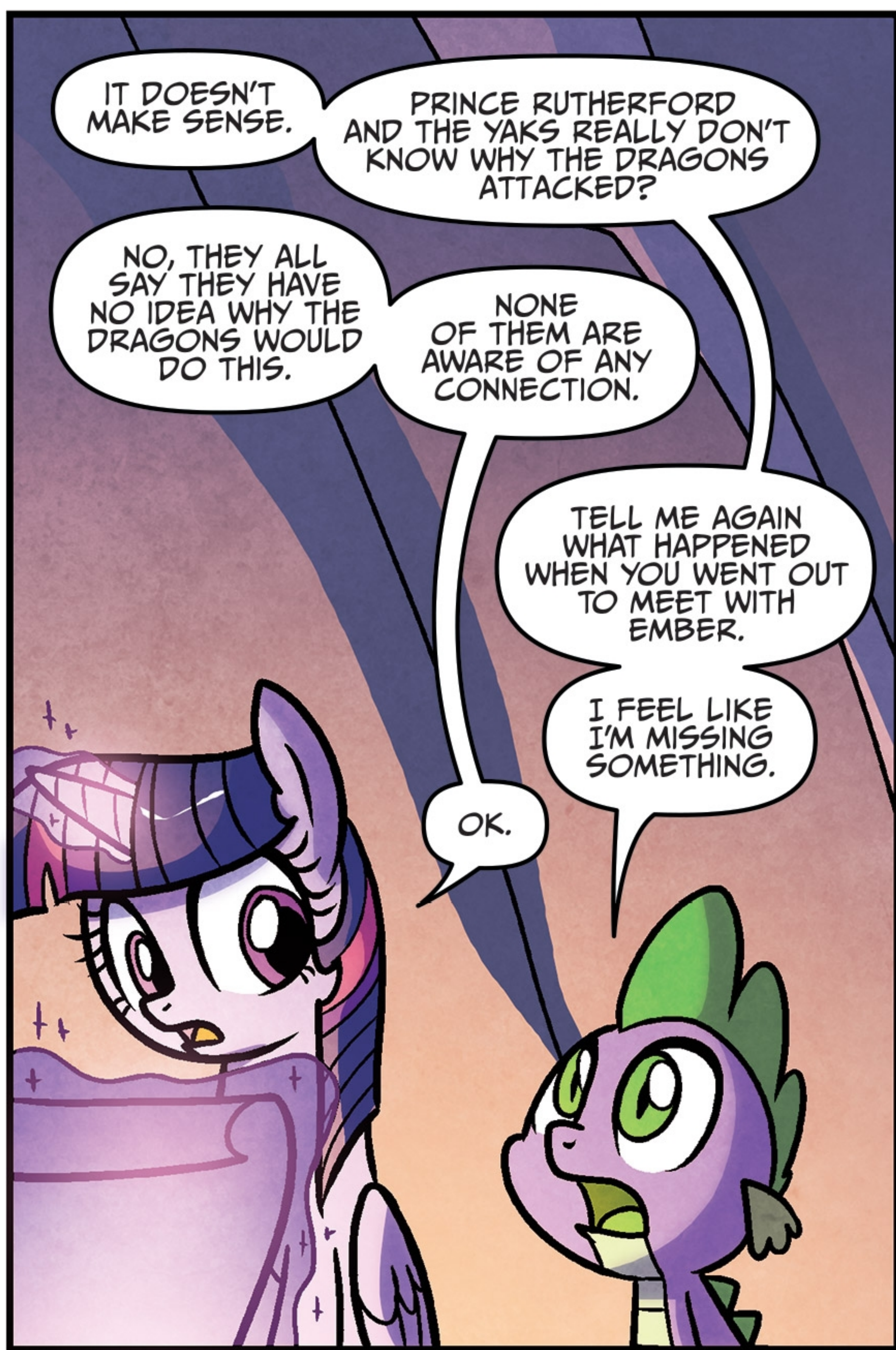
UH HUH.



SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY LISTENING TO ANYTHING I SAY.

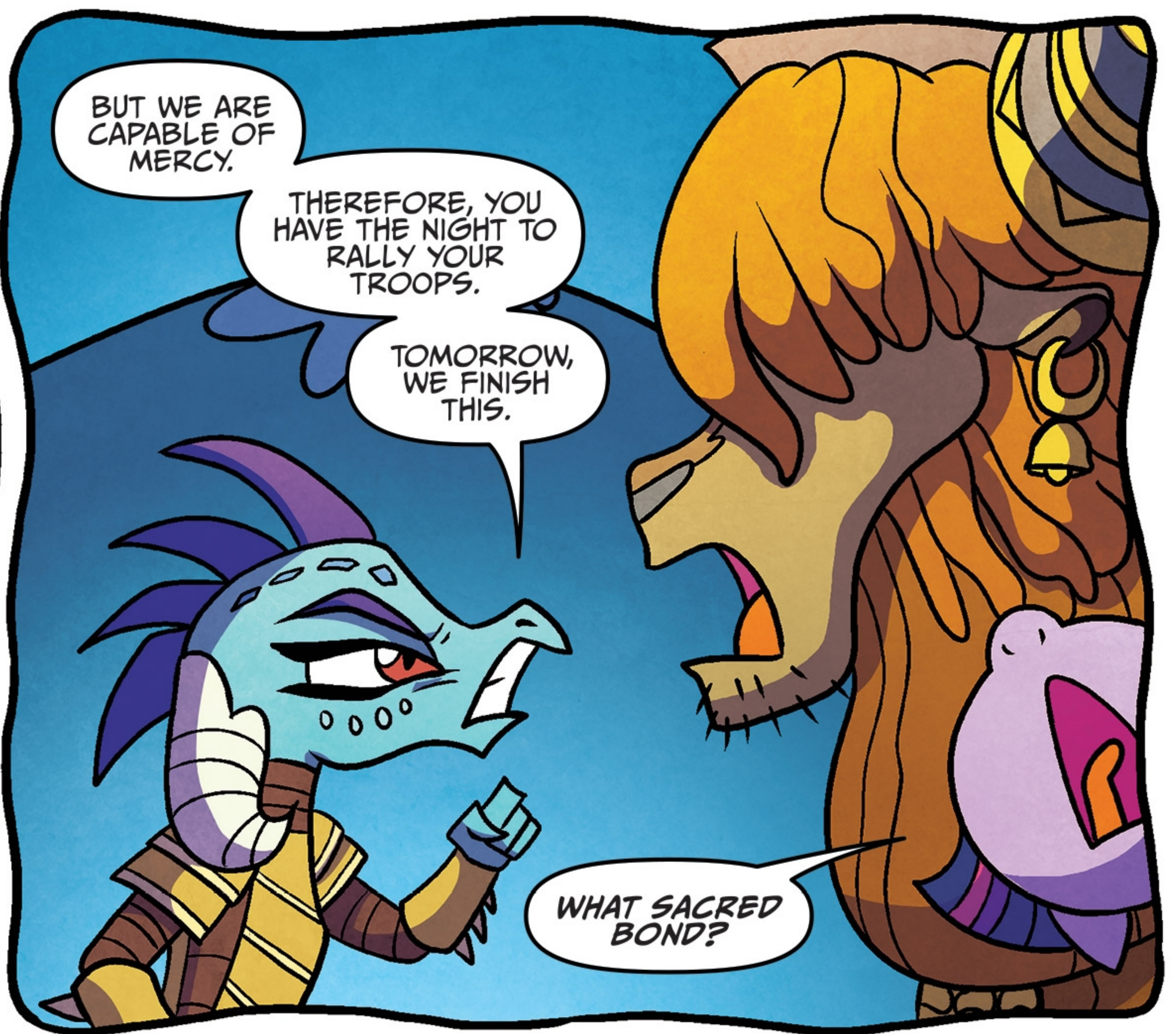
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WHY WOULD EMBER DO THIS?





WE WILL NOT BE DISHONORED!

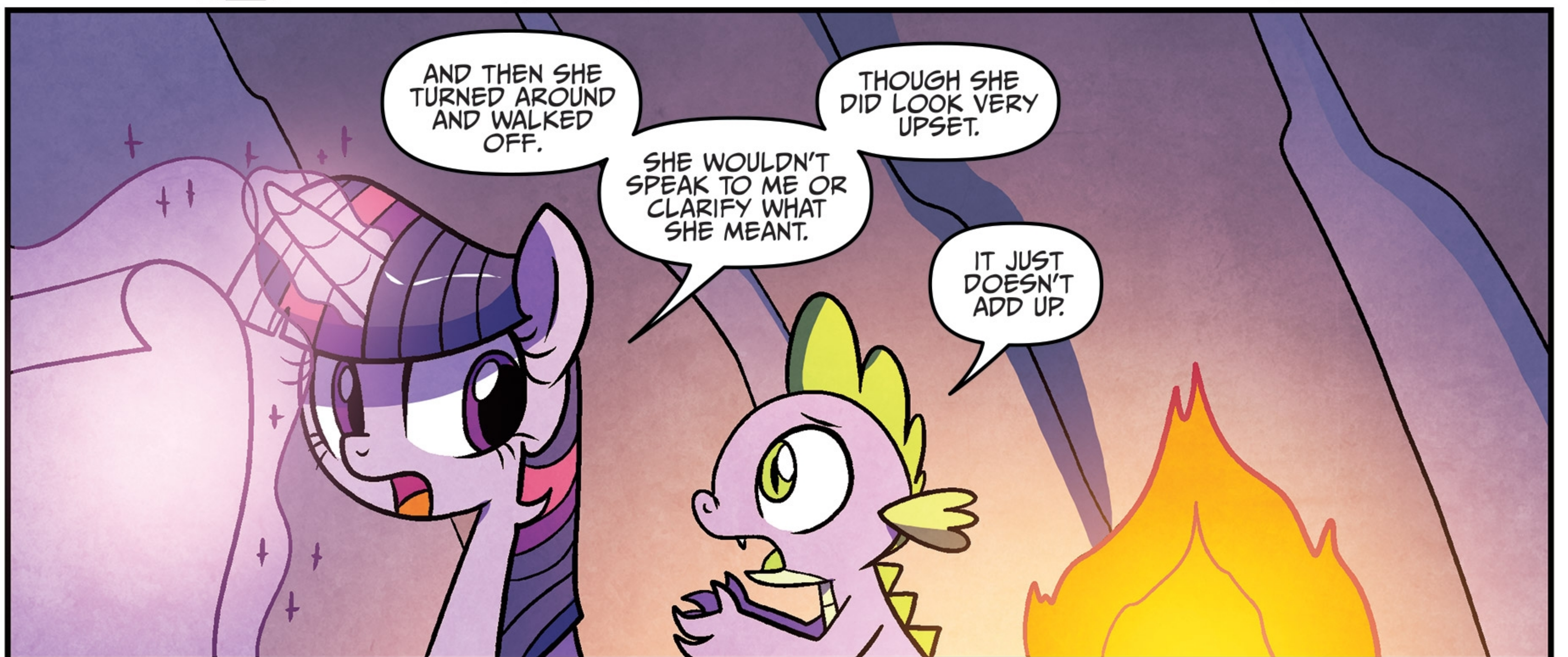


BUT WE ARE CAPABLE OF MERCY.

THEREFORE, YOU HAVE THE NIGHT TO RALLY YOUR TROOPS.

TOMORROW, WE FINISH THIS.

WHAT SACRED BOND?



AND THEN SHE TURNED AROUND AND WALKED OFF.

THOUGH SHE DID LOOK VERY UPSET.

SHE WOULDN'T SPEAK TO ME OR CLARIFY WHAT SHE MEANT.

IT JUST DOESN'T ADD UP.



THIS IS NOT THE WAY EMBER WAS GOING TO LEAD THE DRAGONS!



WELL, SHE STILL IS A DRAGON.

THEY'RE NATURALLY AGGRESSIVE. PERHAPS WARRING IS IN THEIR MAKEUP.

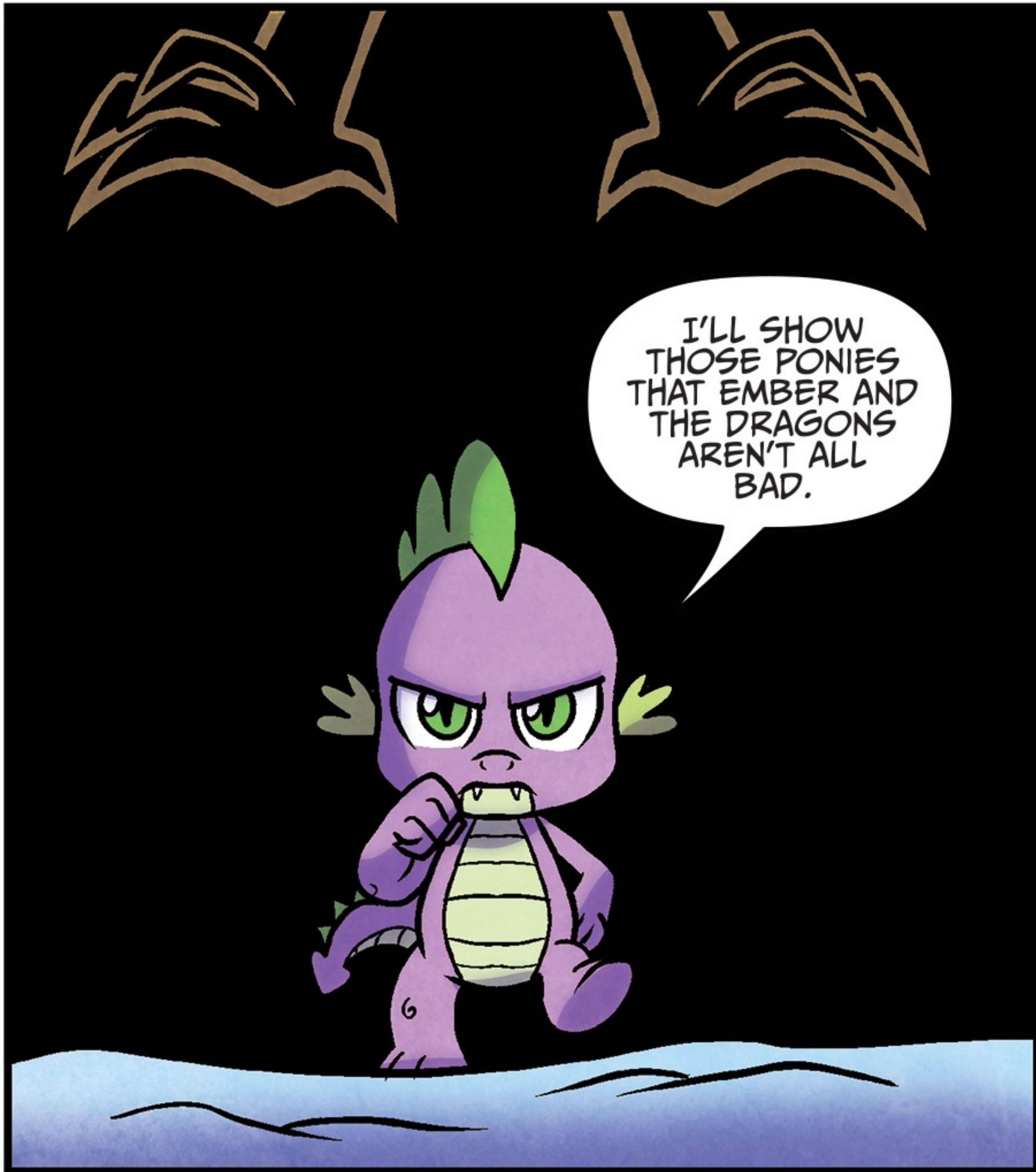
EXCUSE ME?



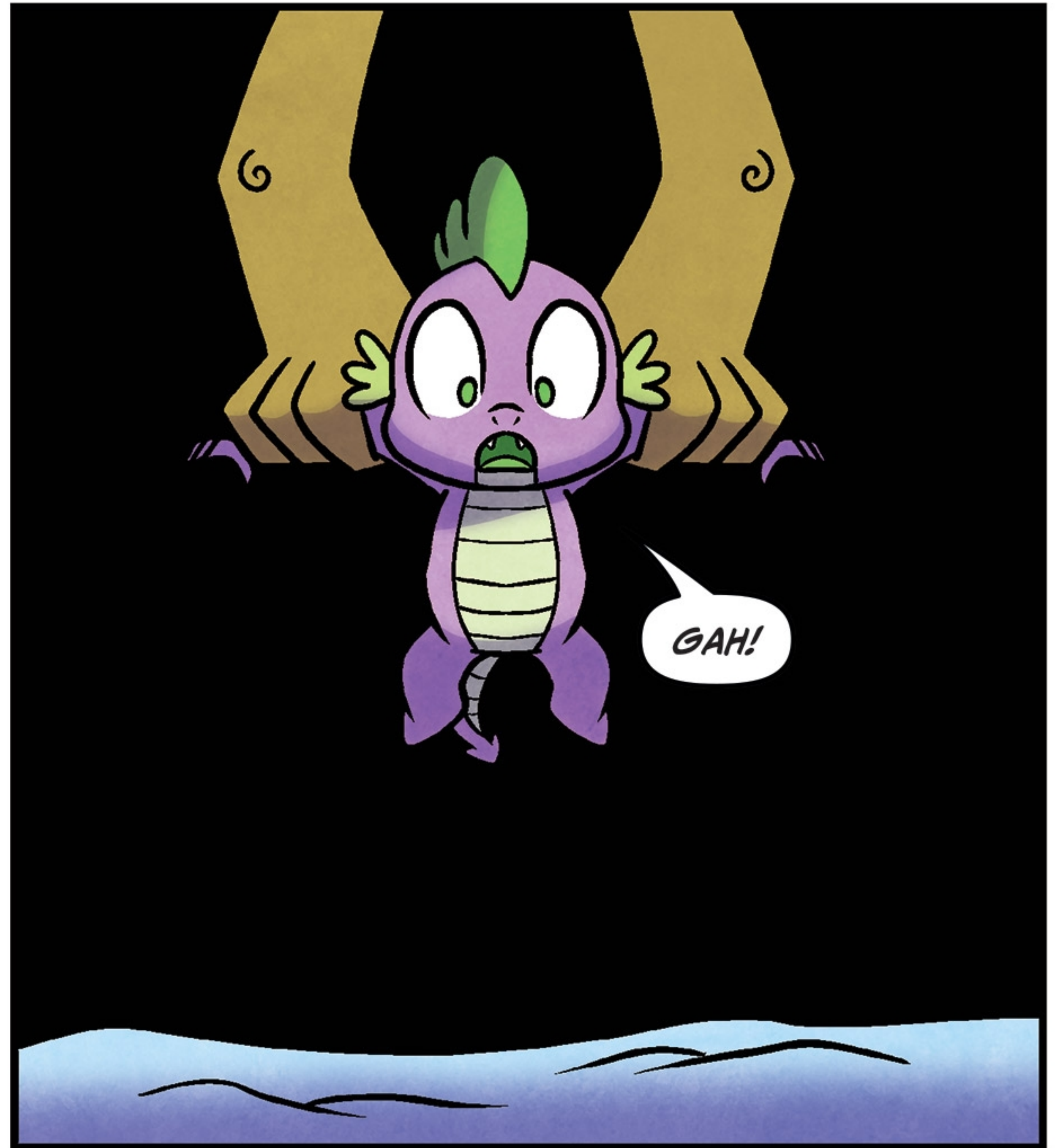




THERE'S A REASON FOR ALL THIS, AND I'LL BET IT'S A GOOD ONE.

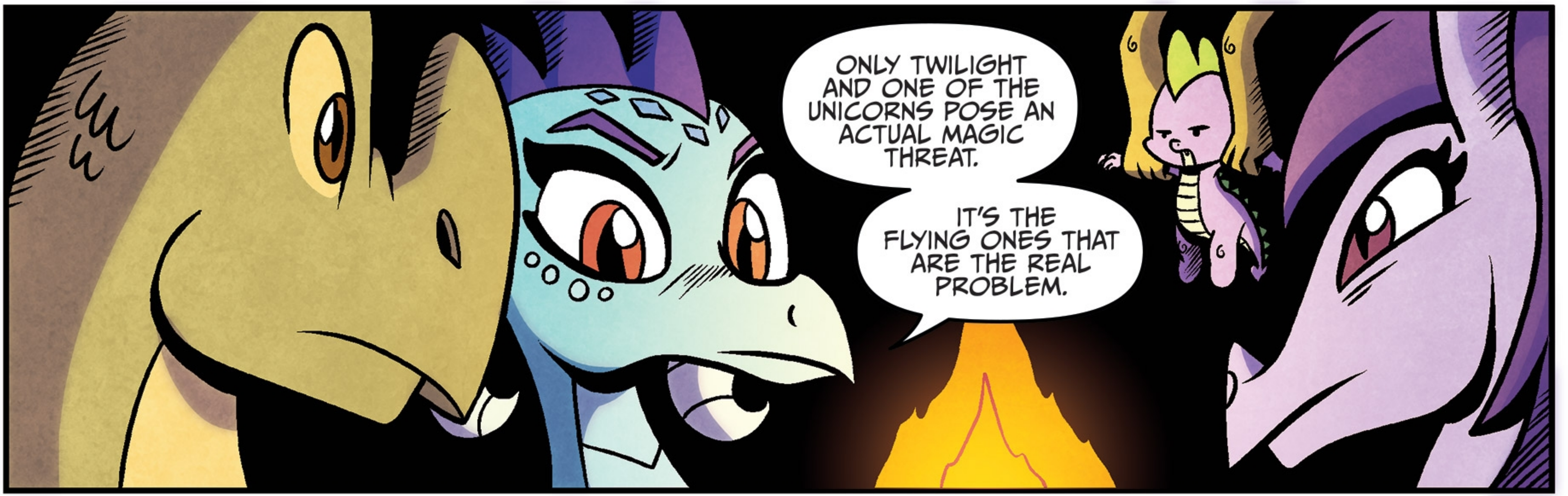


I'LL SHOW THOSE PONIES THAT EMBER AND THE DRAGONS AREN'T ALL BAD.



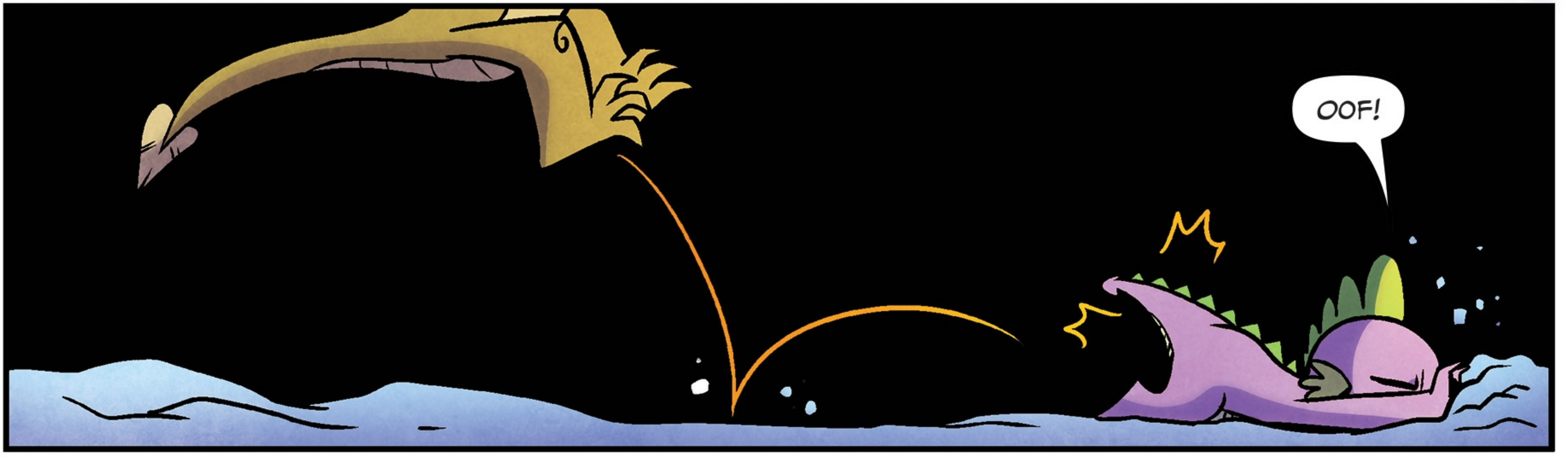
GAH!





ONLY TWILIGHT AND ONE OF THE UNICORNS POSE AN ACTUAL MAGIC THREAT.

IT'S THE FLYING ONES THAT ARE THE REAL PROBLEM.

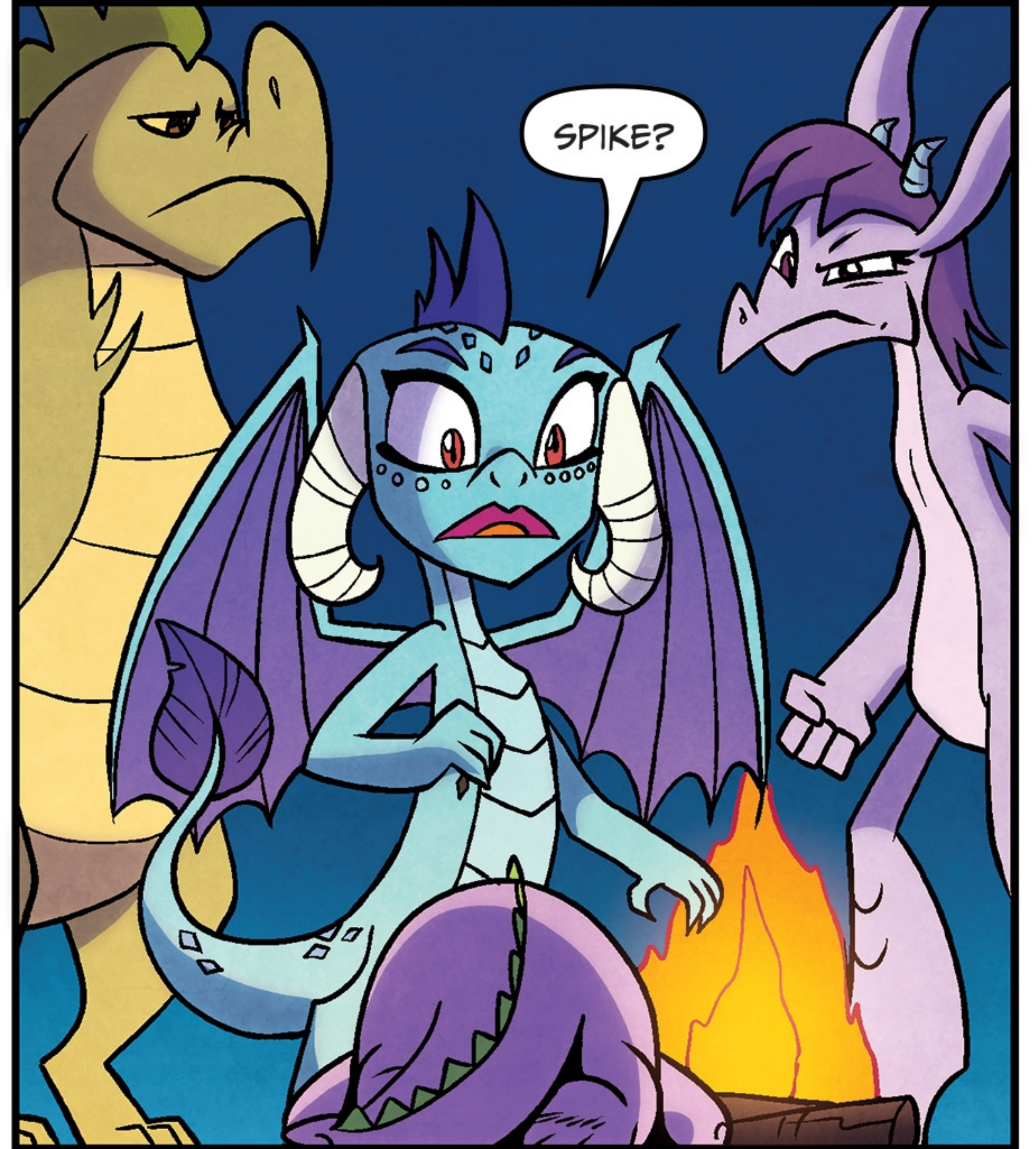


OOF!



WHO GOES THERE?!

LOOKS LIKE SCORCHY CAUGHT A LIVE ONE.

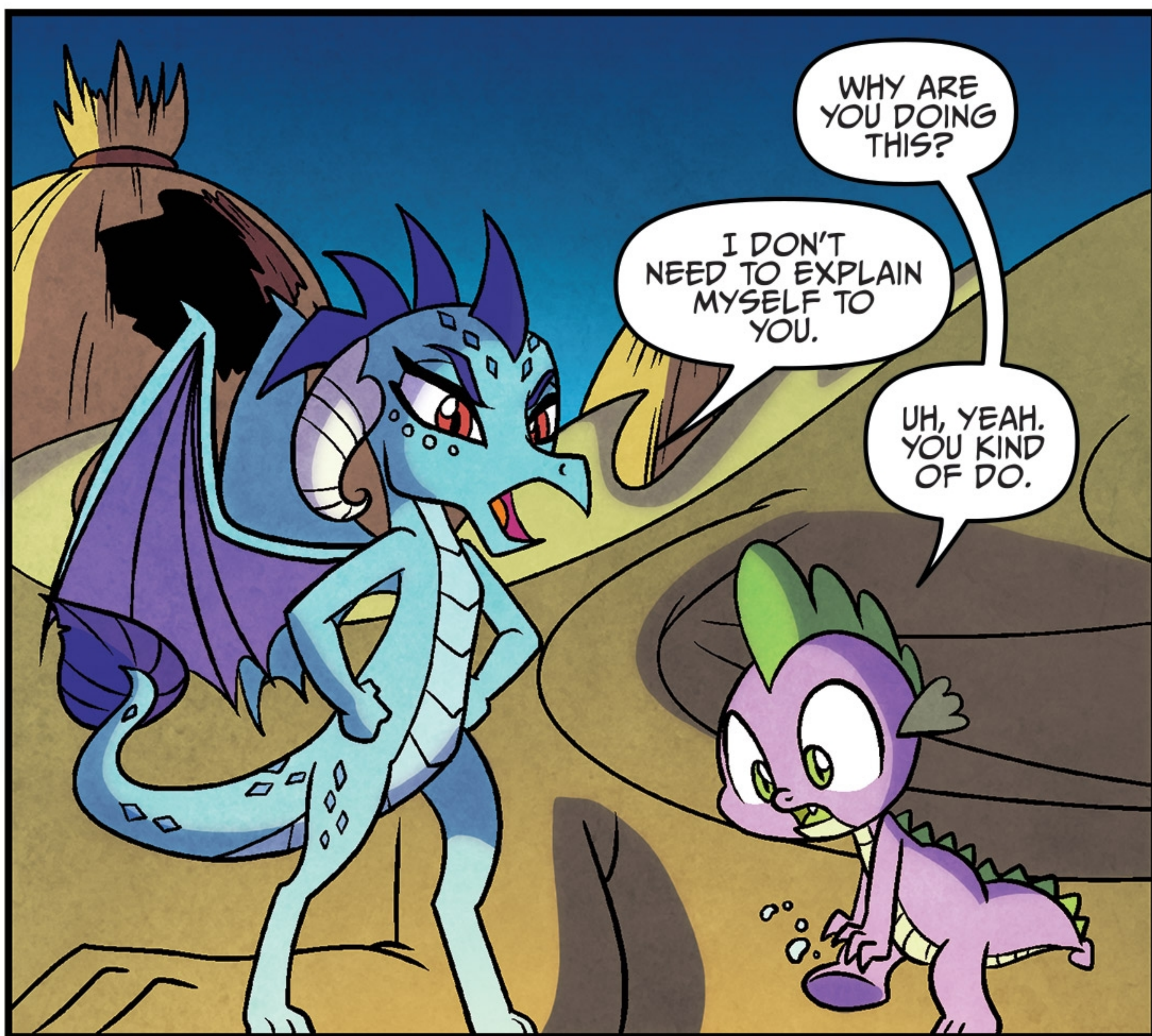


SPIKE?



YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE. THIS IS NOT YOUR FIGHT.

WAIT A SECOND!



WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

I DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO YOU.

UH, YEAH. YOU KIND OF DO.



I WAS THE ONE WHO CHOSE NOT TO BE THE DRAGON LORD AFTER CAPTURING THE GAUNTLET OF FIRE!



I TURNED IT OVER TO YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE A PEACEFUL LEADER.

WELL... THINGS CHANGE!

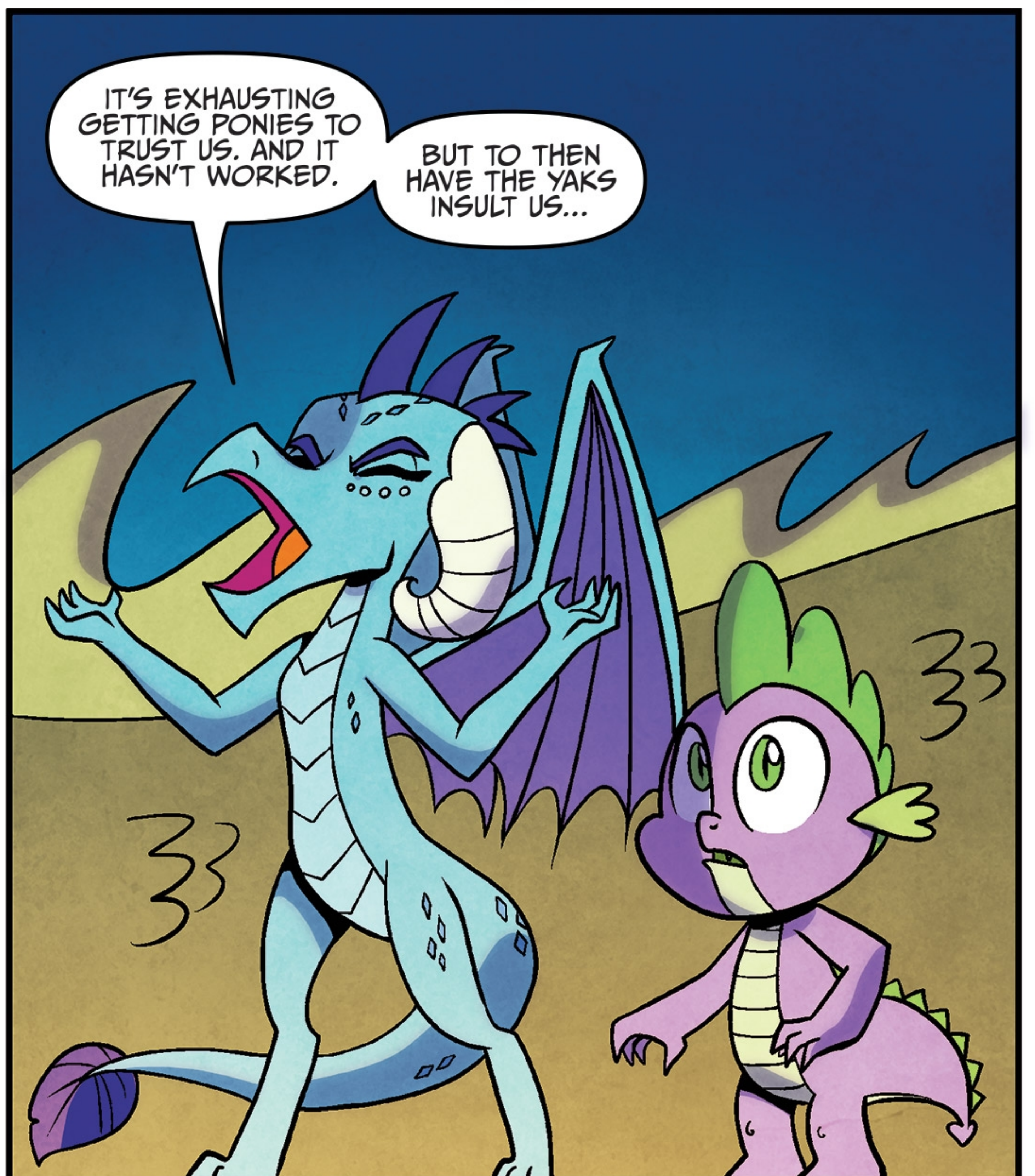
BUT WHY?



I HAVE TRIED TO BE PEACEFUL. TRIED TO INTEGRATE THE DRAGONS MORE WITH THE PONIES AND OTHERS OF EQUESTRIA.

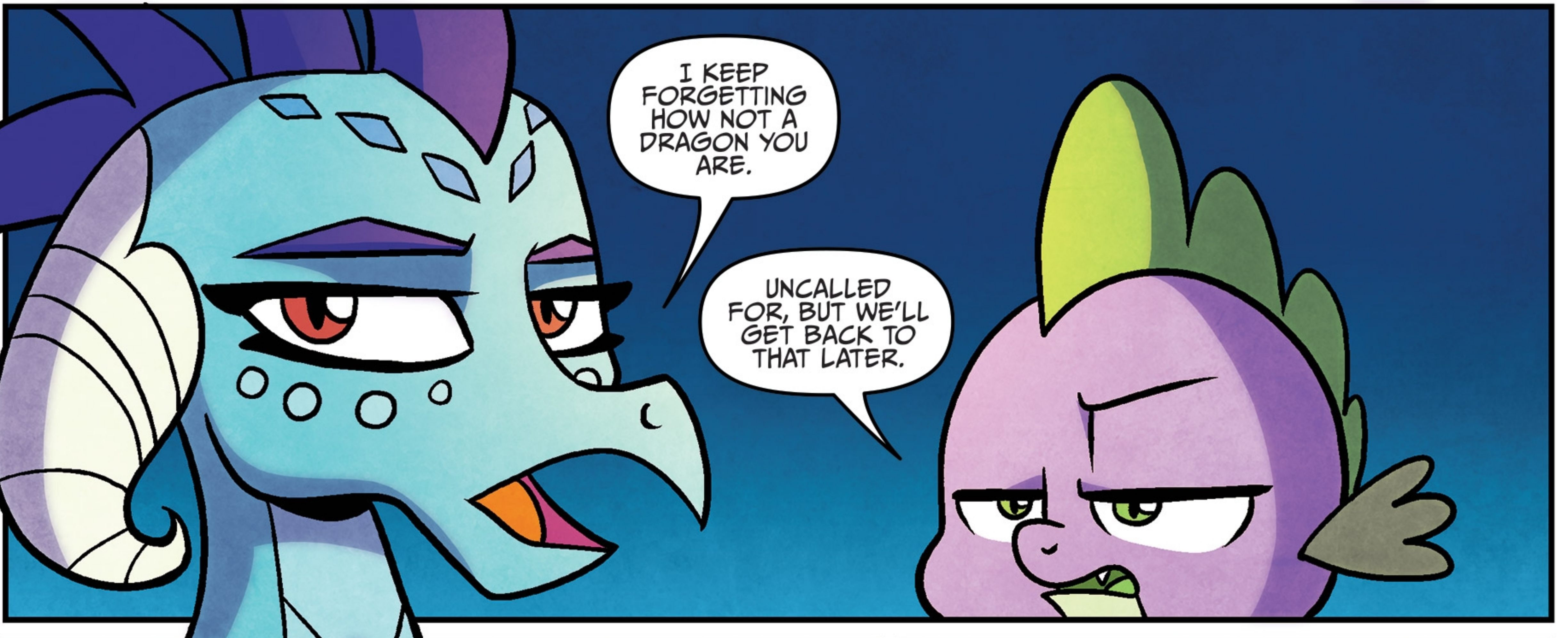
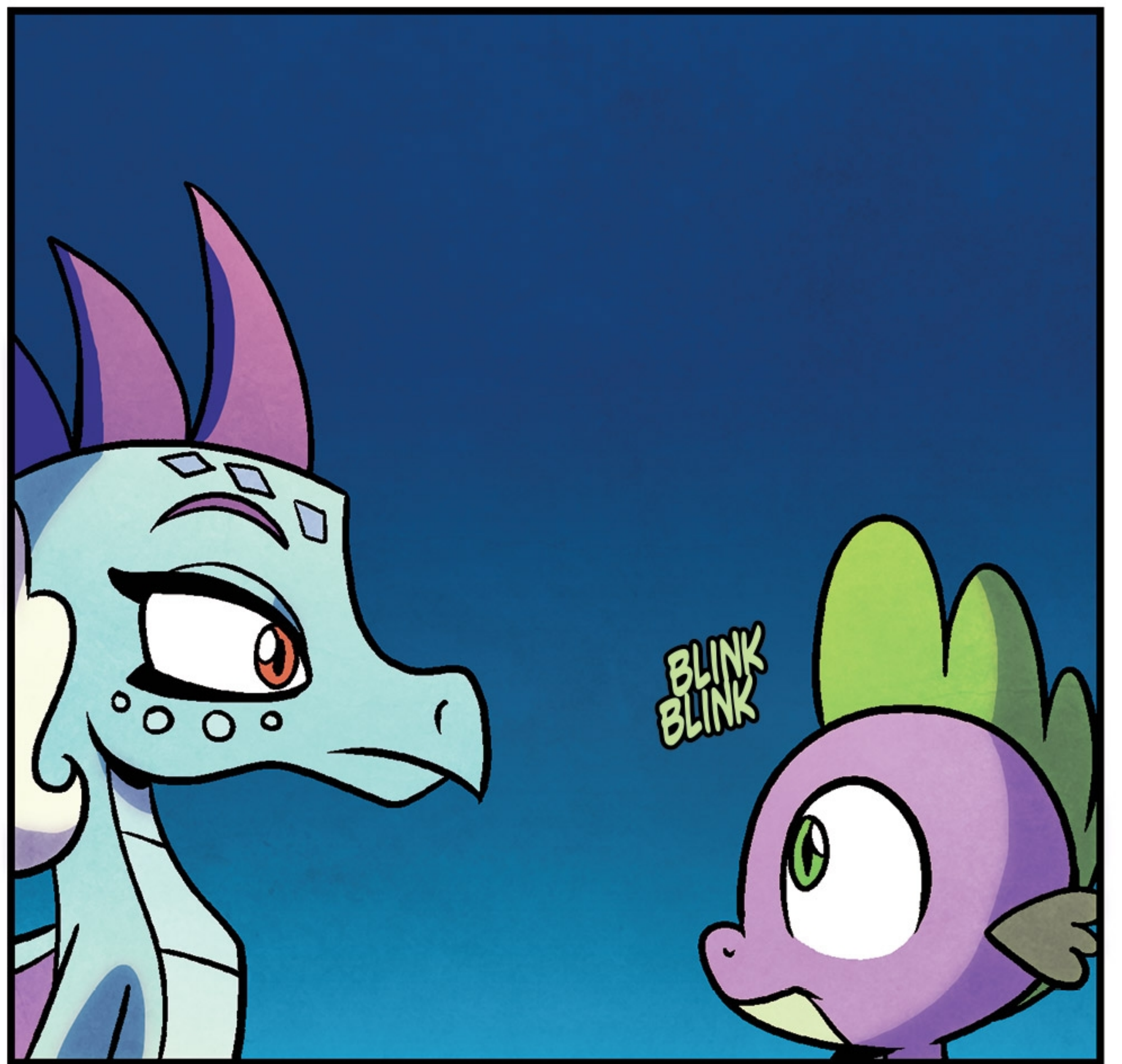
BUT SO MANY OF THEM HAVE THESE NOTIONS OF WHAT WE'RE GOING TO ACT LIKE.

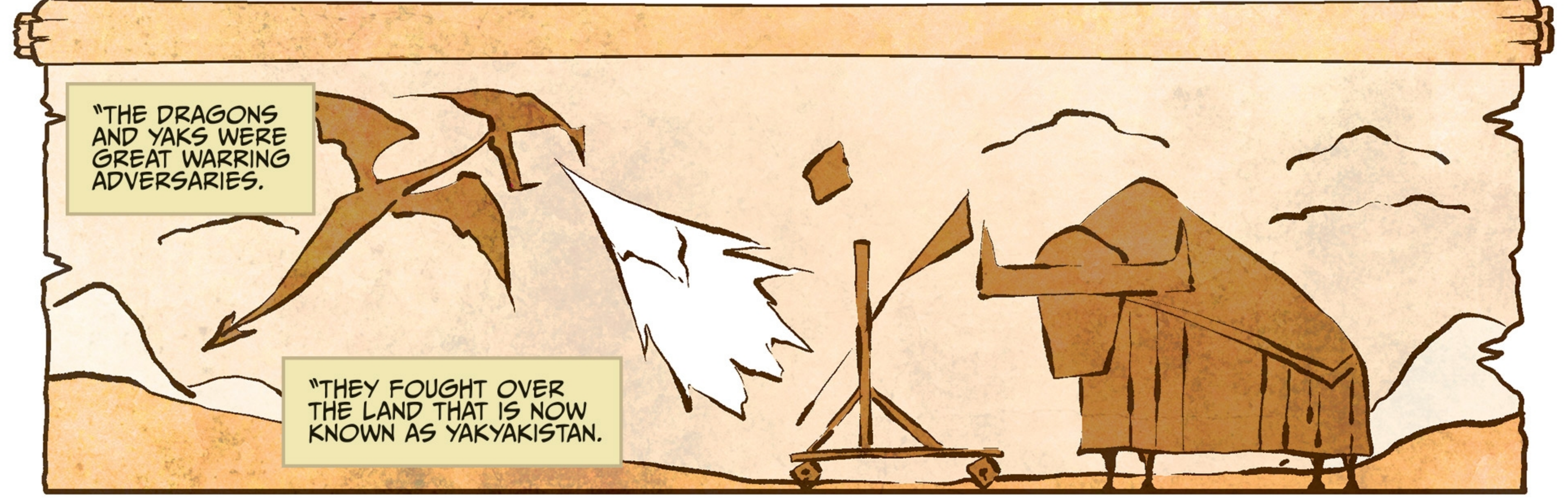
THAT WE'RE GOING TO BRING DESTRUCTION AND TOTAL RUIN.



IT'S EXHAUSTING GETTING PONIES TO TRUST US. AND IT HASN'T WORKED.

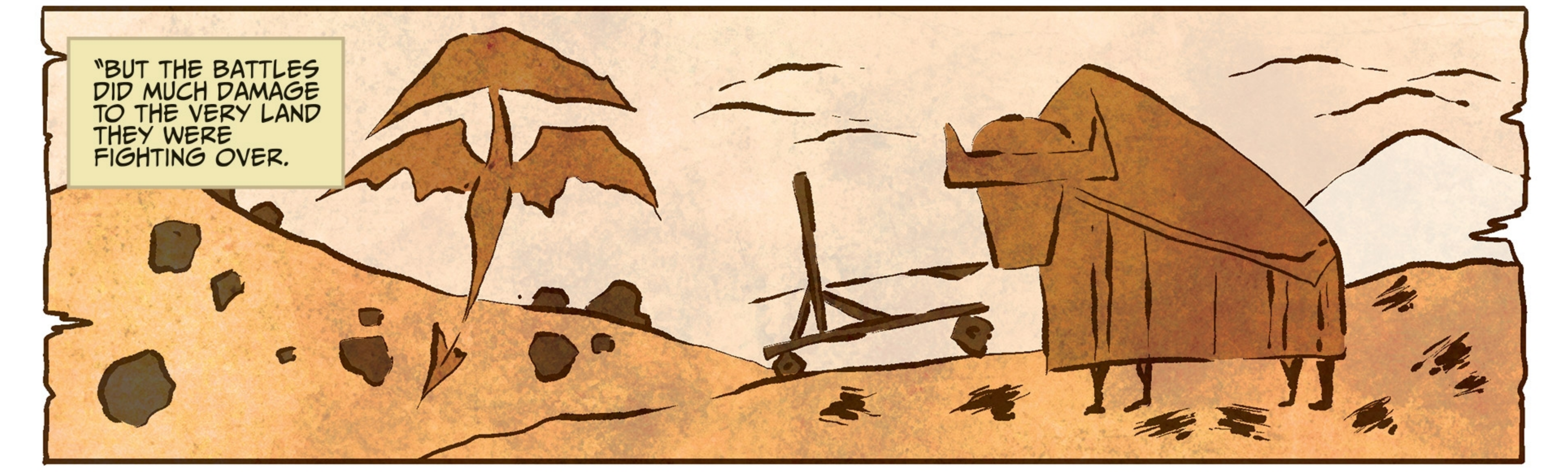
BUT TO THEN HAVE THE YAKS INSULT US...





"THE DRAGONS AND YAKS WERE GREAT WARRING ADVERSARIES.

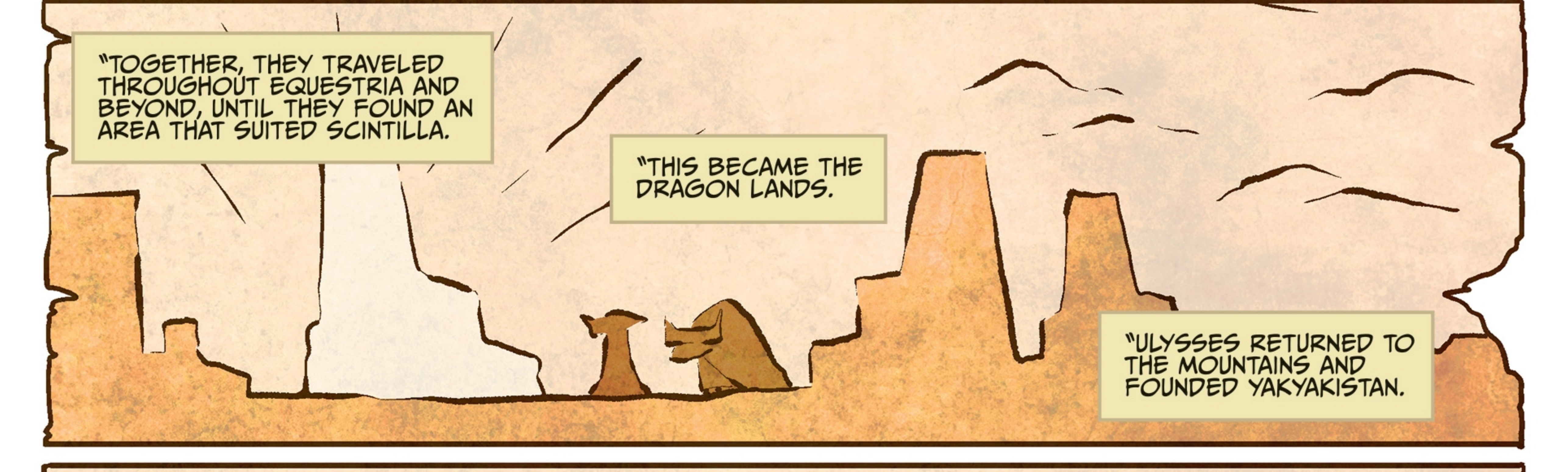
"THEY FOUGHT OVER THE LAND THAT IS NOW KNOWN AS YAKYAKISTAN.



"BUT THE BATTLES DID MUCH DAMAGE TO THE VERY LAND THEY WERE FIGHTING OVER.



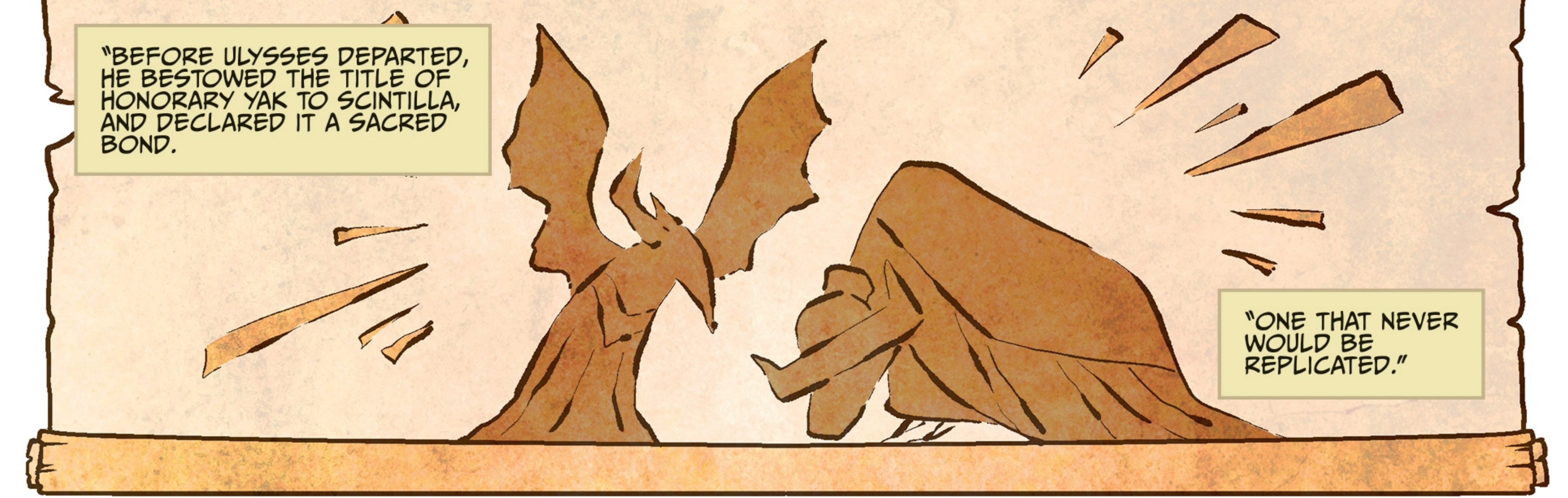
"FINALLY, THE GREAT DRAGON LORD SCINTILLA BROKERED A GRAND PEACE WITH THE YAK PRINCE ULYSSES.



"TOGETHER, THEY TRAVELED THROUGHOUT EQUESTRIA AND BEYOND, UNTIL THEY FOUND AN AREA THAT SUITED SCINTILLA.

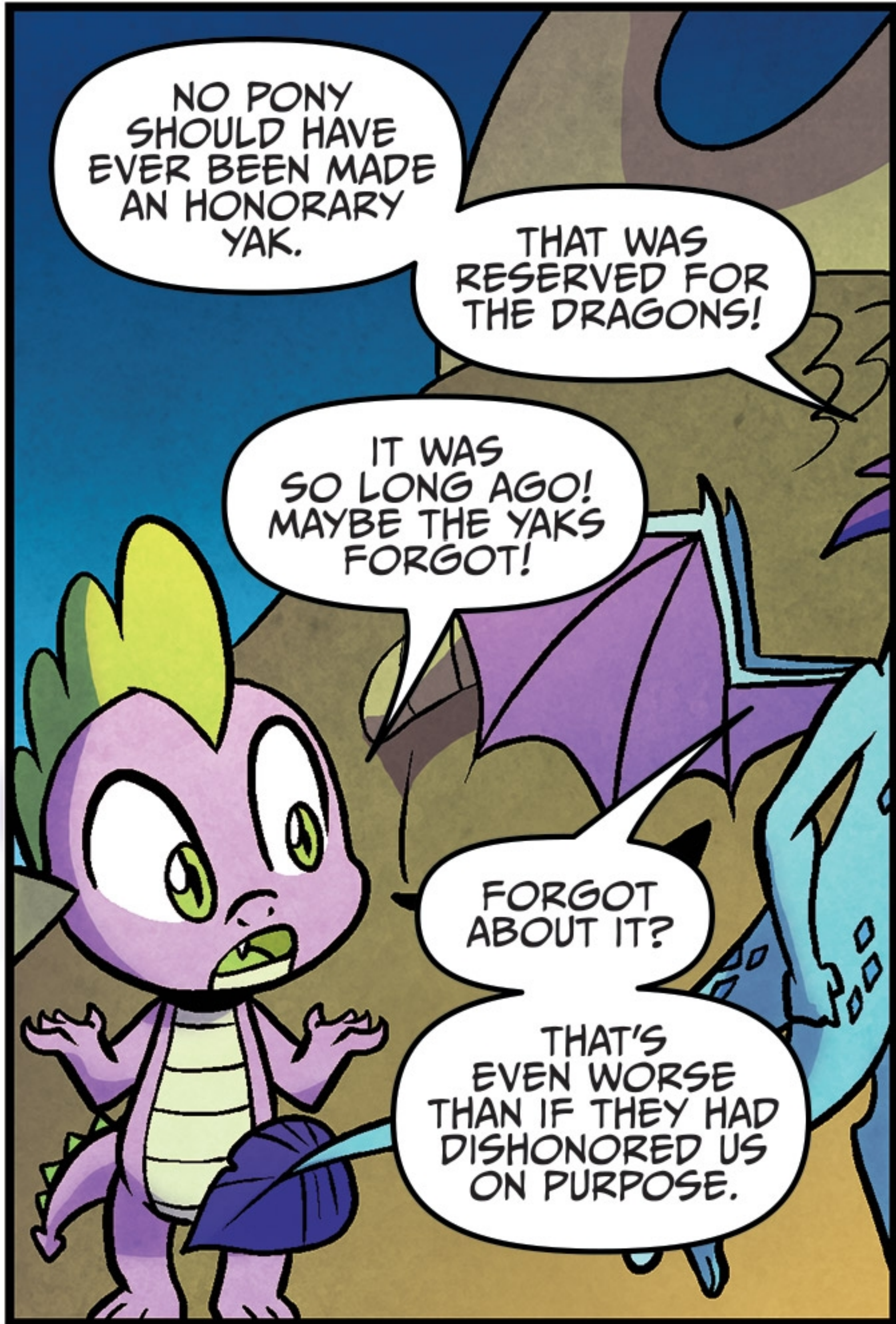
"THIS BECAME THE DRAGON LANDS.

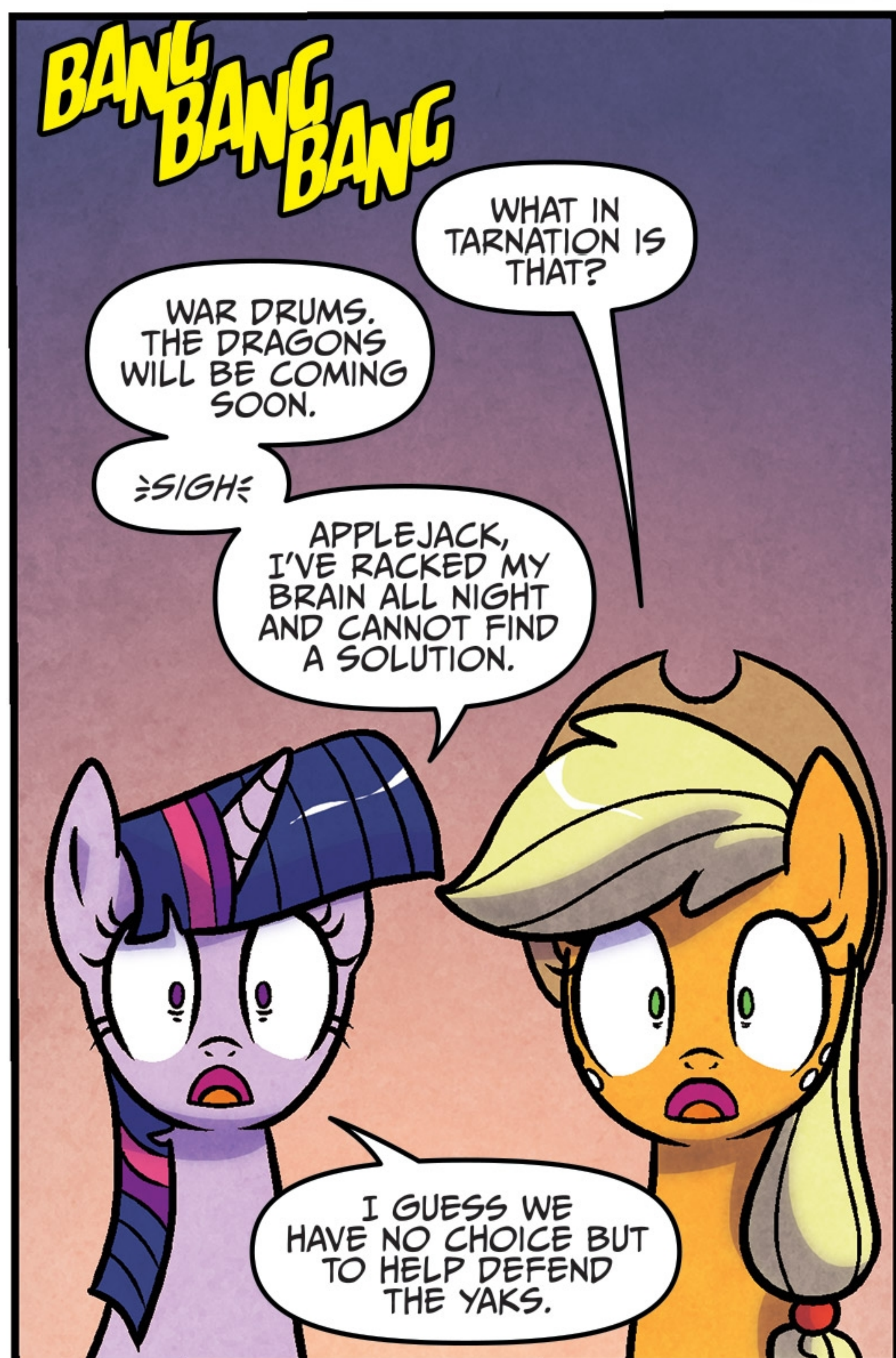
"ULYSSES RETURNED TO THE MOUNTAINS AND FOUNDED YAKYAKISTAN.



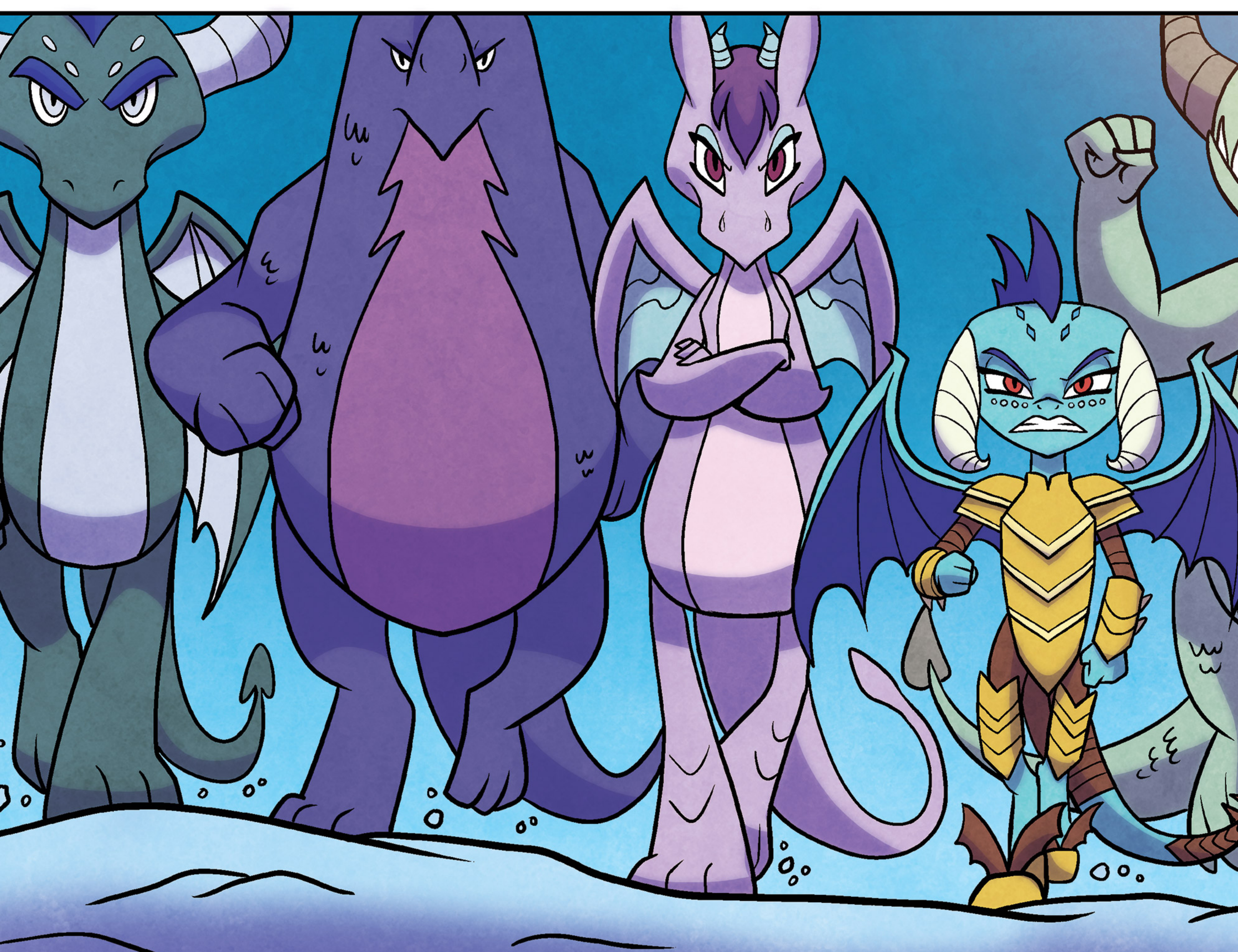
"BEFORE ULYSSES DEPARTED, HE BESTOWED THE TITLE OF HONORARY YAK TO SCINTILLA, AND DECLARED IT A SACRED BOND.

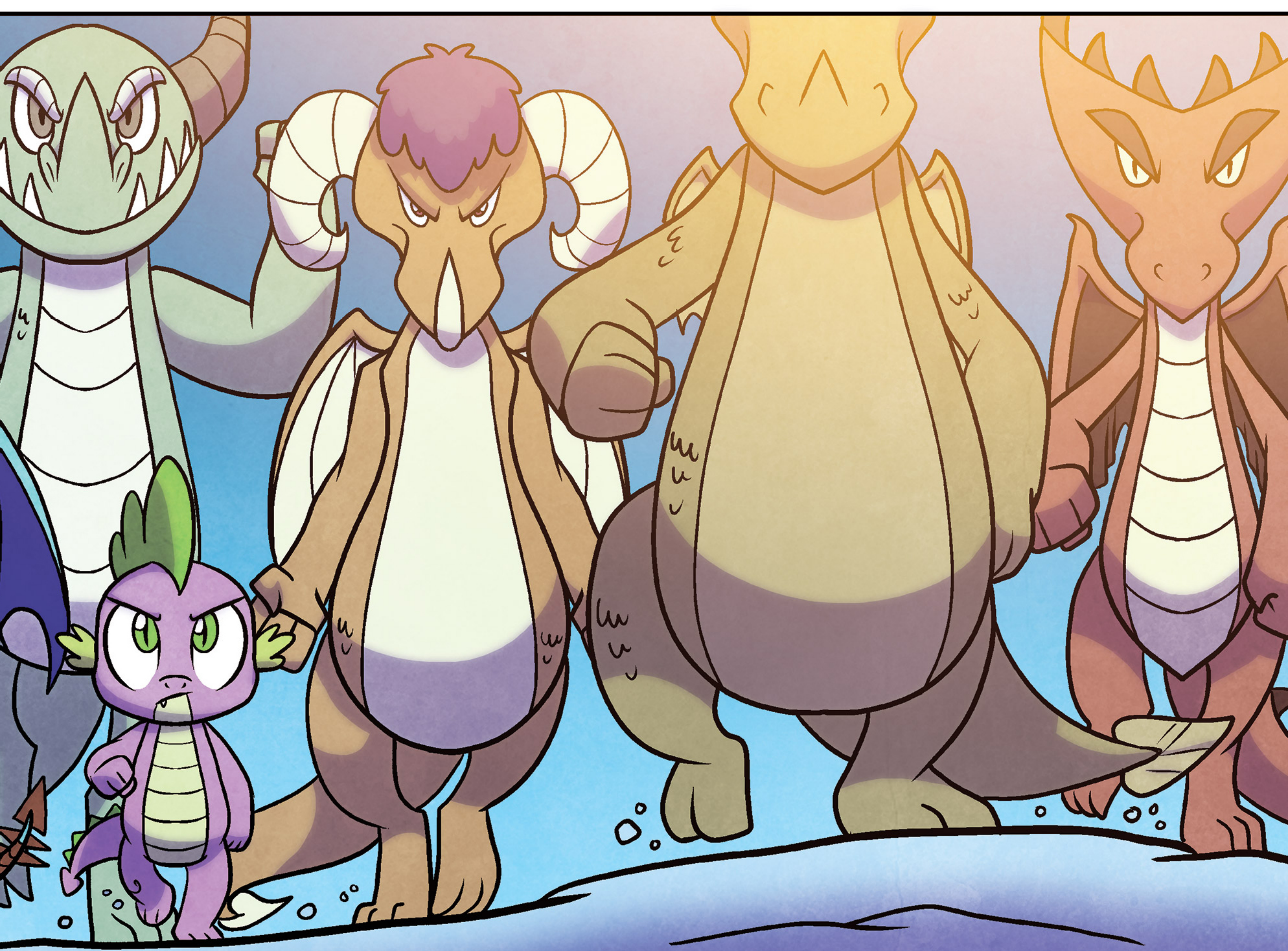
"ONE THAT NEVER WOULD BE REPLICATED."

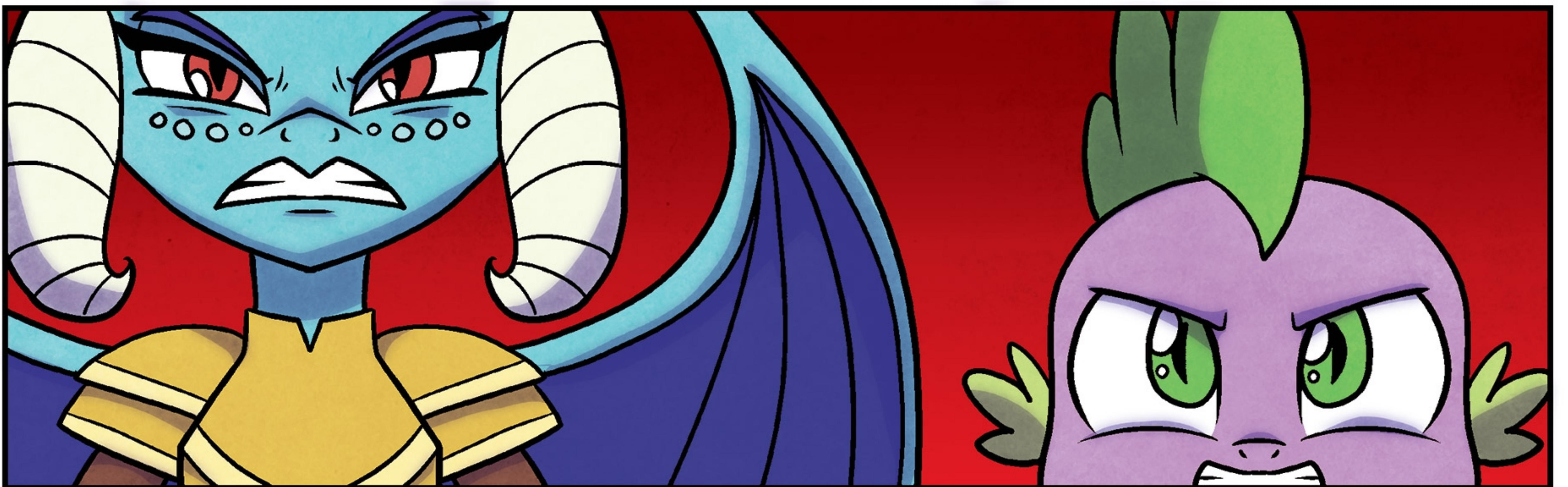




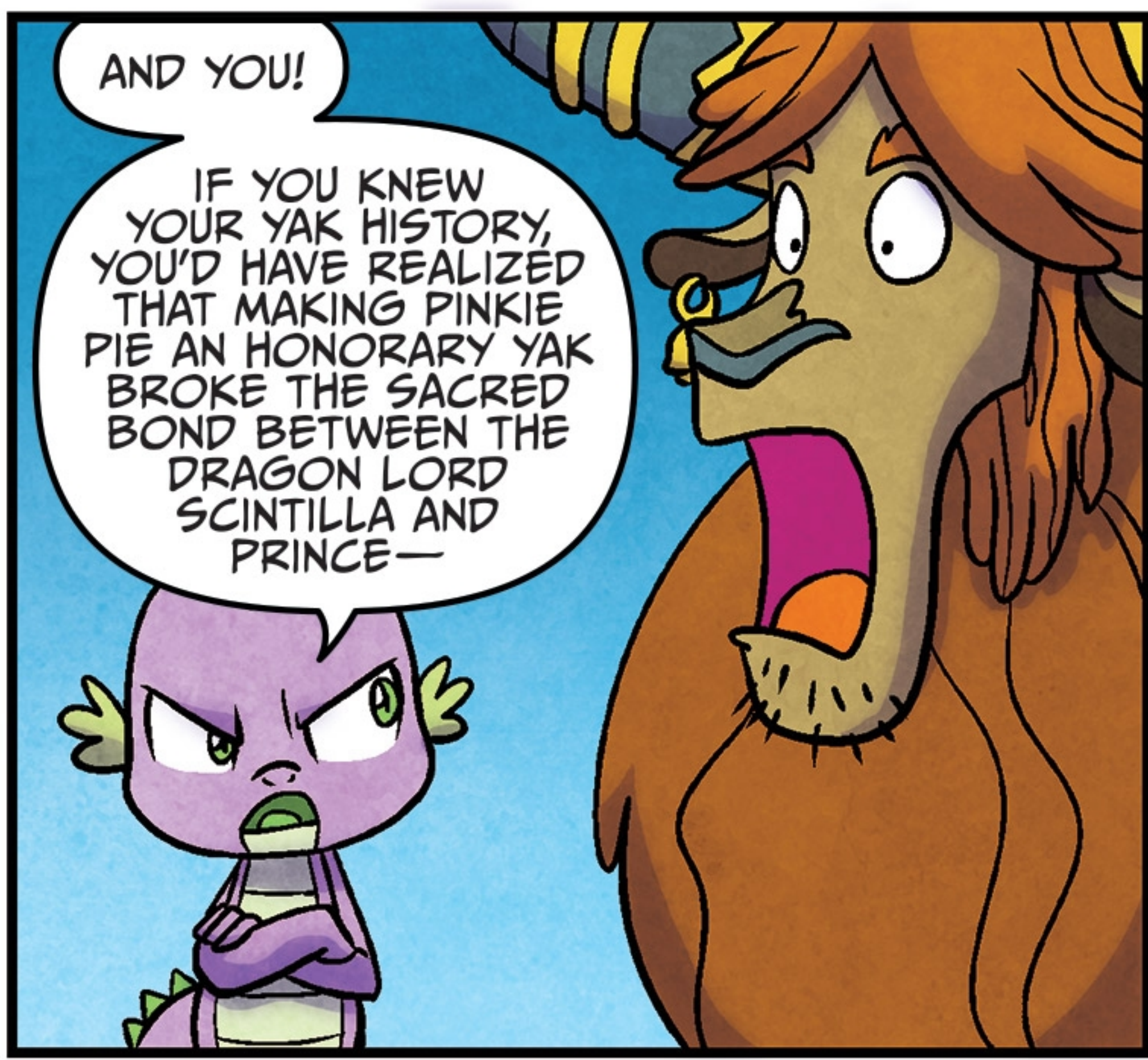












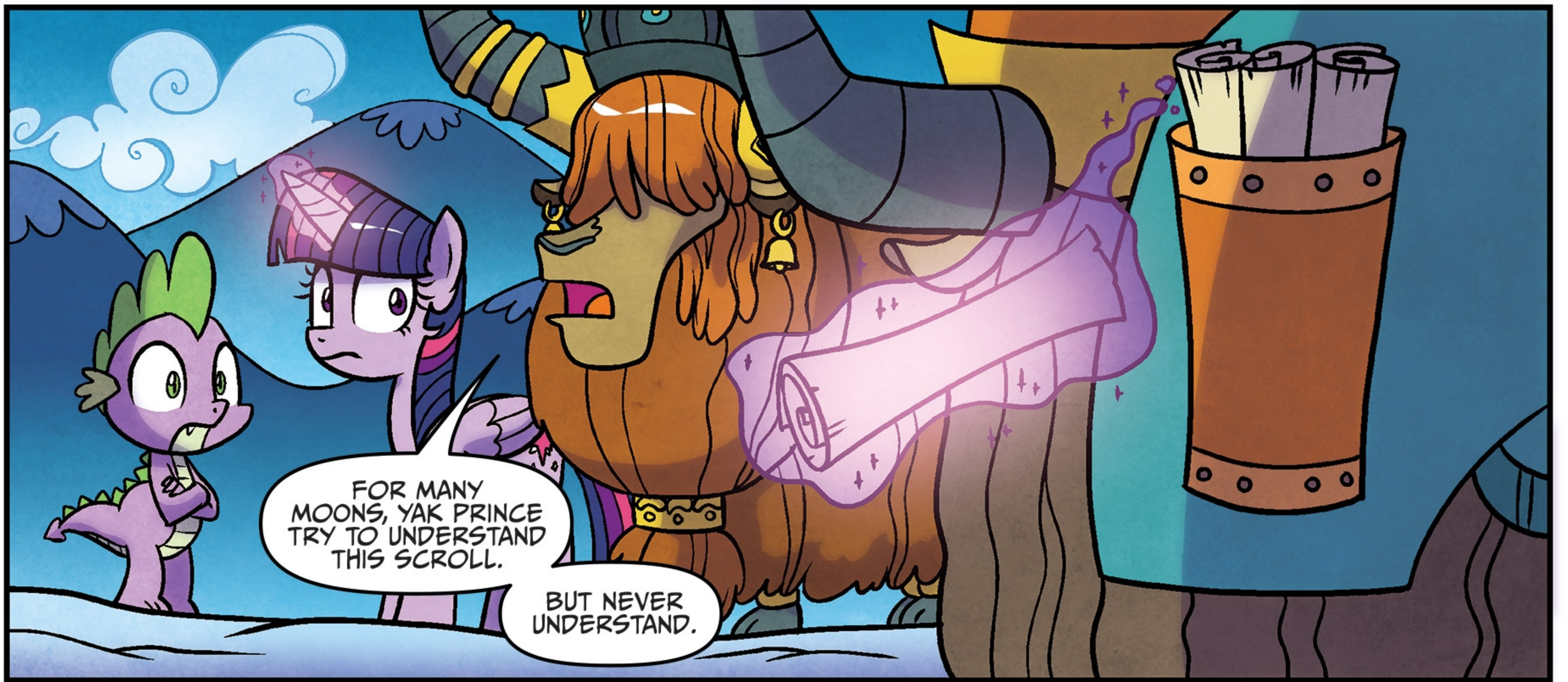
AND YOU!

IF YOU KNEW YOUR YAK HISTORY, YOU'D HAVE REALIZED THAT MAKING PINKIE PIE AN HONORARY YAK BROKE THE SACRED BOND BETWEEN THE DRAGON LORD SCINTILLA AND PRINCE—



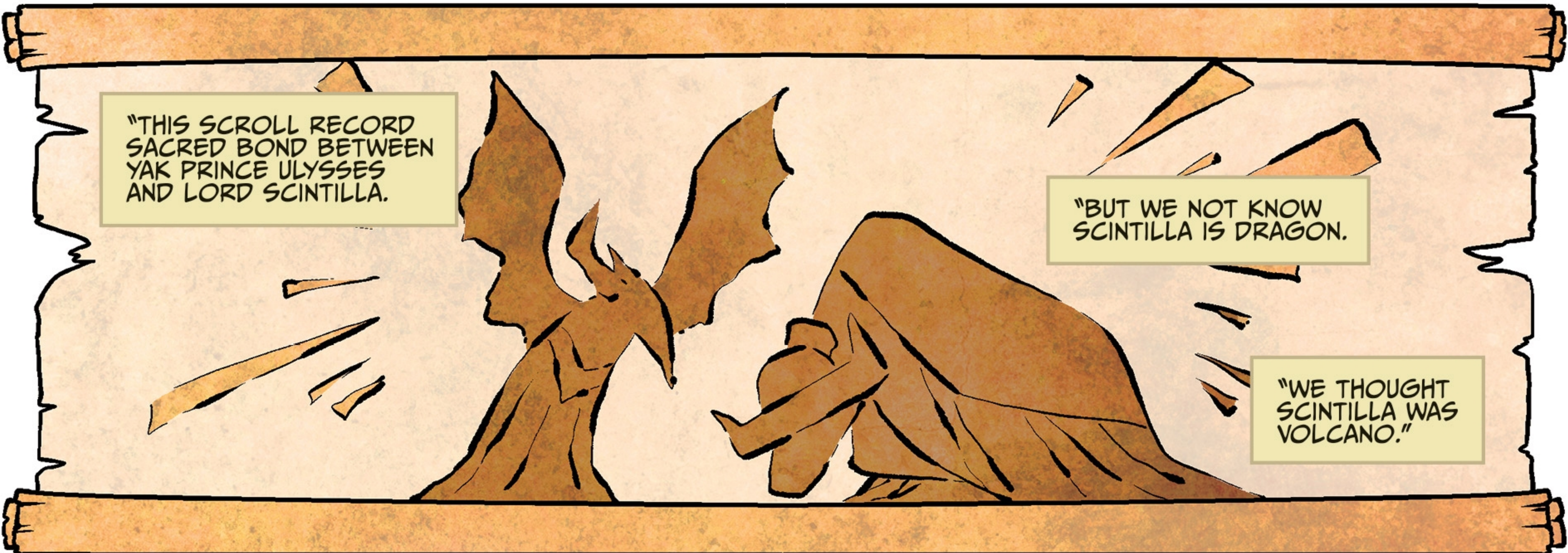
PRINCE ULYSSES! YAKS UNDERSTAND NOW. ANCIENT SCROLL MAKE SENSE NOW!

IT DOES?



FOR MANY MOONS, YAK PRINCE TRY TO UNDERSTAND THIS SCROLL.

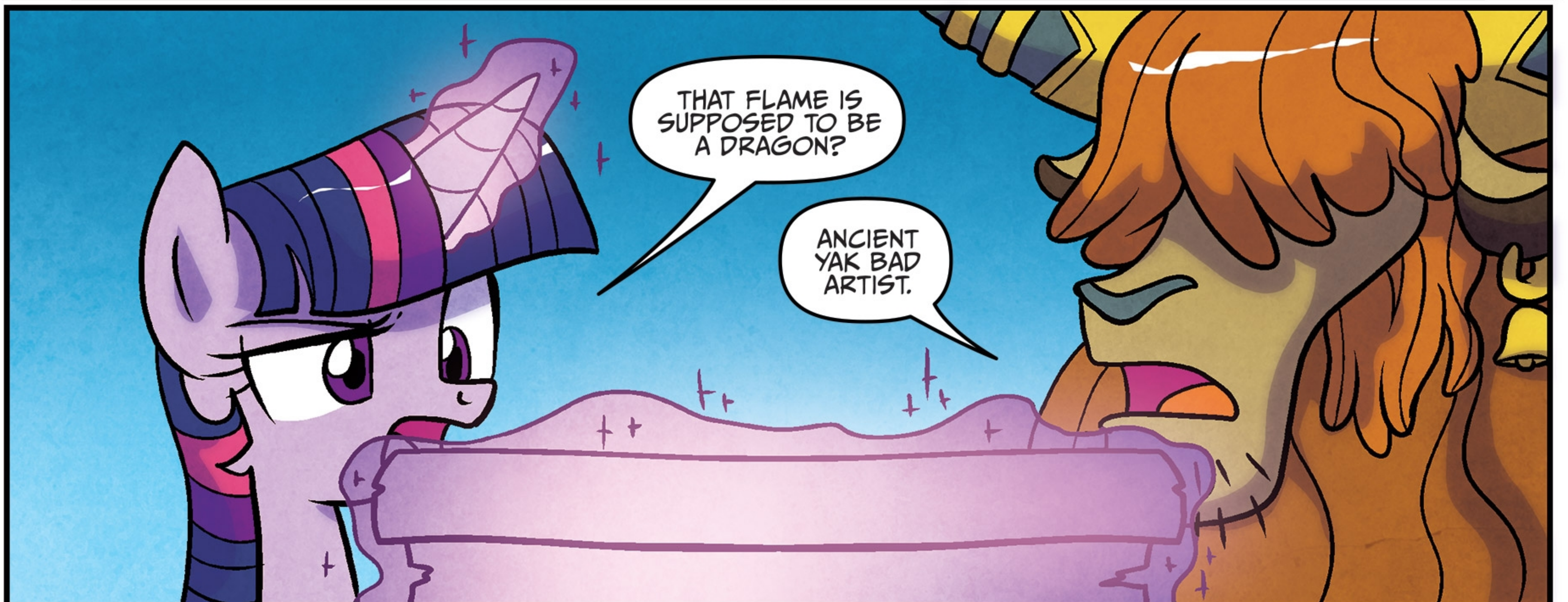
BUT NEVER UNDERSTAND.



"THIS SCROLL RECORD SACRED BOND BETWEEN YAK PRINCE ULYSSES AND LORD SCINTILLA.

"BUT WE NOT KNOW SCINTILLA IS DRAGON.

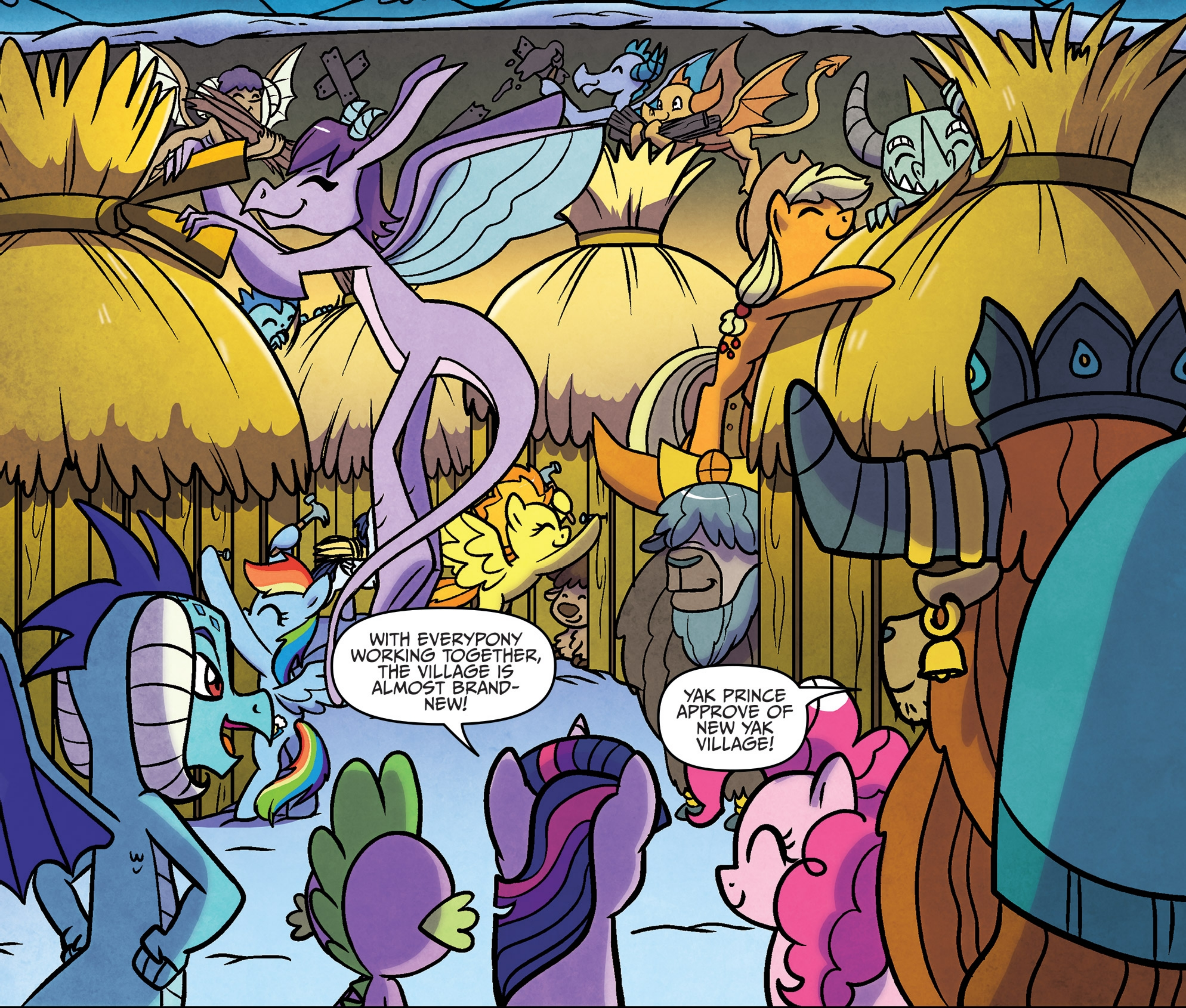
"WE THOUGHT SCINTILLA WAS VOLCANO."



THAT FLAME IS SUPPOSED TO BE A DRAGON?

ANCIENT YAK BAD ARTIST.





WITH EVERYPONY WORKING TOGETHER, THE VILLAGE IS ALMOST BRAND-NEW!

YAK PRINCE APPROVE OF NEW YAK VILLAGE!



SPIKE, WERE YOU REALLY GOING TO SIDE WITH THE DRAGONS?

AGAINST MY FRIENDS? NO WAY!

BUT I WASN'T SURE HOW ELSE TO GET EMBER TO TELL PRINCE RUTHERFORD WHAT HAPPENED.



AND IF IT HELPS, I AM WILLING TO RELINQUISH MY HONORARY YAK TITLE!

YAK PRINCE AGREE WITH PINK PONY.

THANKS TO YOU BOTH, BUT THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.



AFTER ALL, IT'S ABOUT TIME THE DRAGONS LET GO OF THEIR PAST AND LOOK TO THEIR FUTURE.

RIGHT, SPIKE?

I'LL SAY!

The End.

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

by Ted Adams



July brings a comic I can't wait to read, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles/Usagi Yojimbo* written and drawn by Usagi's creator **Stan Sakai**. Co-produced with Dark Horse Comics, this one-shot finds the Turtles transported to Edo-era Japan, the world of Usagi Yojimbo. I reached out to Stan to learn more about his long-running relationship with the Turtles and his plans for this story.

Ted Adams: Usagi has been a part of the *TMNT* comic book universe since the late 80s. How did the first cross-over come about?

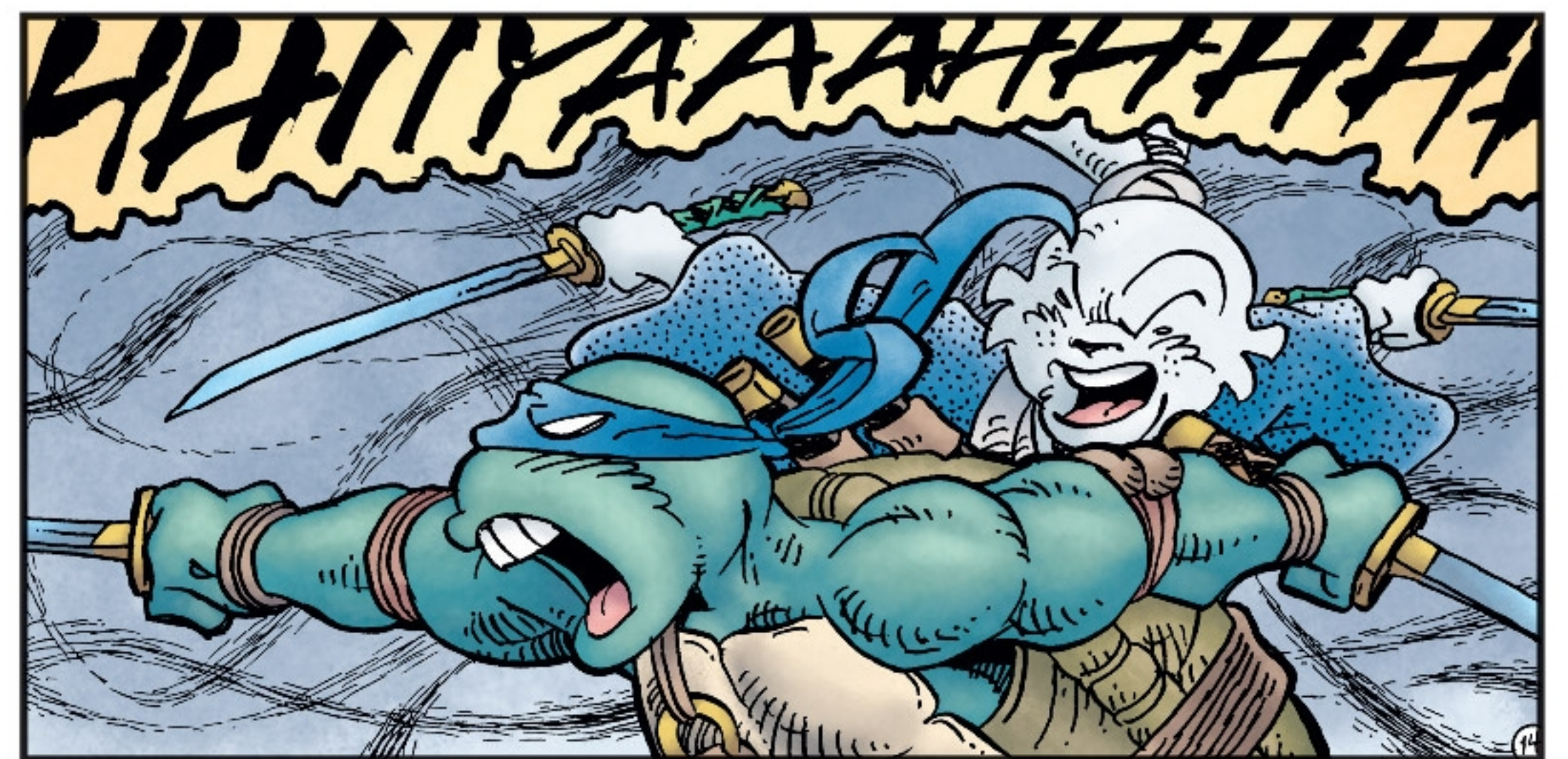
Stan Sakai: Usagi was first published in 1984, the same year *TMNT* #1 came out. There were very few black and white books out at the time, so we wrote fan letters to each other. In one of those, I enclosed a very quick drawing of Usagi with the Turtles and was very surprised when it was printed in the *Donatello One-Shot*. If I had known it was going to be printed, I would have made a much better drawing. The first cross-over story was for *Shell Shock*. I was invited to contribute to that anthology along with many other creators.

TA: It's unusual for a creator-owned character like Usagi to be included in another property's tv and toys. Was that a result of your relationship with Kevin and Peter?

SS: Definitely. The Turtles already had their TV series and merchandising line and I was sitting with Peter at a San Diego Comic-con when he asked if I would like Usagi to be in their series and toy line. I jumped at the opportunity. It was a lot of fun working with their company, Mirage. I would later take Usagi to Mirage Publishing and did a cross-over for the first story arc.

TA: I remember buying the original Usagi Playmates toy in 1989, do you have a favorite version from the various toys and tv shows?

SS: I still have a fondness for the first Playmates figure. I met with the sculptor and saw the original wax sculpt. The detailing was just amazing. I got quite a few comments about how super buff he is, but you should have seen the version we declined. Playmates has always been great to work with, and I'm looking forward to this new incarnation of the Usagi action figure.



TA: Usagi often teams up with Leonardo. Is he your favorite turtle?

SS: Yes, he is. There is the connection because they both use swords and their personalities just seem to match.

TA: What can you tell us about the latest cross-over?

SS: "Namazu" was inspired by the legend of a giant catfish that lives under the Japanese islands whose movements are the cause of the frequent earthquakes. A great hero was able to pin the fish under a massive rock at Kashima Shrine. In my story, a piece of the rock had broken off weakening its power and the catfish now threatens to devastate the entire country. It is up to Usagi, the Turtles and Kakeru (my version of Splinter) to replace the stone fragment. Jei, the demonic spearman who thinks himself an emissary of the Gods, wants the country destroyed and is determined to stop them with his horde of mercenaries. The story climaxes in a huge double-double page spread of all the characters in battle during a huge earthquake.

TA: Thanks, Stan! I'll be back next month to tell you about our upcoming Hasbro event, *First Strike*.



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my LITTLE PONY

Legends of Magic



FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

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

.....

BRENDA HICKEY

WHITLEY • HICKEY • BRECKEL



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Jeremy Whitley

art by
Brenda Hickey

colors by
Heather Breckel

letters by
Neil Uyetake

edits by
Bobby Curnow

publisher
Ted Adams

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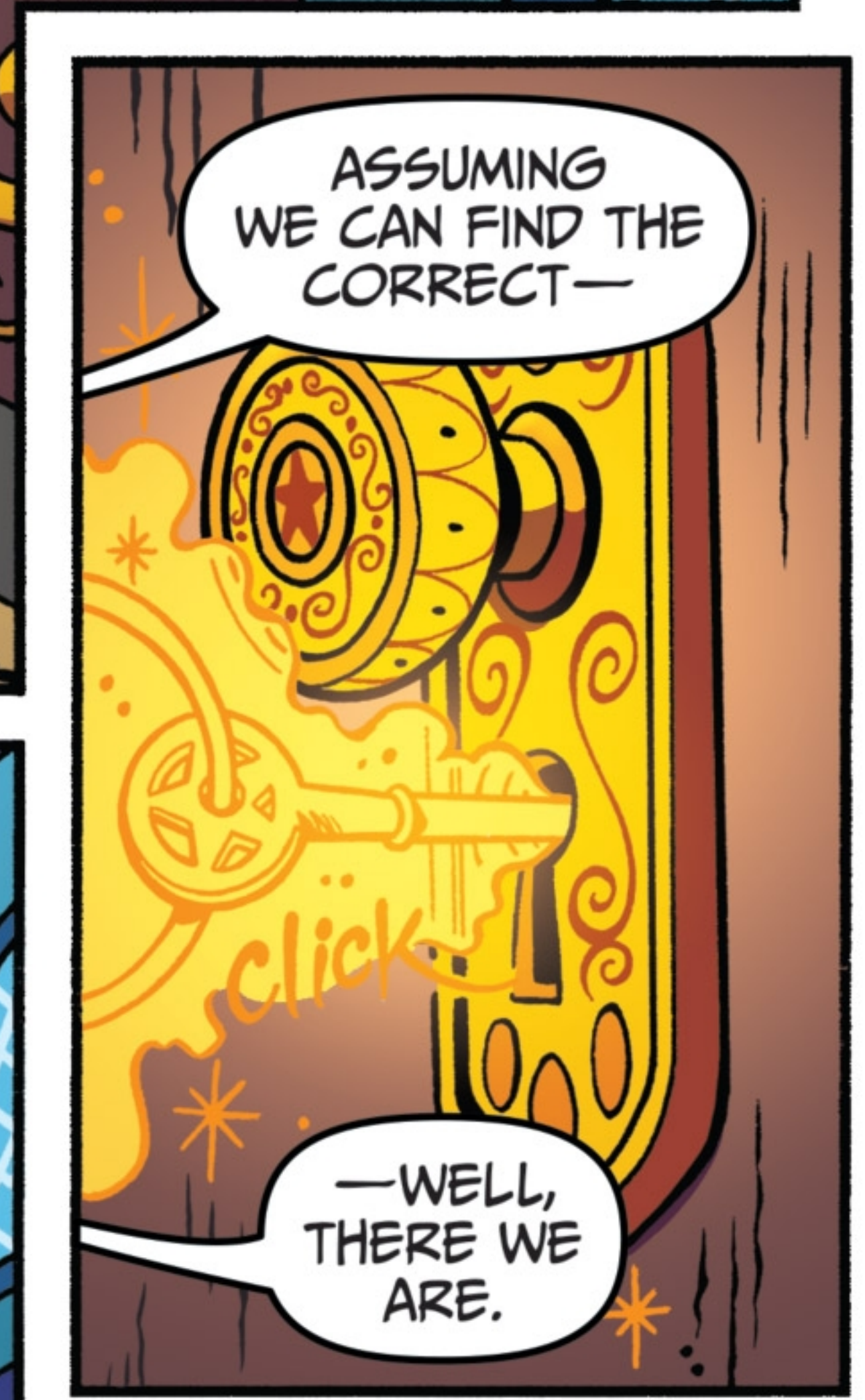
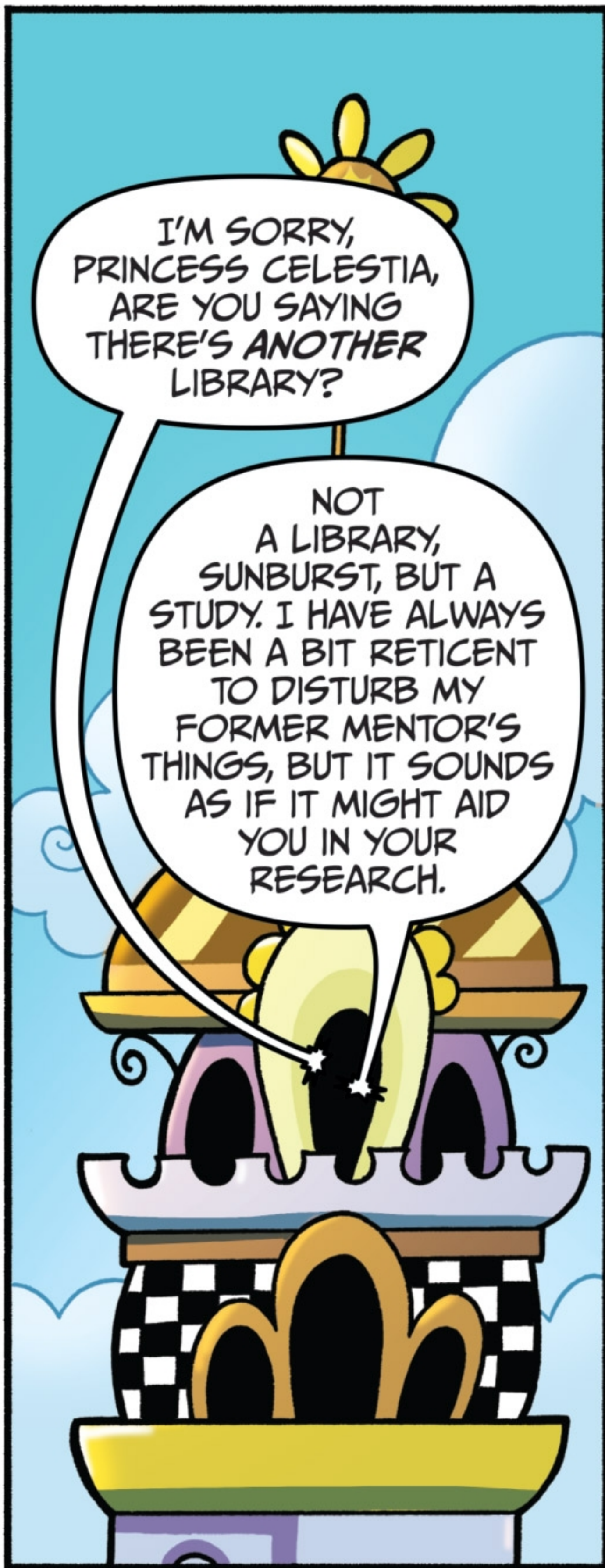


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THIS IS AMAZING!
WHO KNOWS WHAT
COULD BE IN
HERE!

WELL, I AM CERTAIN
THAT LUNA AND I READ
SEVERAL OF THESE
STORIES WHEN WE WERE
UNDER STARSWIRL'S
TUTELAGE.

WHY
WOULD YOU
KEEP ALL OF
THIS LOCKED
AWAY?



WHEN STARSWIRL
DISAPPEARED, LUNA AND I
WERE CONVINCED HE WOULD BE
BACK ANY DAY. HE WAS OFTEN
PULLED AWAY ON ADVENTURES,
JUST TO TURN UP A FEW
WEEKS LATER.

AND WHEN
HE DIDN'T
RETURN?

AT FIRST, WE WERE
SURE HE WOULD. THEN, ONCE
A FEW MONTHS HAD PASSED,
WE STOPPED LOOKING. BUT WE
WERE STILL YOUNG, AND DIDN'T
DARE TO DISTURB OUR
TUTOR'S THINGS.



THEN THERE WAS
THE FIGHT, AND I EXILED
LUNA TO THE MOON. AFTER
THAT I WAS TOO BUSY... OR
PERHAPS IT HURT TOO
MUCH TO THINK OF
THOSE DAYS.

"LEGENDS
OF MAGIC"?

STARSWIRL
WAS FOND OF
MYTHS AND
LEGENDS. STORIES
OF PONIES WITH
EXCEPTIONAL
POWER.

*Legends
of Magic*

IT LOOKS LIKE
HE WROTE THESE
HIMSELF.



WHEN HE HEARD
A STORY OR A SONG
OF A LEGEND, HE WOULD
ALWAYS WRITE IT DOWN.
USUALLY THEY WERE
NOTHING MORE THAN
TALL TALES.

WHAT
ABOUT THIS
ONE?

WHAT IS IT
CALLED?

"THE GREAT
STARSWIRL THE
BEARDED, THE
TWO SISTERS, AND
THE MAGICAL
VORTEX."



THAT...
THAT'S ABOUT
ME!

LATER THAT NIGHT.

FASCINATING!
THIS WAS WRITTEN
BY STARSWIRL, BUT
IT DOESN'T READ
LIKE A JOURNAL
HERE.

HE'S WRITTEN
AN ACCOUNT
OF HIS OWN
LEGEND.



"NOW, WITHOUT A
DOUBT, MANY AMONG YOU
WILL KNOW THE LEGENDS
OF STARSWIRL THE
BEARDED."

"ONE OF THE
GREAT HEROES OF
OUR TIME, STARSWIRL WAS
KNOWN FOR FACING DOWN
MAGICAL CREATURES AND
FORCES NO OTHER PONY
WOULD DARE."

~~SNORT~~
HE CERTAINLY
WASN'T KNOWN
FOR HIS SMALL
EGO.

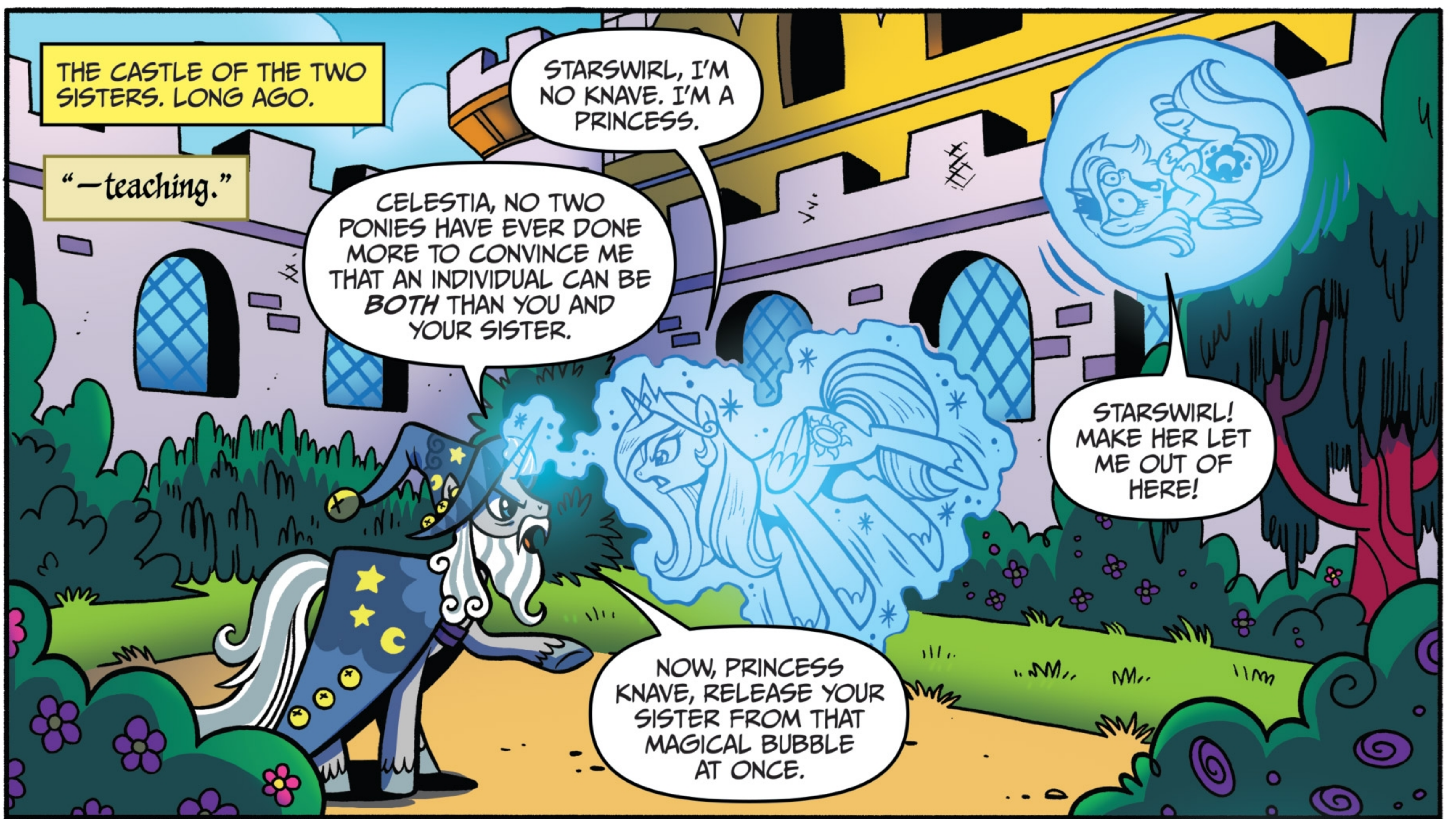


But perhaps the most challenging
role for Starswirl was not that of
mage, or wanderer, or hero. But the
most dangerous of all professions—

Indeed, Starswirl was one of the
great pony heroes. His feats will
be sung long after he has left us.

HALT, KNAVE!
GO NO FURTHER!





THE CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS. LONG AGO.

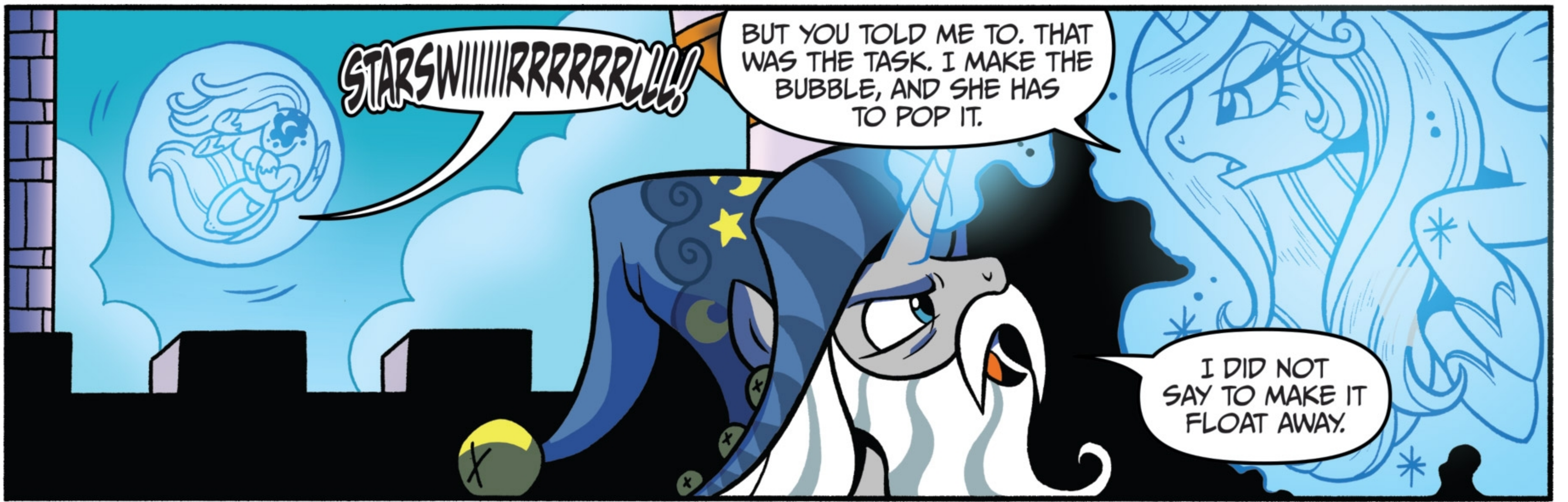
“—teaching.”

STARSWIRL, I'M NO KNAVE. I'M A PRINCESS.

CELESTIA, NO TWO PONIES HAVE EVER DONE MORE TO CONVINC ME THAT AN INDIVIDUAL CAN BE BOTH THAN YOU AND YOUR SISTER.

STARSWIRL! MAKE HER LET ME OUT OF HERE!

NOW, PRINCESS KNAVE, RELEASE YOUR SISTER FROM THAT MAGICAL BUBBLE AT ONCE.



STARSWIIIIIIIIRRRRRL!!!

BUT YOU TOLD ME TO. THAT WAS THE TASK. I MAKE THE BUBBLE, AND SHE HAS TO POP IT.

I DID NOT SAY TO MAKE IT FLOAT AWAY.



IT'S MEANT TO BE A SIMPLE TRAINING EXERCISE, NOT A CHANCE FOR YOU TO MAKE YOUR SISTER PANIC.

WELL, IT'S NOT MY FAULT SHE CAN'T KEEP UP.



POP!

GAAAH!!



IT IS NOT YOUR JOB TO MONITOR OR COMMENT ON YOUR SISTER'S PROGRESS. I AM THE INSTRUCTOR HERE.

WELL, THAT MUST BE FRUSTRATING FOR YOU.



ARE YOU OKAY, PRINCESS LUNA?

THANK YOU FOR GETTING ME DOWN. HOW CAN MY OWN SISTER BE SO MEAN? CAN YOU BELIEVE HER?

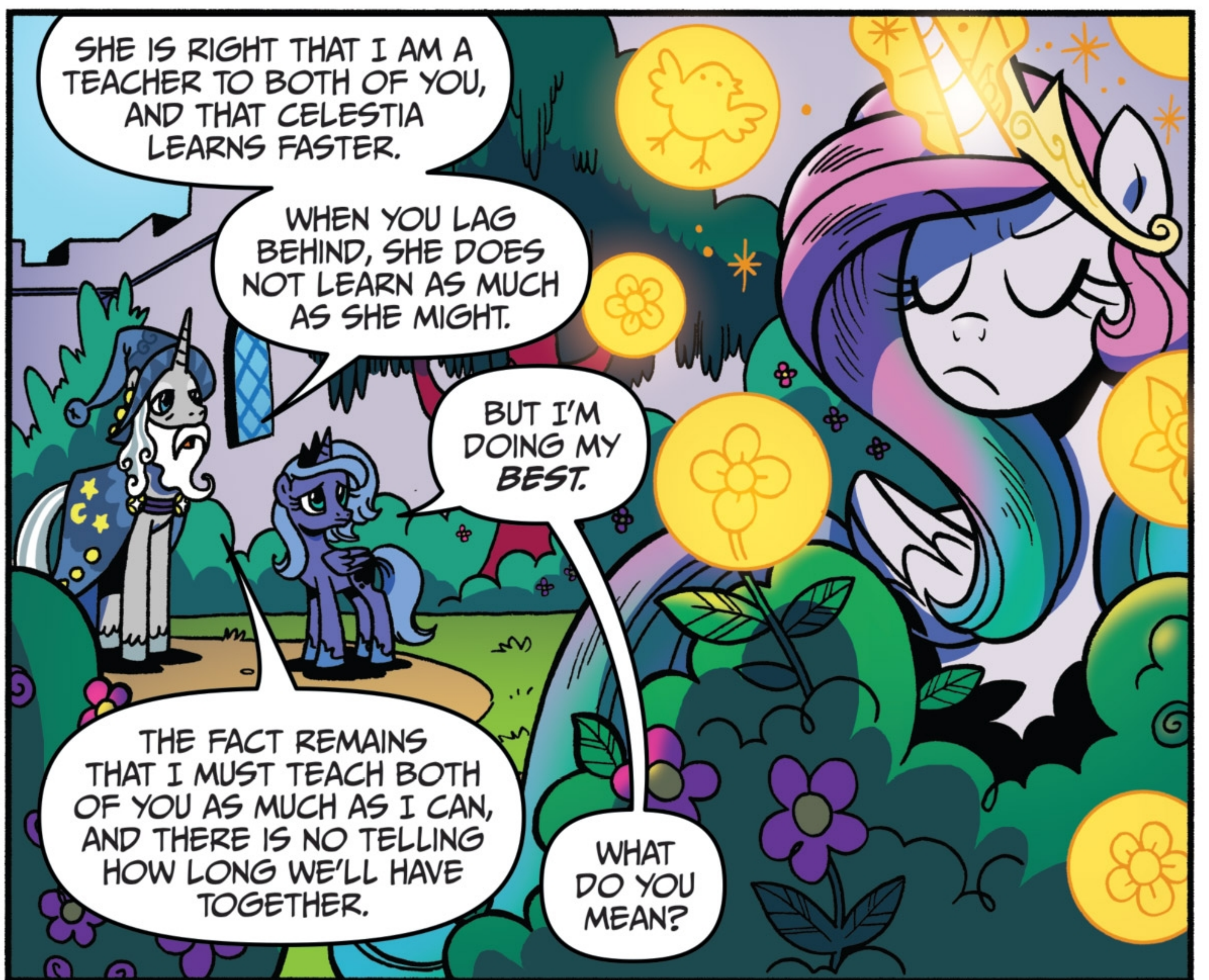
TO BE FRANK, HER COMPLAINT HAS MERIT.



I... I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON MY SIDE.



THERE ARE NO SIDES HERE, PRINCESS LUNA.



SHE IS RIGHT THAT I AM A TEACHER TO BOTH OF YOU, AND THAT CELESTIA LEARNS FASTER.

WHEN YOU LAG BEHIND, SHE DOES NOT LEARN AS MUCH AS SHE MIGHT.

BUT I'M DOING MY BEST.

THE FACT REMAINS THAT I MUST TEACH BOTH OF YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN, AND THERE IS NO TELLING HOW LONG WE'LL HAVE TOGETHER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



WHEN A CRISIS ARISES, I MAY BE CALLED ON TO DEAL WITH IT, AND SOMEDAY I MIGHT NOT RETURN.

SOMETIMES OUR LIVES REQUIRE US TO DO THINGS THAT DO NOT SEEM IMMEDIATELY POSSIBLE TO US.



AS A PRINCESS, SOMEDAY THOSE THINGS MIGHT BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SURVIVAL OF YOUR KINGDOM OR THE FALL OF ALL OF EQUESTRIA.

IF YOUR BEST IS NOT UP TO THE TASK, EITHER YOU MUST FIND A NEW BEST, OR BE WILLING TO LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

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my LITTLE PONY

Legends of Magic



TO BE CONTINUED IN...

MY LITTLE PONY: LEGENDS OF MAGIC #1

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