

IDW

SEASON
TEN
Episode 2

ISSUE
90
COVER A

my LITTLE PONY

Friendship is Magic



B. Price '20

HOME
COMING

WHITLEY • PRICE • BRECKEL



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Season 10

written by
Jeremy Whitley

art by
Andy Price

colors by
Heather Breckel

letters by
Neil Uyetake

edits by
Megan Brown

group editor
Bobby Curnow

Special thanks to Tayla Reo, Ed Lane, Beth Artale, and Michael Kelly.

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The LEGEND of

ZECORA

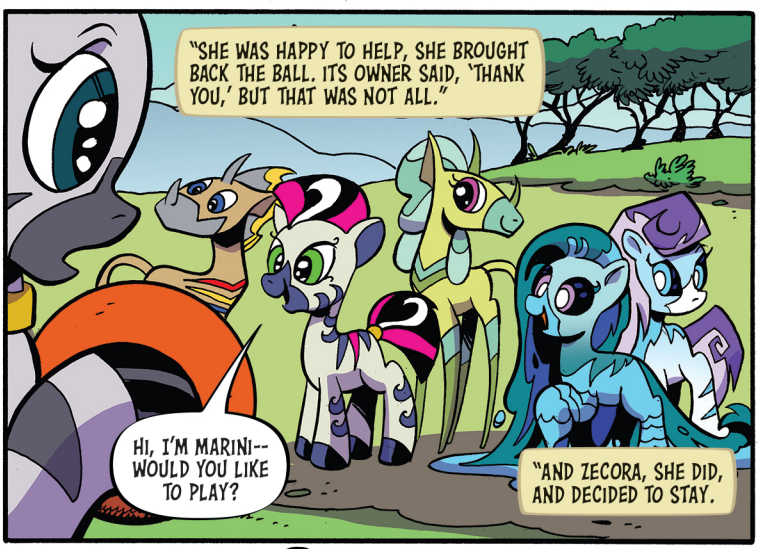
by WHITLEY, PRICE, & BRECKEL

WHO SHE IS AND HOW SHE CAME TO BE!



"ONCE UPON A TIME, IN FARASIAN SHORES, ZECORA THE ZEBRA STAYED MOSTLY INDOORS. SHE HAD NO FRIENDS, NOT A BUDDY AT ALL, UNTIL A VOICE SAID--"

AFTER BOB KANE, 1940



"SHE WAS HAPPY TO HELP. SHE BROUGHT BACK THE BALL. ITS OWNER SAID, 'THANK YOU,' BUT THAT WAS NOT ALL."

HI, I'M MARINI-- WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY?

"AND ZECORA, SHE DID, AND DECIDED TO STAY."



"SOON MARINI'S GOOD FRIENDS WERE ZECORA'S FRIENDS, TOO. EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE DIFFERENT, THEY WERE FRIENDS THROUGH AND THROUGH. TWO KELPIES, TWO ABADA, TWO ZEBRAS TOGETHER. DESPITE ALL THEIR DIFFERENCES, BIRDS OF A FEATHER."

"ZECORA LOVED LEGENDS, MYTHS, AND OLD STORIES. SHE ALWAYS READ TALES OF FORTUNES AND GLORIES. SHE MADE THEM NEW GAMES TO WHERE CHALLENGES THEY ROSE. SHE WROTE THEM NEW TALES, WHERE THEY WERE HEROES."

"THEY GREW UP TOGETHER, THESE FRIENDS OF THREE RACES, GETTING THEIR CUTIE MARKS, FINDING THEIR PLACES. THEIR CHILDHOODS WERE HAPPY, GAMES HAPPIER STILL. EVERYTHING WAS PERFECTLY PERFECT UNTIL..."



NOW, AS WE ALL KNOW, KELPIES HAVE MAGIC THAT ALLOWS THEM TO MANIPULATE WATER. THEY CAN CONTROL IT WITH THEIR MINDS, AND CAN CHANGE THEIR BODIES FROM WATER TO ICE TO STEAM.

AND ABADA HAVE NATURALLY OCCURRING MAGIC, WHICH GIVES THEM SPECIAL ABILITIES LIKE DUST DEVIL'S SPEED OR CACTUS ROSE'S ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH PLANTS.



ZEBRAS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE NO MAGICAL ABILITIES.

THEY CAN BE NATURALLY FAST OR STRONG, BUT EVEN THEIR CUTIE MARKS ARE SIMPLY MUNDANE SYMBOLS OF THEIR LIFE, NOT A MAGICAL DESTINY.



MS. ALEGRE, IS THERE **NO** WAY A ZEBRA CAN LEARN TO USE MAGIC? LIKE, IF THEY TRY REALLY, REALLY HARD?

ZECORA, SWEET CHILD.



THE ONLY CREATURES WHO ARE RUMORED TO BE ABLE TO **LEARN** MAGIC ARE UNICORNS.

AND ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THEY ONLY EXIST IN THE FAR-OFF, DARK, MONSTER-COVERED LAND OF EQUESTRIA. THEY MAY JUST BE A **MYTH**.

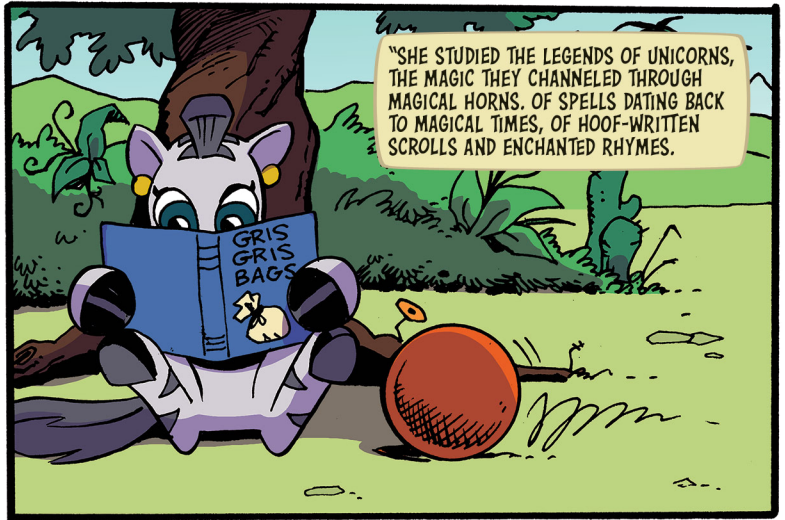
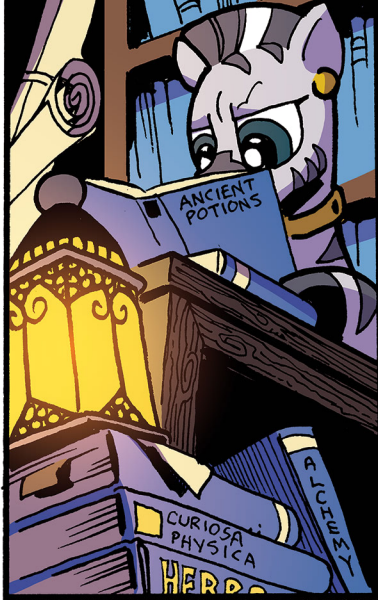


WELL, I AM GOING TO BE THE **FIRST ZEBRA** TO LEARN HOW TO USE **MAGIC**.

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT, DEAR. UNTIL THEN, YOU STILL HAVE A TEST ON THIS INFORMATION TOMORROW.

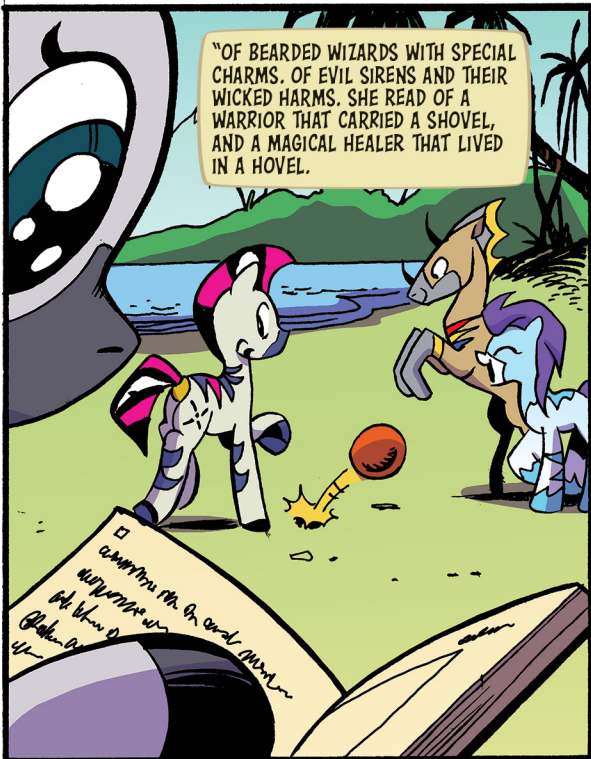
"WHILE ALL OF HER CLASSMATES, THEY LAUGHED AND THEY PLAYED, DEEP IN THE LIBRARY ZECORA SHE STAYED. SHE STUDIED OLD TOMES, FROM NEAR AND FROM FAR. SHE READ BOOKS FROM CASABRONCO AND ZEBRAZEBAR.

"WHILE OTHERS MAY SEE HER OBSESSION AS TRAGIC, ZECORA DEVOTED HER WHOLE LIFE TO MAGIC. A LIFE OF MUNDANITY WOULD BE THE WORST. SO OF ZEBRAS WITH MAGIC SHE WOULD BE THE FIRST.



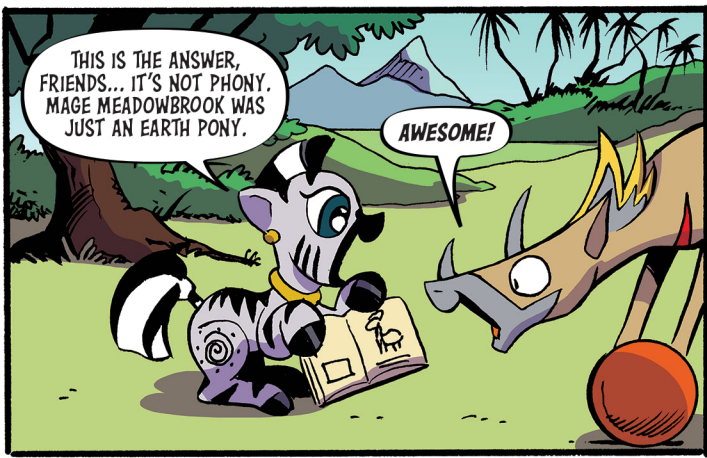
"SHE STUDIED THE LEGENDS OF UNICORNS, THE MAGIC THEY CHANNELLED THROUGH MAGICAL HORNS. OF SPELLS DATING BACK TO MAGICAL TIMES, OF HOOF-WRITTEN SCROLLS AND ENCHANTED RHYMES.

"OF BEARDED WIZARDS WITH SPECIAL CHARMS. OF EVIL SIRENS AND THEIR WICKED HARMS. SHE READ OF A WARRIOR THAT CARRIED A SHOVEL, AND A MAGICAL HEALER THAT LIVED IN A HOVEL.



"THE HEALER, SHE GAVE HER A REASON TO PAUSE. AN OLD ILLUSTRATION, THAT WAS THE CAUSE."





THIS IS THE ANSWER, FRIENDS... IT'S NOT PHONY. MAGE MEADOWBROOK WAS JUST AN EARTH PONY.

AWESOME!



WAIT, WHAT'S AN EARTH PONY?



EARTH PONIES ARE MUNDANE LIKE US, THEY HAVE NOT MAGIC... AND THAT'S THAT, GUS?

OH, IT'S A GAME! I WANT TO PLAY! BUT I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE RHYME TO SAY.

ABRAXAS HELP US, YOU'RE RHYMING ON PURPOSE. I THOUGHT THE FIRST RHYME WAS AN ACCIDENT.



I LEARNED THAT SPELLS WORK BEST IN RHYME, SO I'LL SPEAK LIKE THIS ALL OF THE TIME.

NOW, MARINI, I THINK IT'S VERY CUTE. LET HER TRY IF SHE WANTS.

ZECORA, THIS IS A BAD IDEA, MAYBE IF YOU JUST--



IT'S NOT CUTE, AND IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA!

MAGE MEADOWBROOK WAS JUST A NORMAL PONY, AND SHE FOUND A WAY TO DO MAGIC!




LOOK, KID, I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE UPSET WHEN IT DOESN'T WORK.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FAITH IN ME? YOU DON'T THINK--

THAT'S NOT WHAT--



YOU MAY BE FINE WITH BEING BORING YOUR WHOLE LIFE, MARINI, BUT I'M NOT!



AND FROM THAT TIME, DEAR APPLEJACK, THEY LAUGHED AND TALKED BEHIND MY BACK. TEASES AND TAUNTS AT EVERY TURN, HOW IT MAKES MY STOMACH CHURN.

YEAH, THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THEY WERE BEING VERY GOOD FRIENDS. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD.

WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE YA LEFT. DON'T YOU THINK YOUR FRIENDS DESERVE ANOTHER SHOT?

IF NOT FOR YOU, AT LEAST FOR EQUESTRIA, RIGHT?

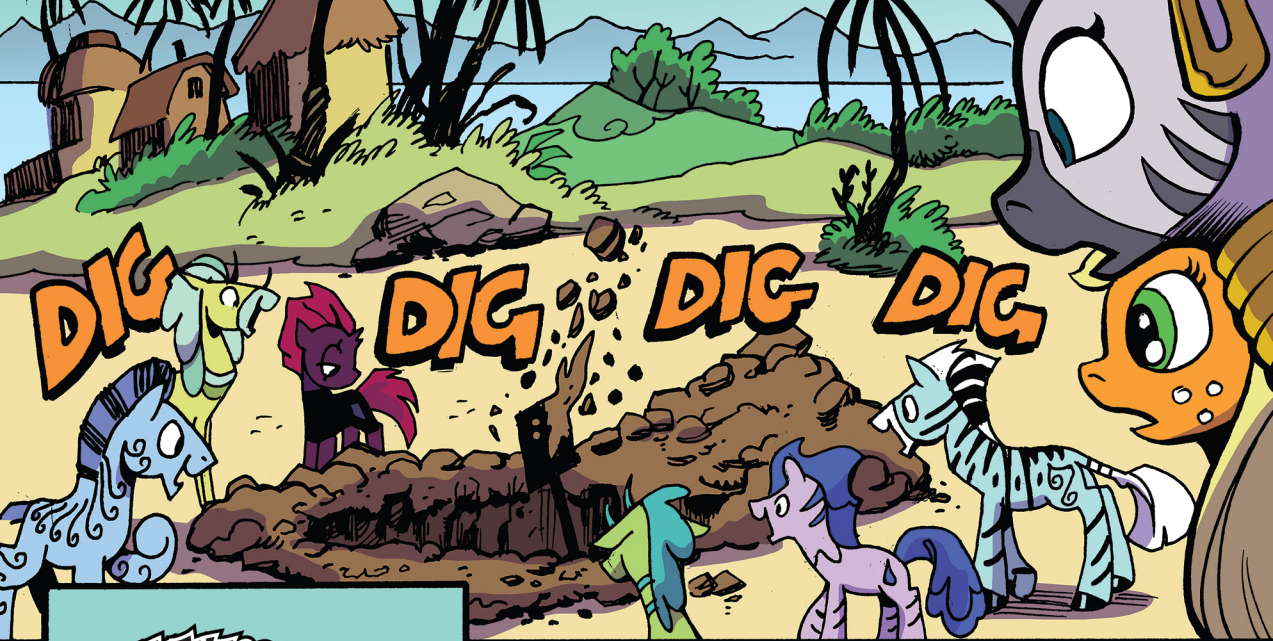
I WAS SURE I HAD OUTGROWN, THIS FEELING OF BEING ALL ALONE. BUT RIGHT WHEN I SAW THEM THERE, ALL THAT I COULD DO WAS STARE.



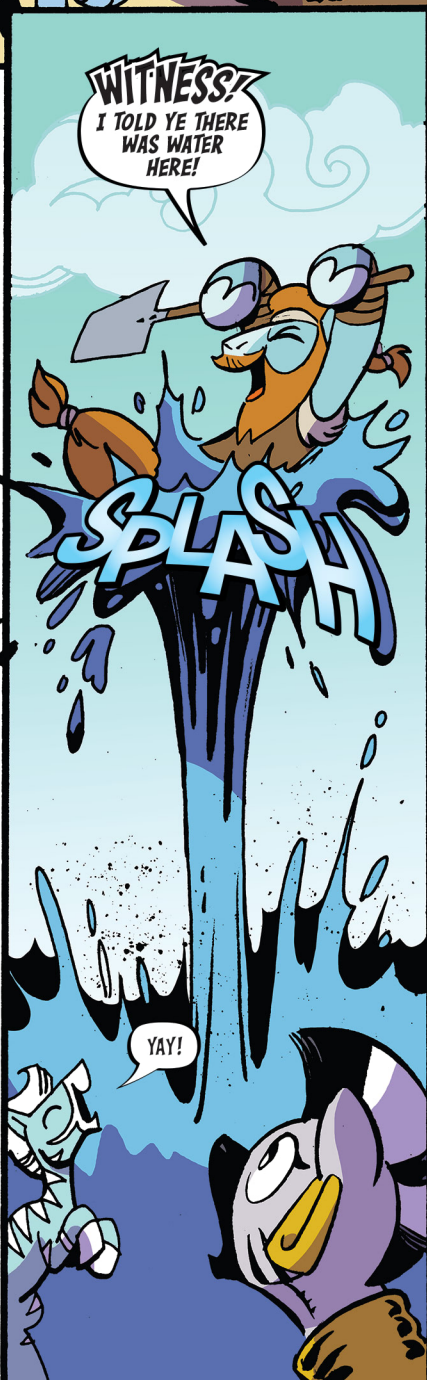
APPLEJACK, I APOLOGIZE, FOR MY TEARS AND PLAINTIVE CRIES. MY YOUTH WAS HARD, BUT I DIGRESS, WE WERE SENT BY THE PRINCESS.

THERE YA GO. NOW LET'S GO HAVE A NICE VISIT.

WELL, SHUCKS, LOOKS LIKE THEY STARTED WITHOUT US.



DIG DIG DIG DIG



WITNESS!
I TOLD YE THERE WAS WATER HERE!



AND IF KELPIES HAD ONE BIG STRATEGIC WEAKNESS, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY THAT WOULD BE?

GOSH, WHAT A FUNNY QUESTION!
OOH! I KNOW!



WELL, THERE'S ELECTRICITY! THAT MAKES US GO KABLOOEY.

GOOD TO KNOW.

ALSO, IF WE'RE AWAY FROM A WATER SOURCE FOR TOO LONG, WE START TO EVAPORATE.

USEFUL.

ALSO, WHEN--

TEMPEST!

YAY!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

RECON, APPLEJACK.

MEDLEY BROOK HERE HAS BEEN HELPING ME LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS TOWN, AND SHE HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL.

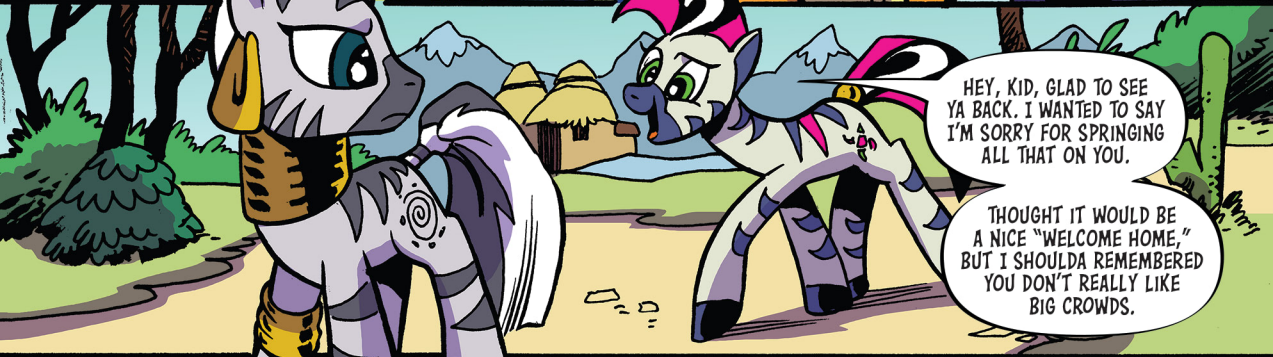
REALLY?!



I COULD CONQUER AND SUBJUGATE THIS PLACE IN AN HOUR, HALF AN HOUR IF I HAD HELP.

WE'RE NOT HERE TO CONQUER ANYONE, TEMPEST. THIS IS A PEACEFUL MISSION.

YEAH, BUT SAY IT WASN'T, AND WE NEEDED TO--



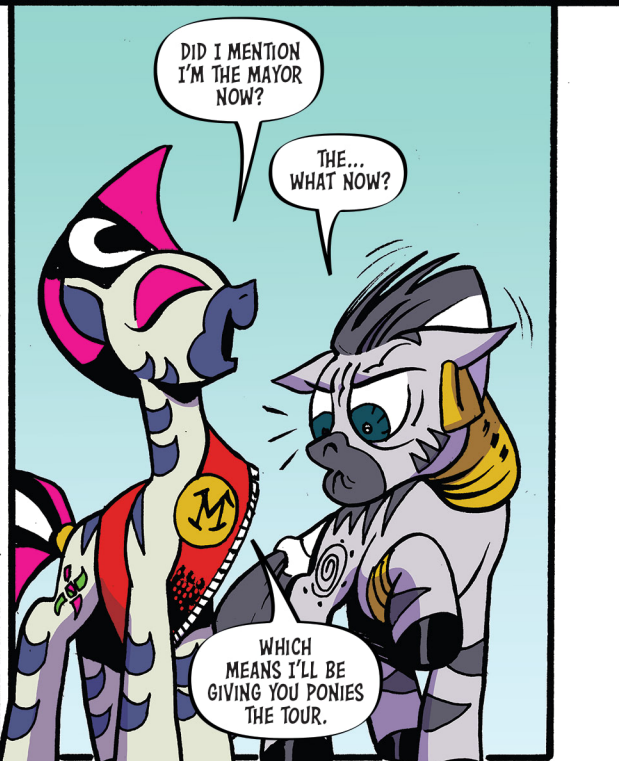
HEY, KID, GLAD TO SEE YA BACK. I WANTED TO SAY I'M SORRY FOR SPRINGING ALL THAT ON YOU.

THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A NICE "WELCOME HOME," BUT I SHOULDA REMEMBERED YOU DON'T REALLY LIKE BIG CROWDS.



I APPRECIATE YOUR APOLOGY, BUT YOU'RE THINKING OF A YOUNGER ME. THE GROWN-UP ME, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, HOSTED A NIGHTMARE NIGHT CELEBRATION.

IS THAT SO? WELL, I GUESS WE'VE ALL CHANGED QUITE A BIT. SPEAKING OF...



DID I MENTION I'M THE MAYOR NOW?

THE... WHAT NOW?

WHICH MEANS I'LL BE GIVING YOU PONIES THE TOUR.



SO, WHEN I CAME BACK FROM THE TRIP, THEY SENT ME HOME WITH A BUNCH OF ZAP APPLES, WHICH I GAVE OUT AROUND TOWN.

AND APPARENTLY WHATEVER IT IS THAT MAKES KELPIES EXPLODE WHEN THEY GET ELECTROCUTED TRANSFERS TO THE APPLES.

OH, NO!

WE SPENT AN HOUR MOPPING UP MEDLEY BROOK AND PUTTING ALL OF HER PIECES IN A BUCKET. I SWEAR SHE'S SHORTER THAN SHE USED TO BE.

HEH HEH HEH, WELL, THAT'S A GOOD THING TO REMEMBER. I'LL MAKE SURE WHEN I BRING APPLES TO LEAVE THOSE OUT.

OH, WE'RE HERE!

WHERE ARE WE?

THOUGH MY PARENTS HAVE MOVED AWAY, THIS IS THE HOME WHERE I USED TO STAY.

YEP, AND THE ONE NEXT TO IT IS MINE!

Y'ALL GREW UP RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER?

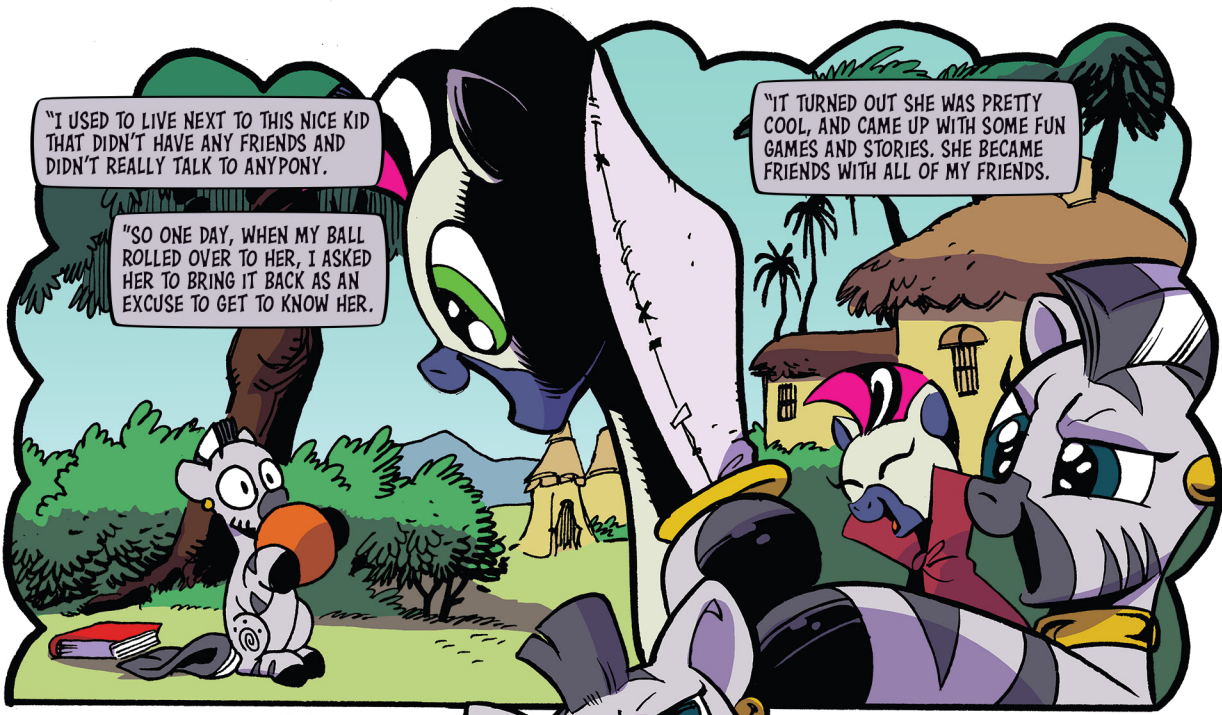
WE WERE LIKE FAMILY FOR YEARS, UNTIL SHE UP AND LEFT.

UP AND LEFT IS A MISCHARACTERIZATION! I WON'T STAND FOR THIS INDIGNATION!

COME ON, KID. WHAT DO YOU CALL IT WHEN YOUR BEST FRIEND JUMPS ON A BOAT ACROSS THE SEA AND ABANDONS YOU, THEN?

I... I...





"I USED TO LIVE NEXT TO THIS NICE KID THAT DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS AND DIDN'T REALLY TALK TO ANYPONY."

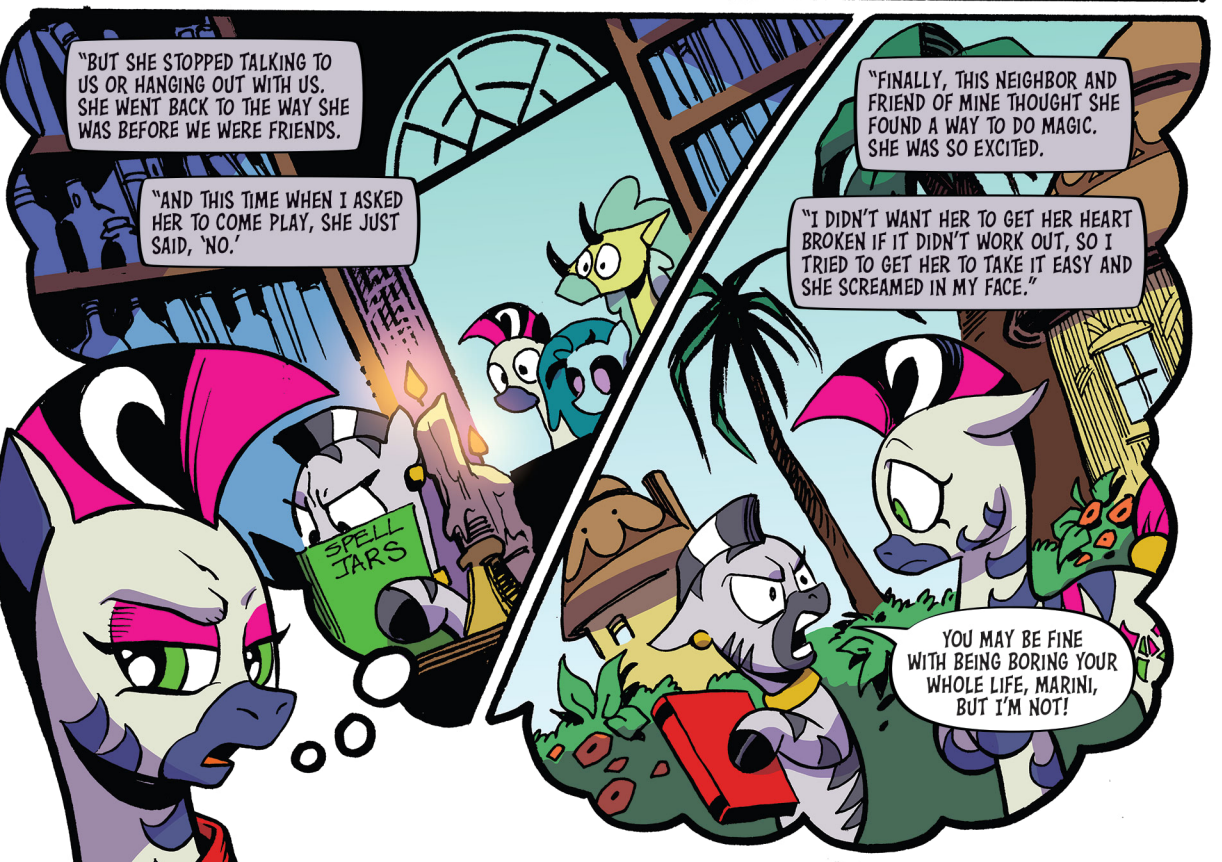
"SO ONE DAY, WHEN MY BALL ROLLED OVER TO HER, I ASKED HER TO BRING IT BACK AS AN EXCUSE TO GET TO KNOW HER."

"IT TURNED OUT SHE WAS PRETTY COOL, AND CAME UP WITH SOME FUN GAMES AND STORIES. SHE BECAME FRIENDS WITH ALL OF MY FRIENDS."



"THEN, ONE DAY, THIS KID GOT REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE IDEA OF MAGIC."

"WHO COULD BLAME HER? WE ALL GOT PRETTY EXCITED ABOUT IT."



"BUT SHE STOPPED TALKING TO US OR HANGING OUT WITH US. SHE WENT BACK TO THE WAY SHE WAS BEFORE WE WERE FRIENDS."

"AND THIS TIME WHEN I ASKED HER TO COME PLAY, SHE JUST SAID, 'NO.'"

"FINALLY, THIS NEIGHBOR AND FRIEND OF MINE THOUGHT SHE FOUND A WAY TO DO MAGIC. SHE WAS SO EXCITED."

"I DIDN'T WANT HER TO GET HER HEART BROKEN IF IT DIDN'T WORK OUT, SO I TRIED TO GET HER TO TAKE IT EASY AND SHE SCREAMED IN MY FACE."

"YOU MAY BE FINE WITH BEING BORING YOUR WHOLE LIFE, MARINI, BUT I'M NOT!"



MARINI,
I...

LEARNING MAGIC
WAS THE ONLY THING
I EVER REALLY
WANTED.



YEAH, I GOT THAT.
YOU NEVER WANTED TO
HAVE FRIENDS, AND IT
NEVER MATTERED TO YOU
THAT I WANTED TO BE
YOUR FRIEND.

I WANTED TO BE
YOUR FRIEND, TOO, BUT
YOU WOULDN'T EVER
TALK ABOUT ANYTHING
BUT MAGIC.



I...
HOW COULD
I HAVE...

BUT THAT WASN'T IT. I
DIDN'T JUST LEAVE BECAUSE
OF ONE ARGUMENT. YOU ALL
WERE CRUEL TO ME!



YOU ALL LAUGHED AT ME. YOU TREATED ME LIKE I WAS A JOKE!

WELL... WE HAD BEEN FRIENDS WITH YOU FOR A WHILE, BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU WERE SAYING EVERYTHING IN RHYME AND...

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT WEEK THAT YOU DECIDED TO SAY EVERYTHING BACKWARDS?

"I MAY HAVE CAUSED A NUMBER OF PUDDLES TO FREEZE JUST BEFORE ZECORA STEPPED ON THEM."



WHAT ABOUT YOU, CRYSTAL? THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHAT YOU DID.

WHAT DID CRYSTAL DO?

WELL, MARINI...



CRYSTAL! YOU NEVER TOLD ME THAT!

WE HAD A GOOD THING GOING. WE USED TO HAVE SO MUCH FUN TOGETHER. SHE RUINED THAT.



THIS MAY BE NEWS TO THE REST OF YOU, BUT NOT EVERYPONY LIKES ME. APPARENTLY, I'M MEAN.

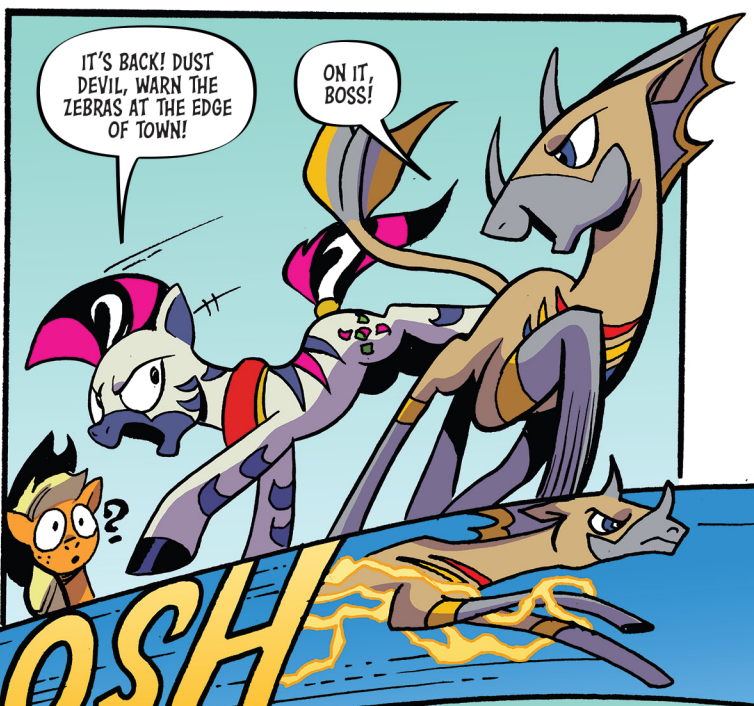
RUMBLE

NO NEED TO GROWL ABOUT IT.



THAT WEREN'T
A GROWL, PONY
OF ICE.

THE GROUND IS
RUMBLING. THERE'S
SOMETHING DOWN
THERE.



IT'S BACK! DUST
DEVIL, WARN THE
ZEBRAS AT THE EDGE
OF TOWN!

ON IT,
BOSS!

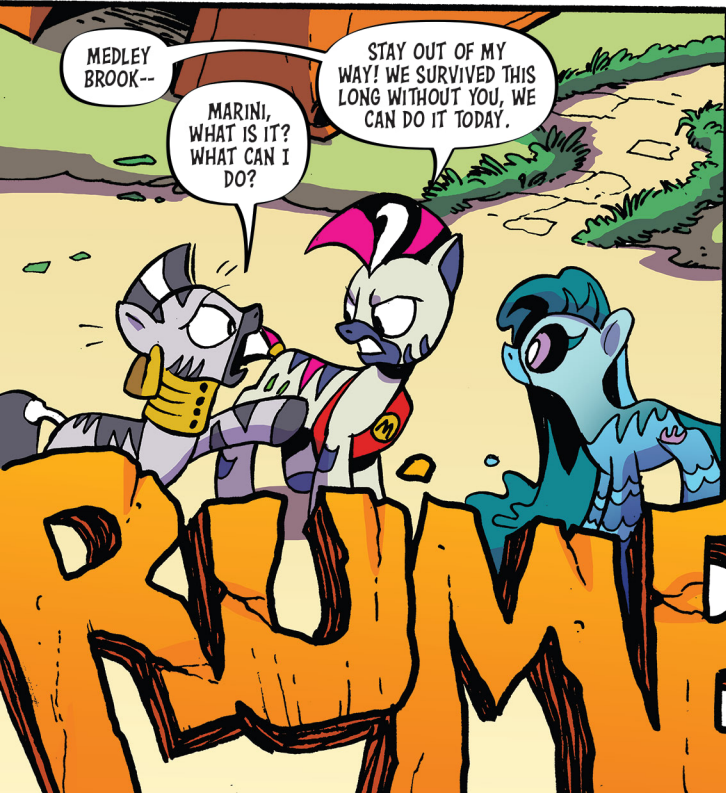
WHOOSH



THIS IS THE
SECOND TIME THIS
WEEK! IT USED TO
TAKE A MONTH FOR
HIM TO COME
BACK--

YOU KNOW WHAT TO
DO, ROSE. GET YOUR
PLANTS READY.

YES,
MA'AM.



MEDLEY
BROOK--

MARINI,
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT CAN I
DO?

STAY OUT OF MY
WAY! WE SURVIVED THIS
LONG WITHOUT YOU, WE
CAN DO IT TODAY.



SURVIVED
WHAT?!

IT'S NONE
OF--

RUMBLE



SSSSSSSSSSSSSS

HIS

LOOK OUT!



HUP!

SNAP



WHAT IS THAT THING?

IT'S CALLED THE GROOTSLANG, AND I NEED TO PROTECT MY TOWN FROM IT.

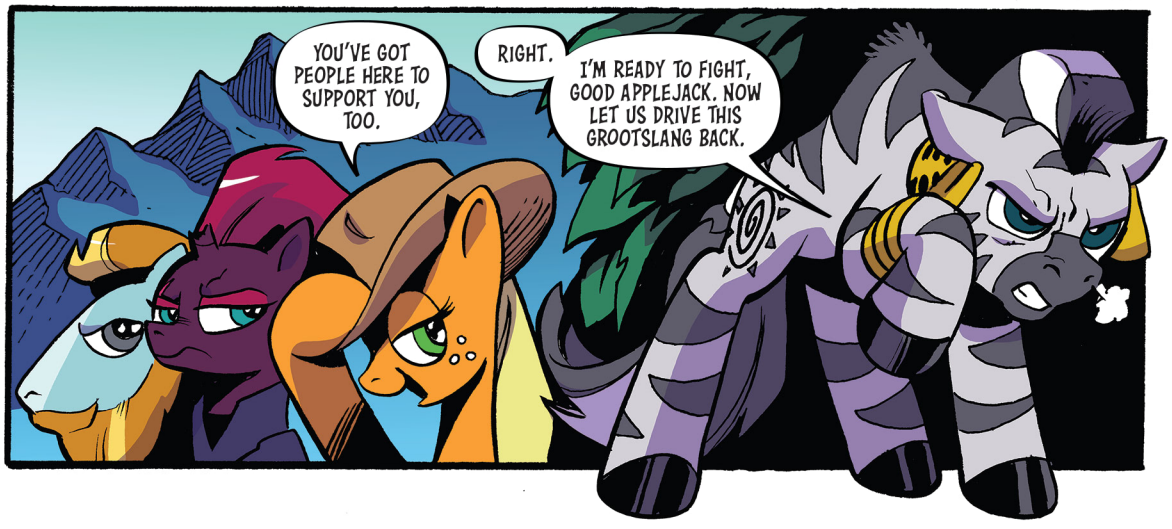


BUT... IT'S MY TOWN, TOO.

ZECORA, LET HER BE, SHE'S OBVIOUSLY DONE THIS BEFORE.

BUT I NEED TO HELP.

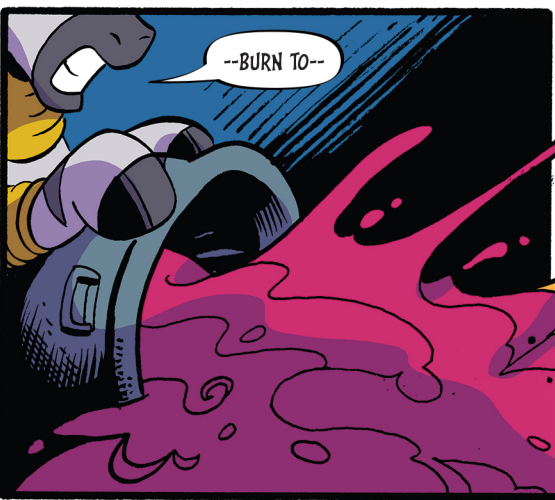
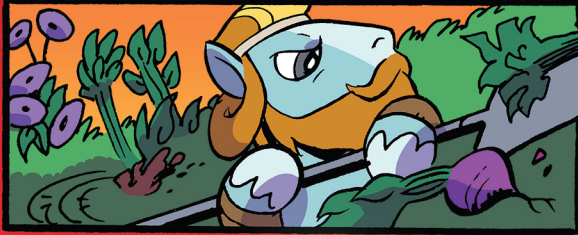
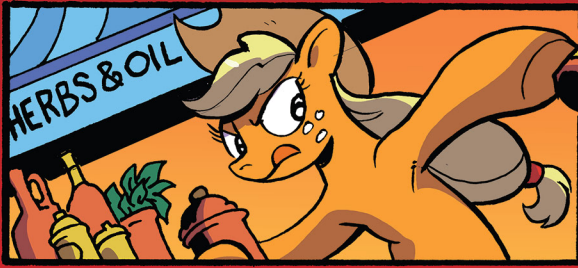
THEY'RE USED TO WORKING TOGETHER WITHOUT YOU, BUT THEN AGAIN...

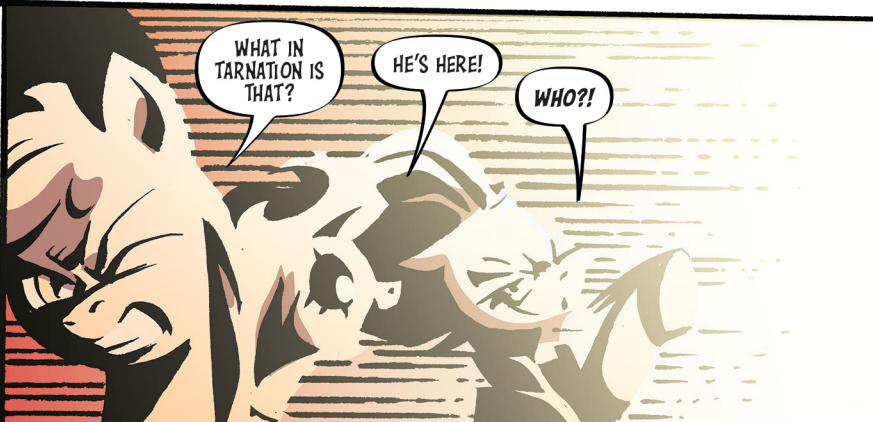
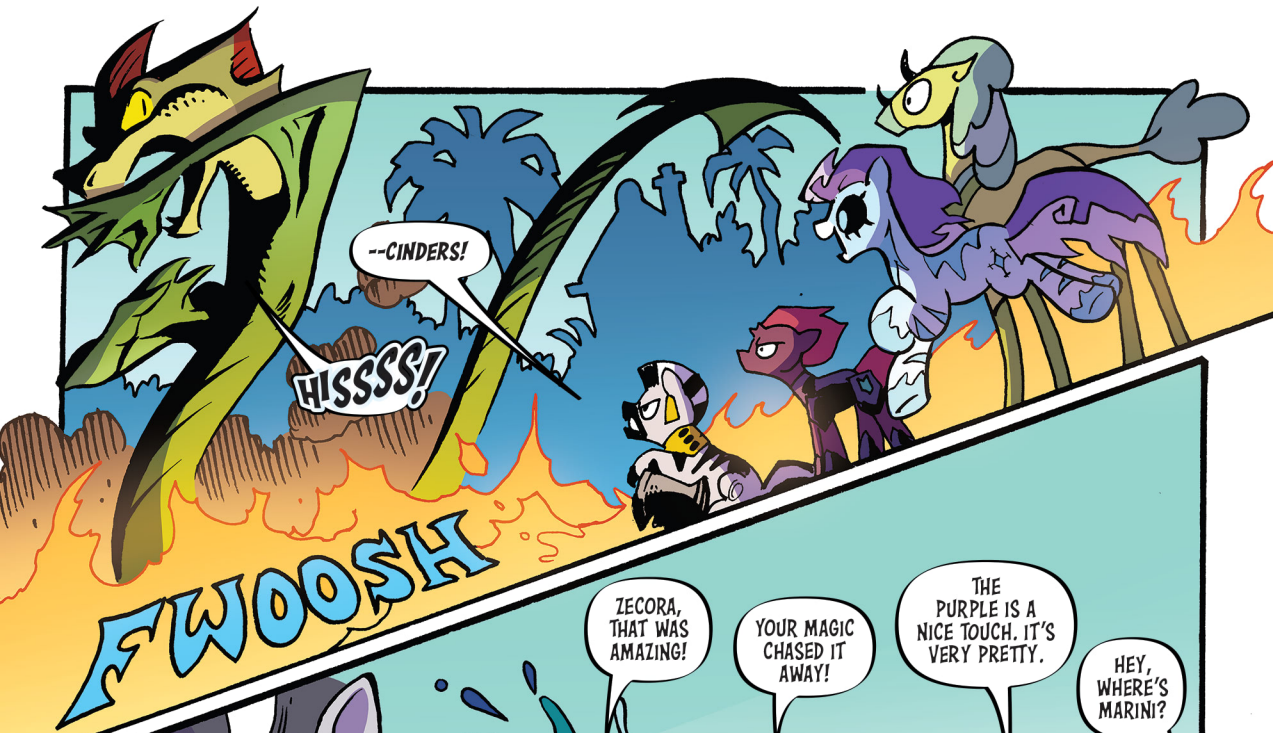


YOU'VE GOT PEOPLE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU, TOO.

RIGHT.

I'M READY TO FIGHT, GOOD APPLEJACK. NOW LET US DRIVE THIS GROOTSLANG BACK.

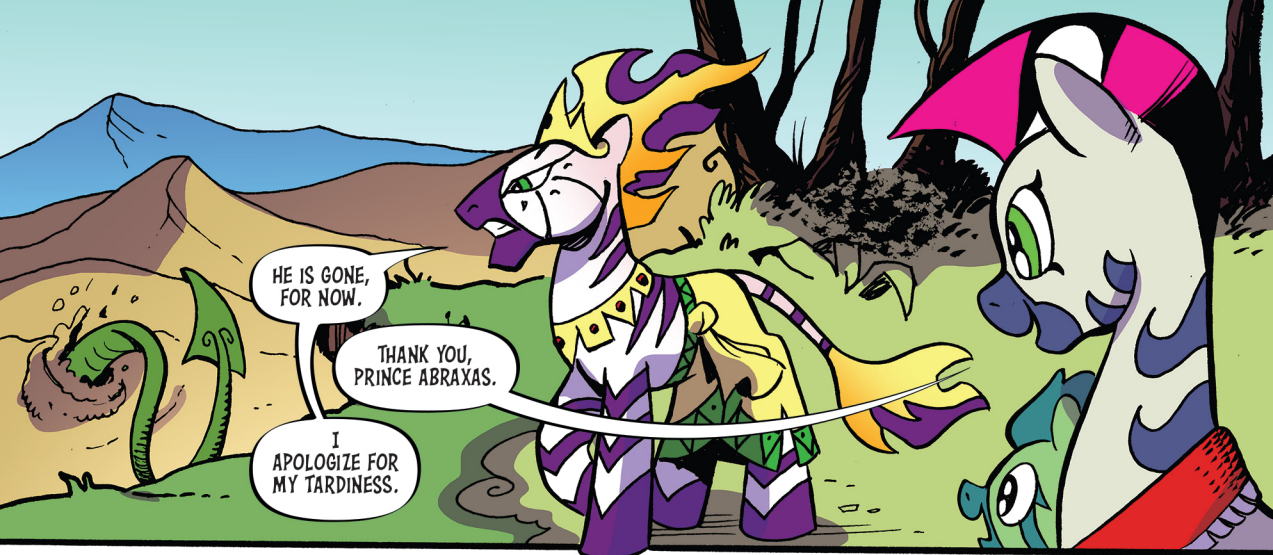




"PRINCE ABRAXAS."



BE GONE, FOUL WORM! TROUBLE MY PEOPLE NO MORE!



HE IS GONE,
FOR NOW.

THANK YOU,
PRINCE ABRAXAS.

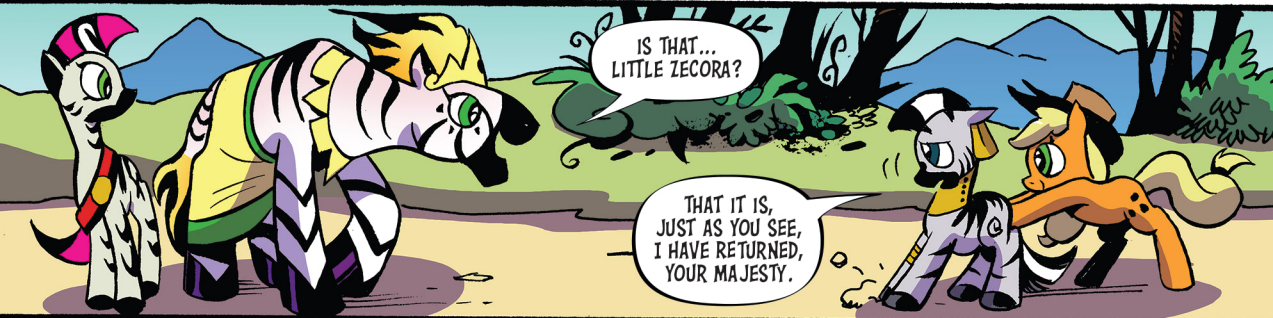
I
APOLOGIZE FOR
MY TARDINESS.



I WAS UNABLE TO
GREET OUR GUESTS, AS
I HAVE BEEN CHASING THE
GROOTSLANG AWAY FROM
BORDER VILLAGES
ALL DAY.

WHICH OF YOU
HAS CAST THIS RETREAT
SPELL? WE OWE YOU
A GREAT DEBT.

THERE'S NO NEED,
NO DEBT CAN BE SHOWN--
THE CASTER WAS ONE OF
FARASI'S OWN.



IS THAT...
LITTLE ZECORA?

THAT IT IS,
JUST AS YOU SEE,
I HAVE RETURNED,
YOUR MAJESTY.



AND IT SEEMS
YOU LEARNED MAGIC
FROM THE UNICORNS
AFTER ALL.

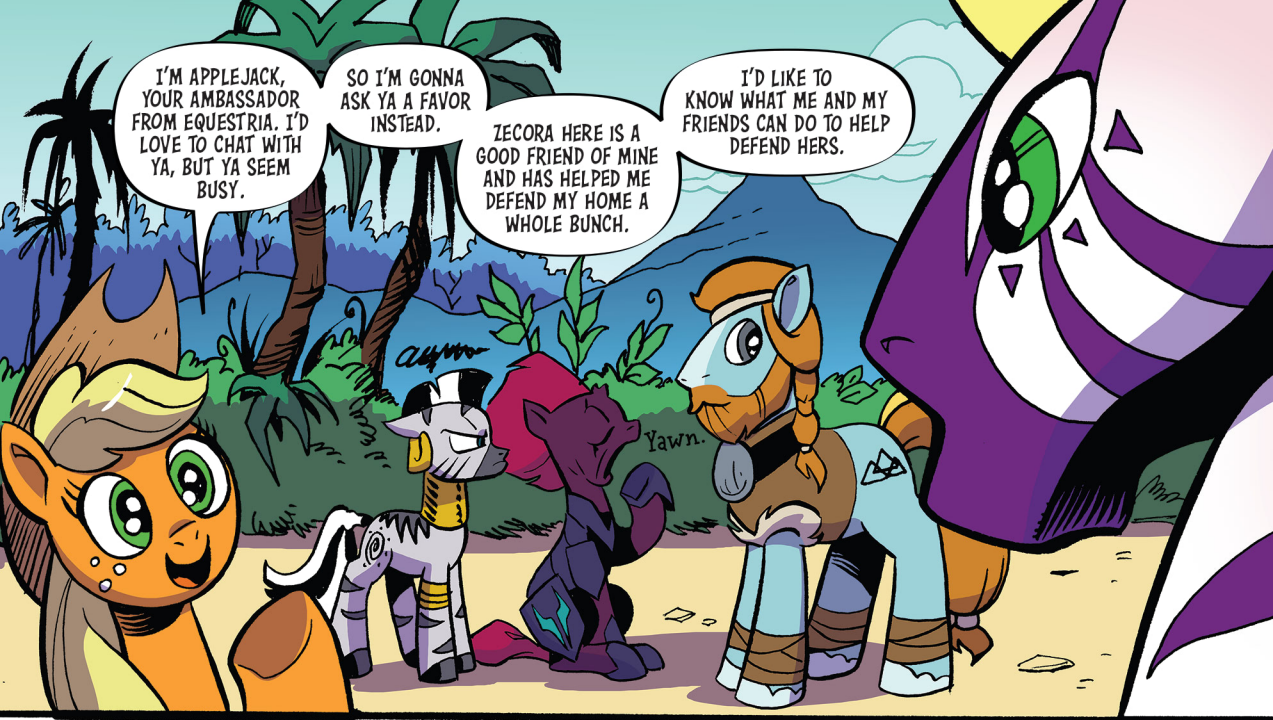
WHEN I LEFT, THOSE
WERE MY NOTIONS, BUT
WHAT I'VE MASTERED IS
THE WORLD OF
POTIONS.

I CANNOT CAST
WITH JUST A PONDER,
BUT WITH CAULDRON,
I MAY CONJURE.



I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR
MORE, WHICH MAKES ME ALL THE
SADDER THAT I MUST DEPART, FOR
THE GROOTSLANG WILL ATTACK
ANOTHER TOWN TONIGHT.

PARDON ME,
MR. PRINCE,
SIR.



I'M APPLEJACK, YOUR AMBASSADOR FROM EQUESTRIA. I'D LOVE TO CHAT WITH YA, BUT YA SEEM BUSY.

SO I'M GONNA ASK YA A FAVOR INSTEAD.

ZECORA HERE IS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE AND HAS HELPED ME DEFEND MY HOME A WHOLE BUNCH.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT ME AND MY FRIENDS CAN DO TO HELP DEFEND HERS.



IT IS A KIND OFFER, APPLEJACK, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT I AM NOT CERTAIN.

THE CREATURE IS SAID TO BE LIVING IN A TEMPLE IN THE DEPTHS OF THE DESERT. BUT I AM NEVER ABLE TO INVESTIGATE IT, BECAUSE I AM ALWAYS GIVING CHASE.



IF THERE IS A MYSTERY THAT MUST BE SOLVED, MY FRIENDS AND I MUST BE INVOLVED.

BUT IT IS A LONG TRAVEL, ZECORA. I COULD NOT EXPECT FOUR WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE DESERT TO TAKE ON SUCH A TASK ALONE.

THEY WON'T HAVE TO.



WE'LL GO WITH THEM.

AND WE'LL STOP THE ATTACKS FROM THE GROOTSLANG ONCE AND FOR ALL.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

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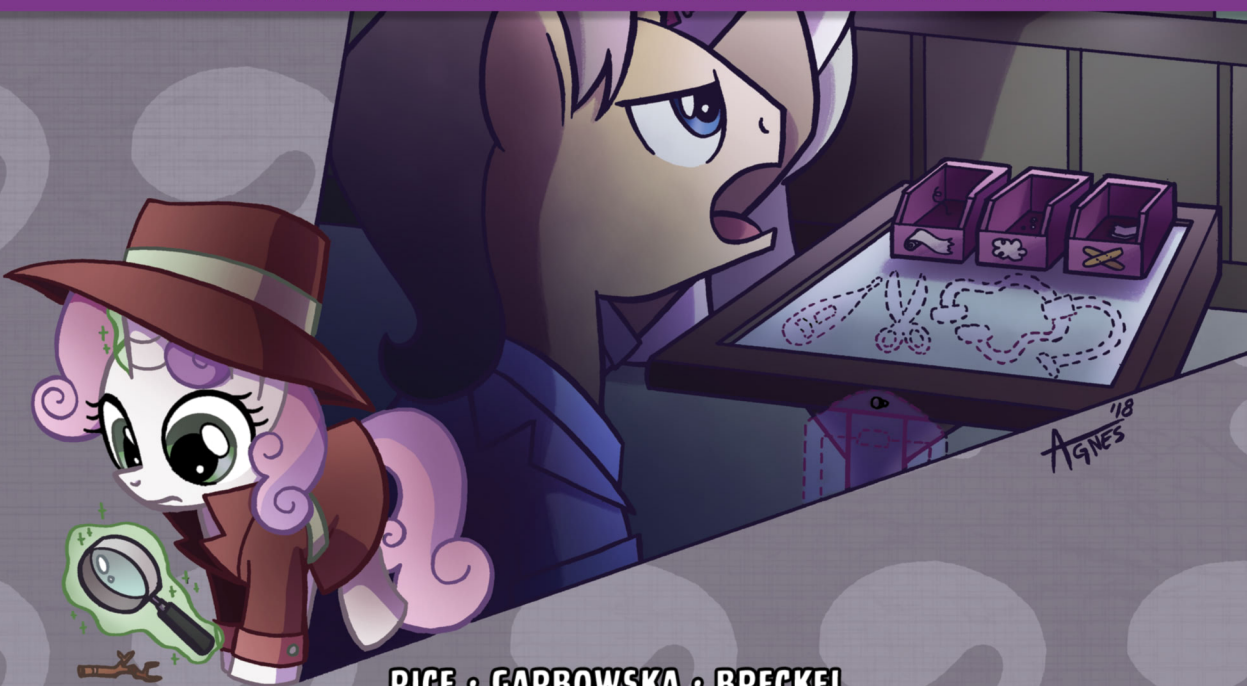
my LITTLE PONY

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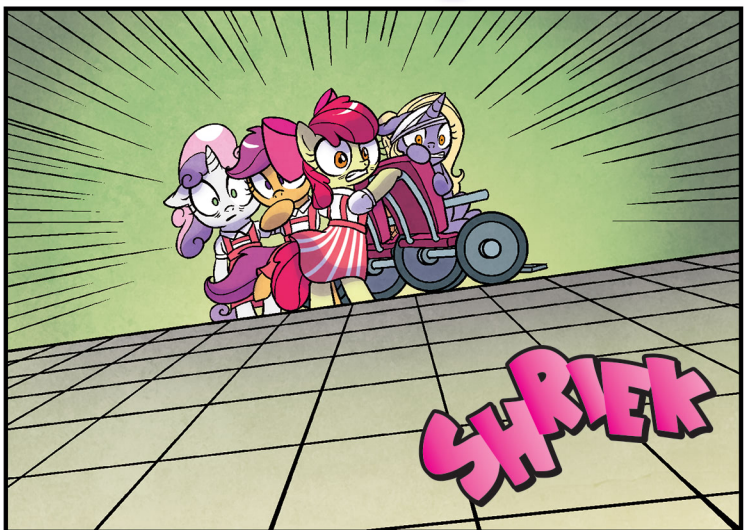
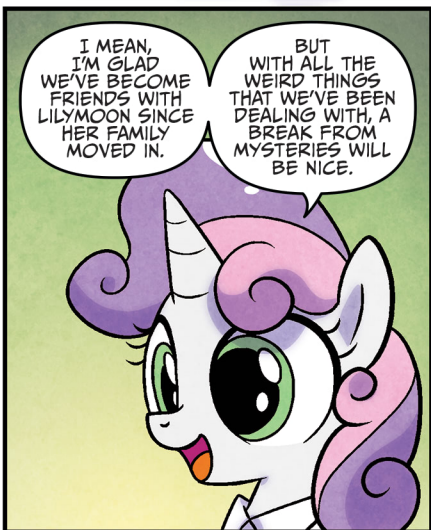
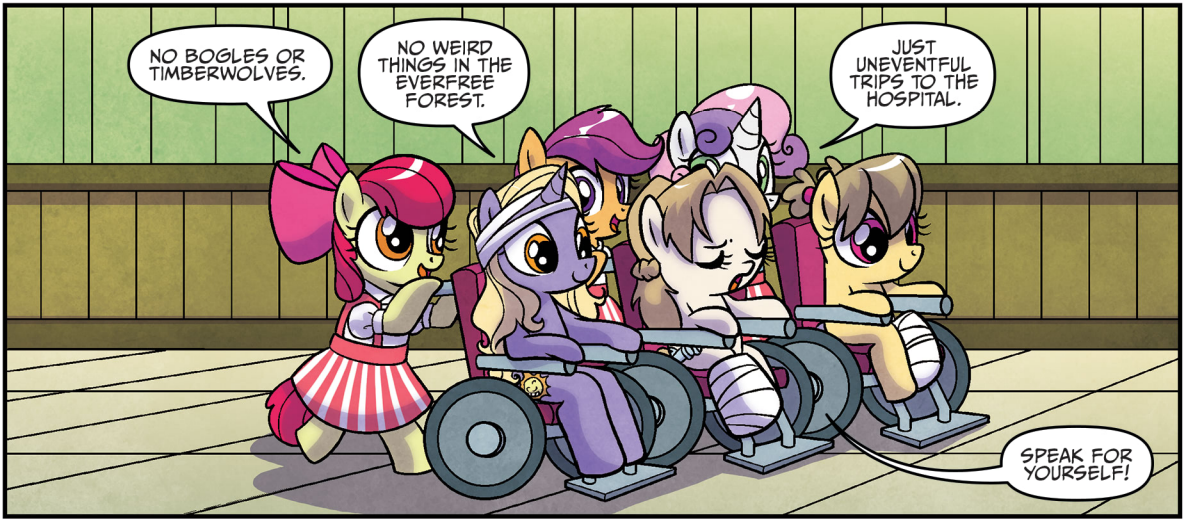
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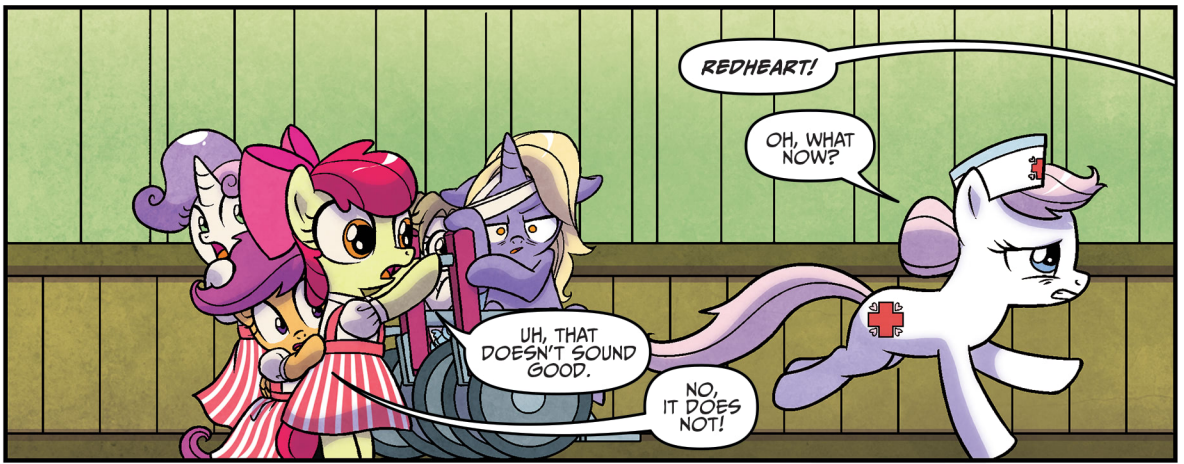
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REDHEART!

OH, WHAT NOW?

UH, THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

NO, IT DOES NOT!



MAYBE WE SHOULD GO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON?

MAYBE—NURSE REDHEART LOOKED REALLY UPSET.

OR MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST DO OUR JOBS.

WHAT THE UNICORN SAID!

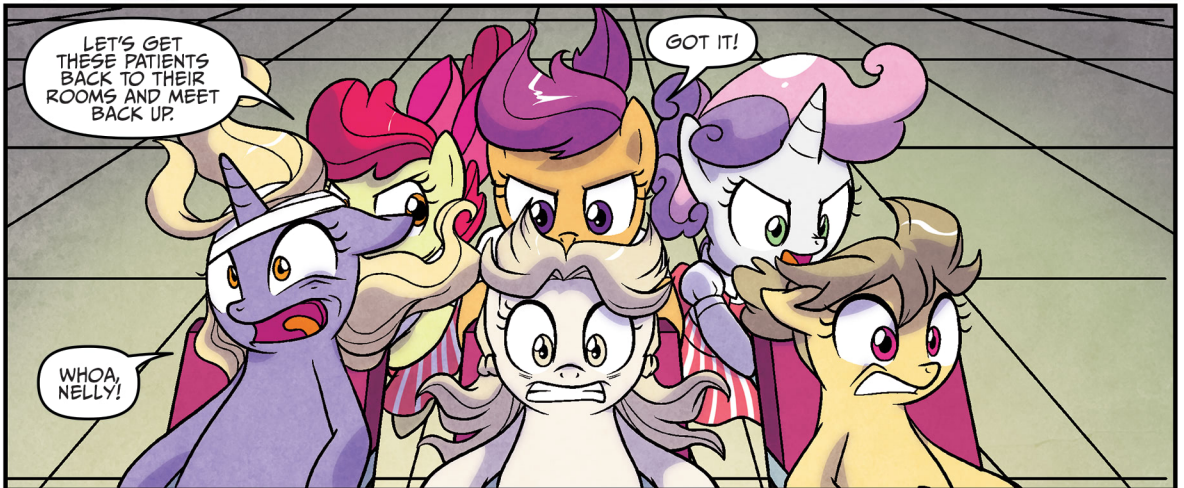


NOT AGAIN!

NURSE REDHEART MIGHT BE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.

WE SHOULD AT LEAST CHECK IT OUT!

OH... I GUESS SO.



LET'S GET THESE PATIENTS BACK TO THEIR ROOMS AND MEET BACK UP.

GOT IT!

WHOA, NELLY!



I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO MAKE SURE THIS SUPPLY CLOSET WAS SECURE!

YOU DID, NURSE NEIGHTINGALE.



THEN HOW COULD SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN STOLEN AGAIN?

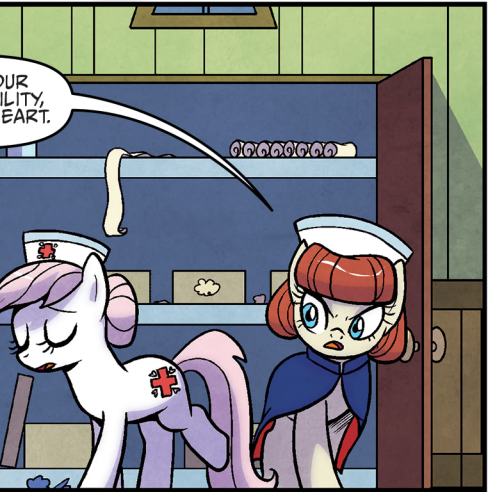
I DON'T—

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS!



WE DON'T HAVE THE BUDGET TO KEEP REPLACING THEM!

THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, NURSE REDHEART.



IF YOU CAN'T PREVENT THESE THEFTS, THEN MAYBE I NEED TO FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN!

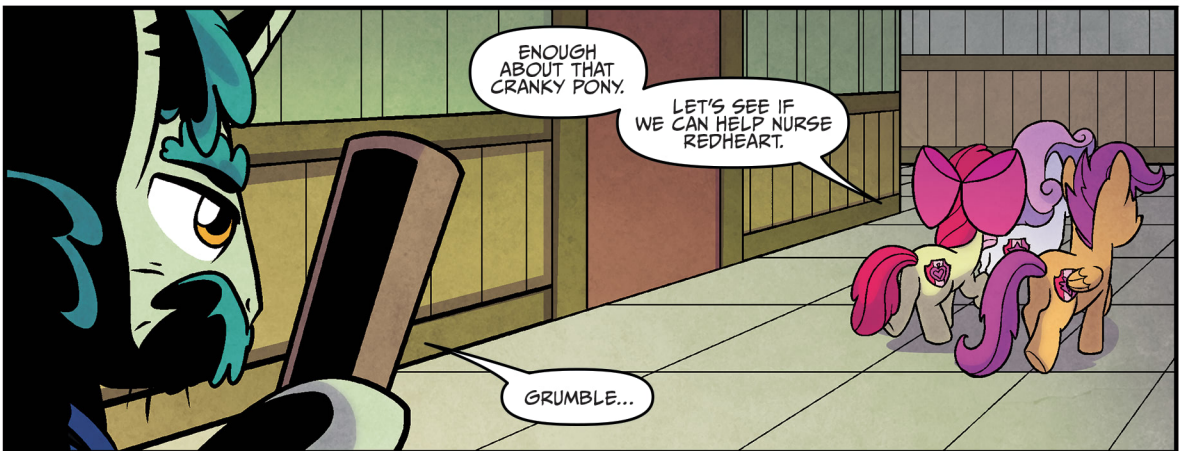
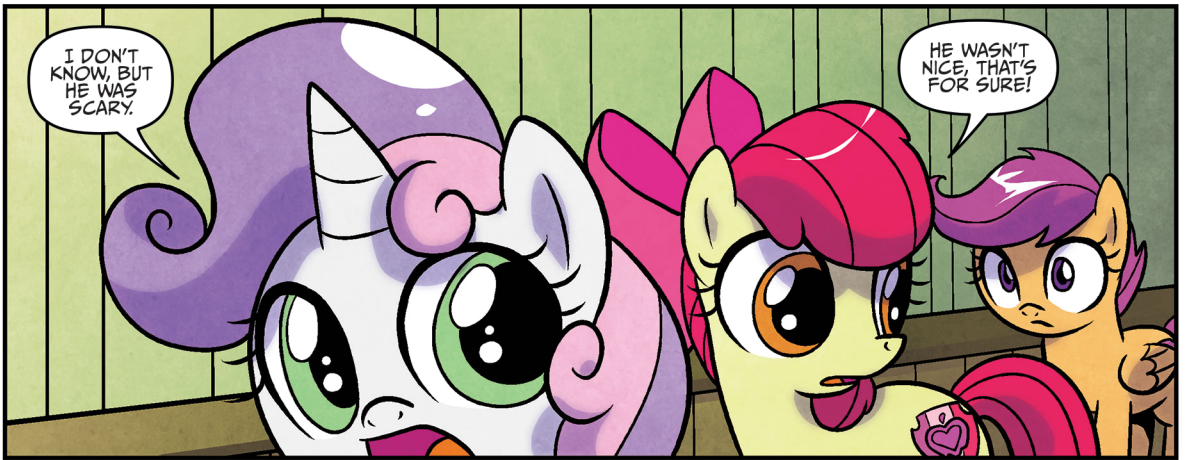
YES, NURSE NEIGHTINGALE!

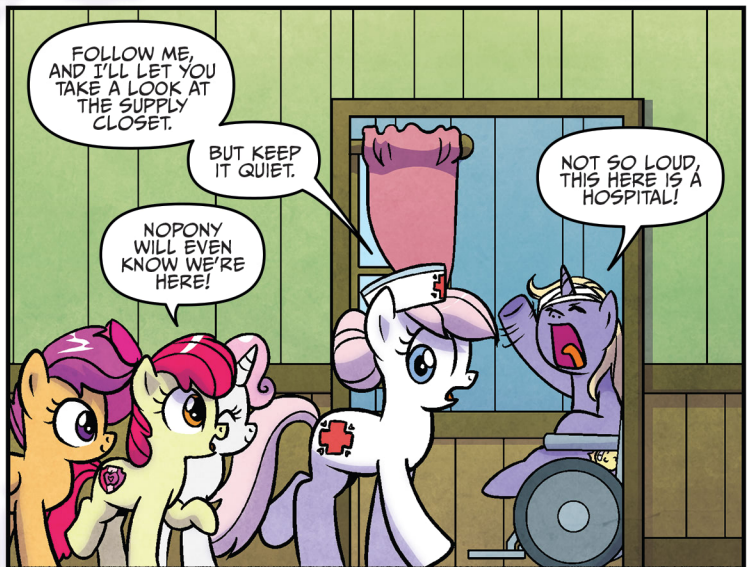
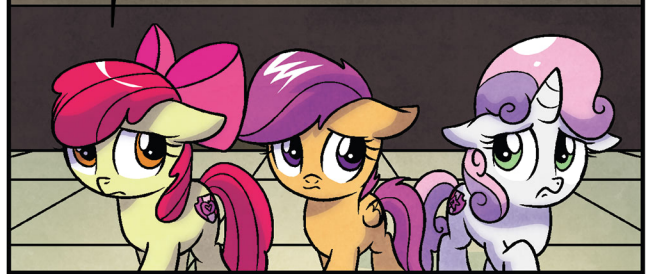
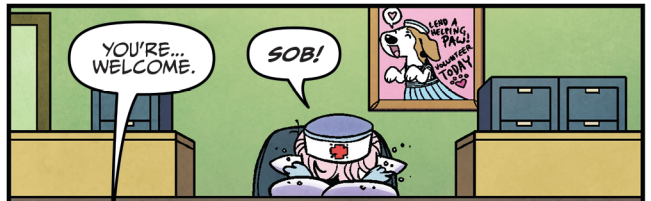
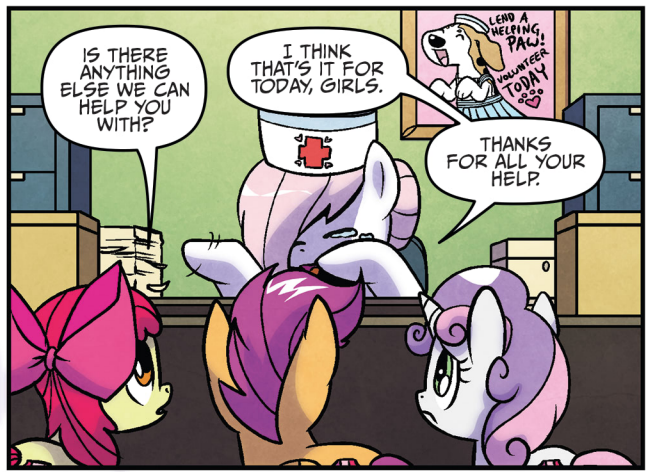
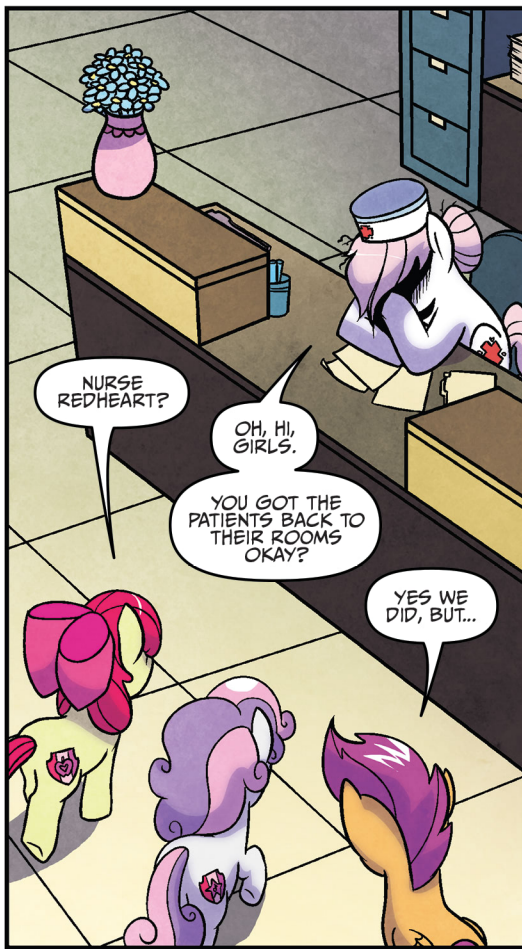


POOR NURSE REDHEART!

I KNOW!

I HATE TO SEE HER GETTING YELLED AT LIKE THAT.





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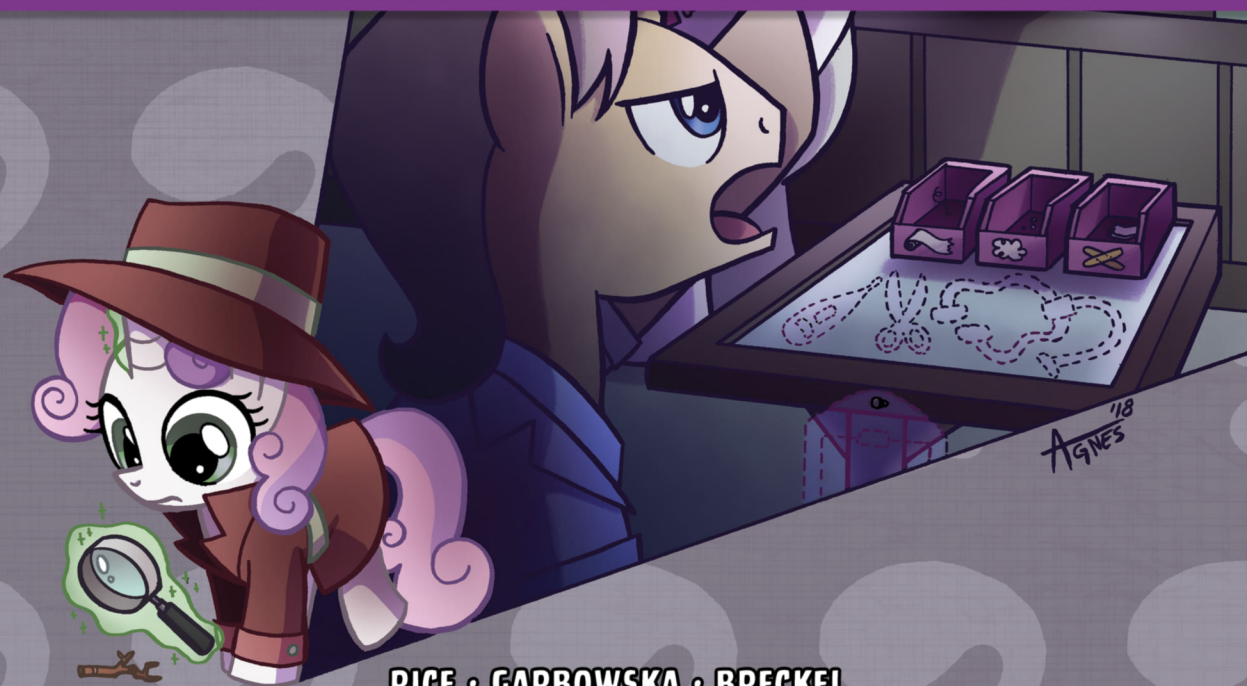
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