

IDW®

#17

ANDERSON
HICKEY
BRECKEL

my LITTLE PONY

FRIENDS FOREVER



CA
15



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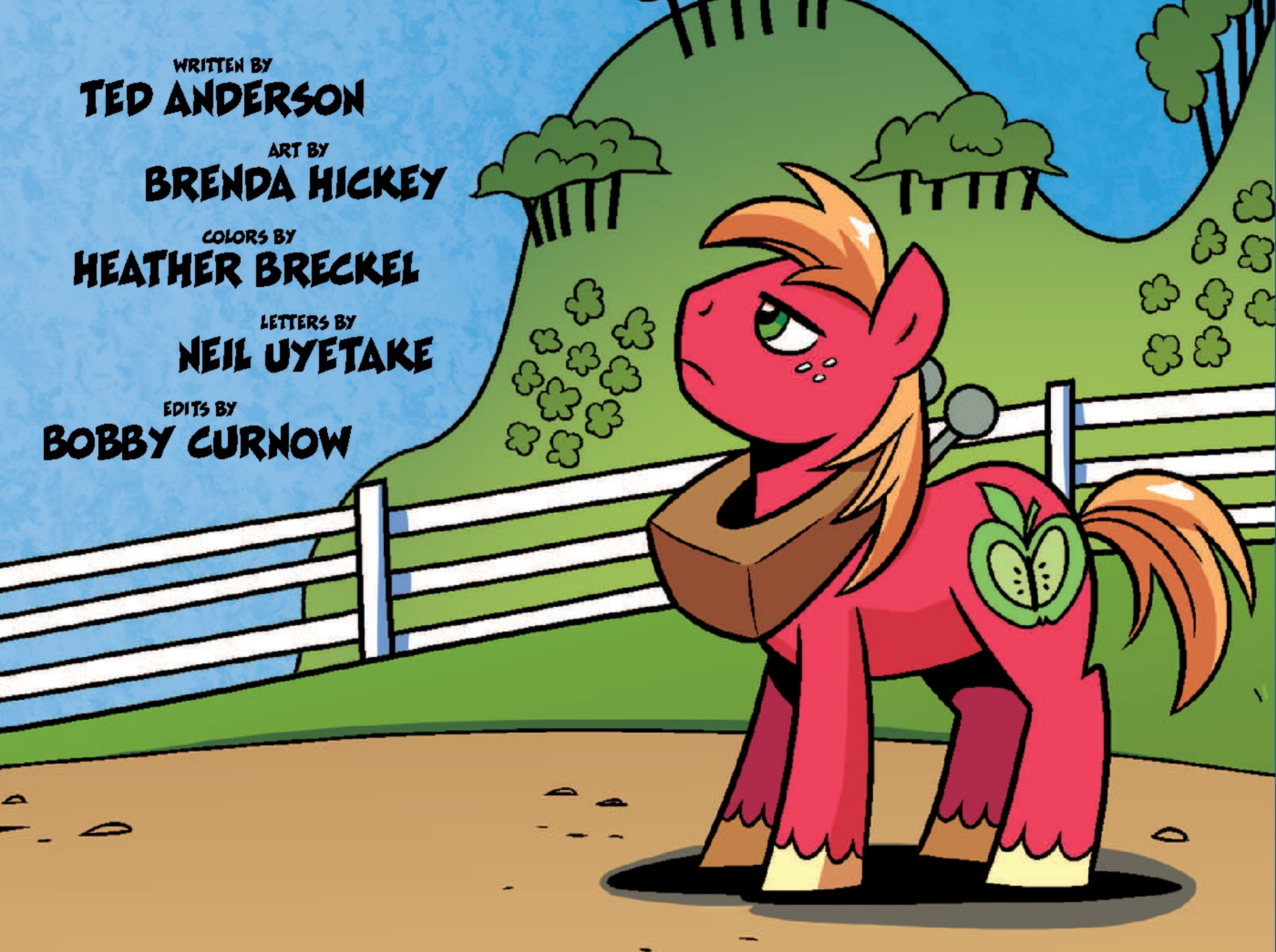
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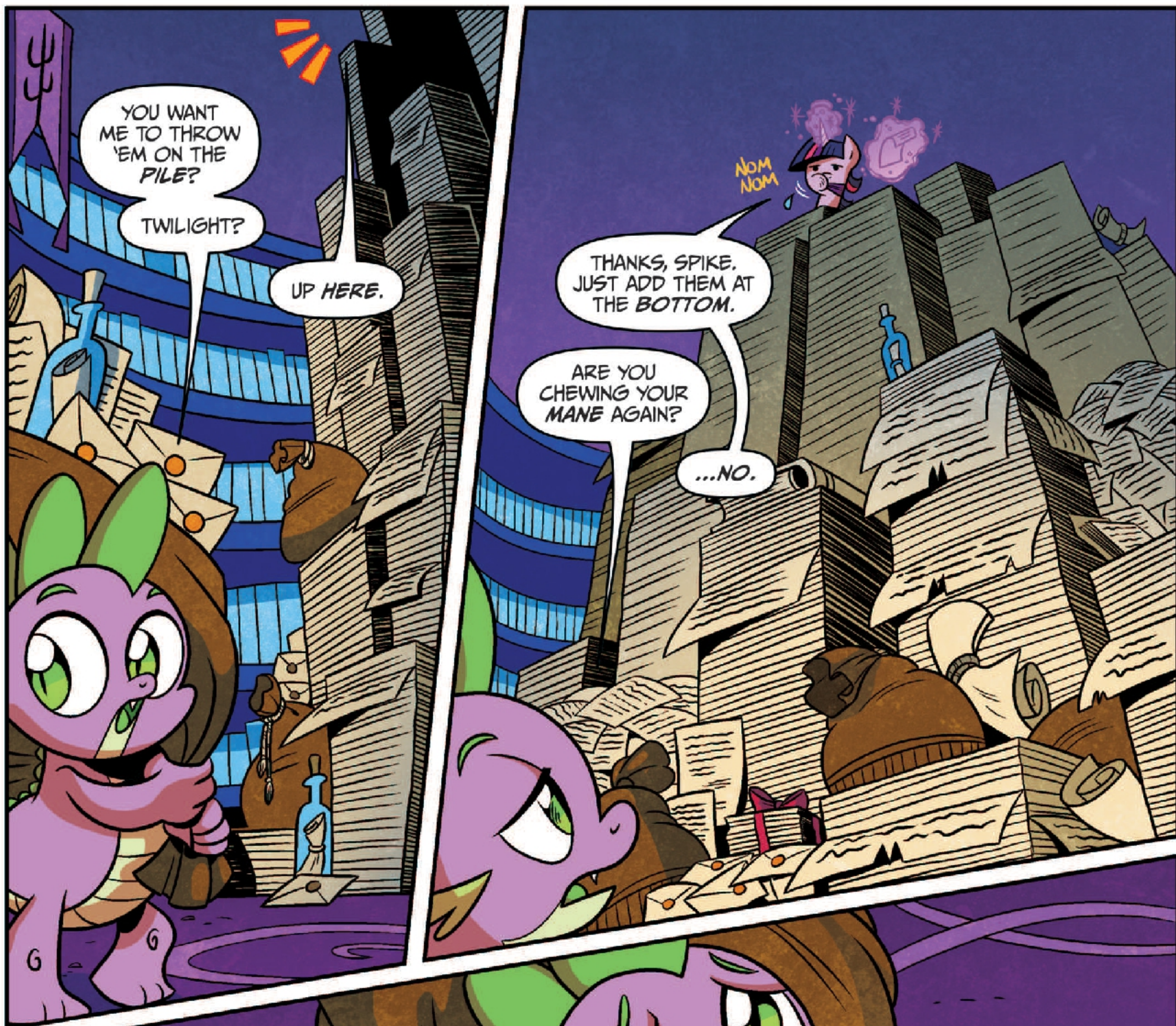


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HEY, TWILIGHT!

WE GOT ANOTHER DELIVERY OF FRIENDSHIP PROBLEMS FOR YOU!



YOU WANT ME TO THROW 'EM ON THE PILE?

TWILIGHT?

UP HERE.

THANKS, SPIKE. JUST ADD THEM AT THE BOTTOM.

ARE YOU CHEWING YOUR MANE AGAIN?

...NO.

NOM NOM



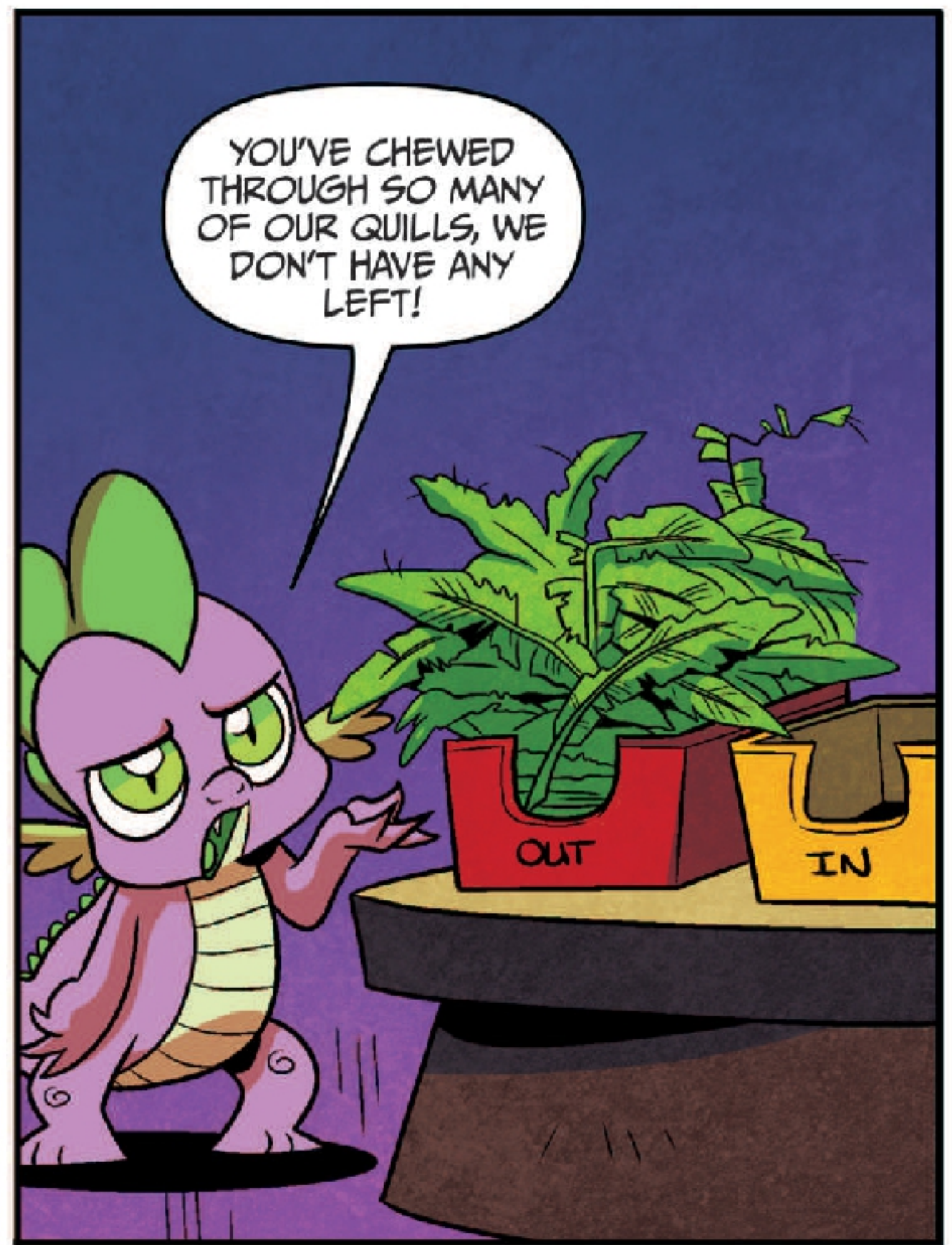
TWILIGHT, I KNOW YOU WANT TO TAKE YOUR JOB AS THE PRINCESS OF FRIENDSHIP SERIOUSLY...

BUT YOU CAN'T KEEP WORKING LIKE THIS! YOU'RE WEARING YOURSELF OUT!



I'M FINE! I CAN HANDLE ALL THIS!

YOU'RE NOT FINE! YOU'VE BEEN STRESSING OUT!



YOU'VE CHEWED THROUGH SO MANY OF OUR QUILLS, WE DON'T HAVE ANY LEFT!



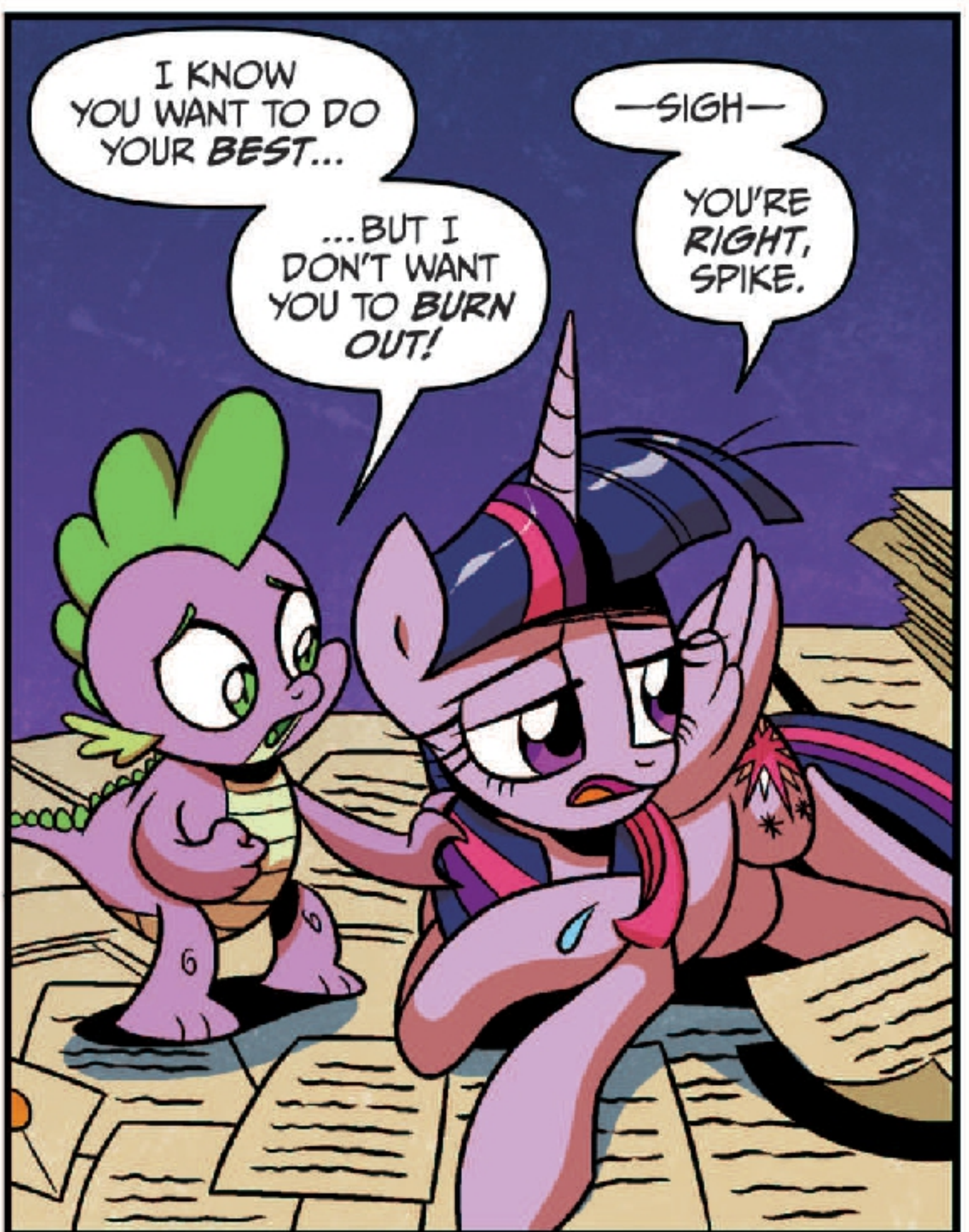
MAYBE I'VE BEEN WORKING A LITTLE TOO HARD, BUT...

...BUT I CAN'T LET ANYPONY DOWN!



I NEED TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS UNTIL I SOLVE THEM!

OTHERWISE I'LL FAIL MY PRINCESS DUTIES!



I KNOW YOU WANT TO DO YOUR BEST...

...BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO BURN OUT!

—SIGH—

YOU'RE RIGHT, SPIKE.



I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO STOP THINKING ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS.

EVEN WHEN I'M EATING, OR BEING WITH FRIENDS, OR TRYING TO GET TO SLEEP...



I JUST DON'T WANT TO LET ANYPONY DOWN!

YOU NEED TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR WORK.

WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND GET SOME FRESH AIR?

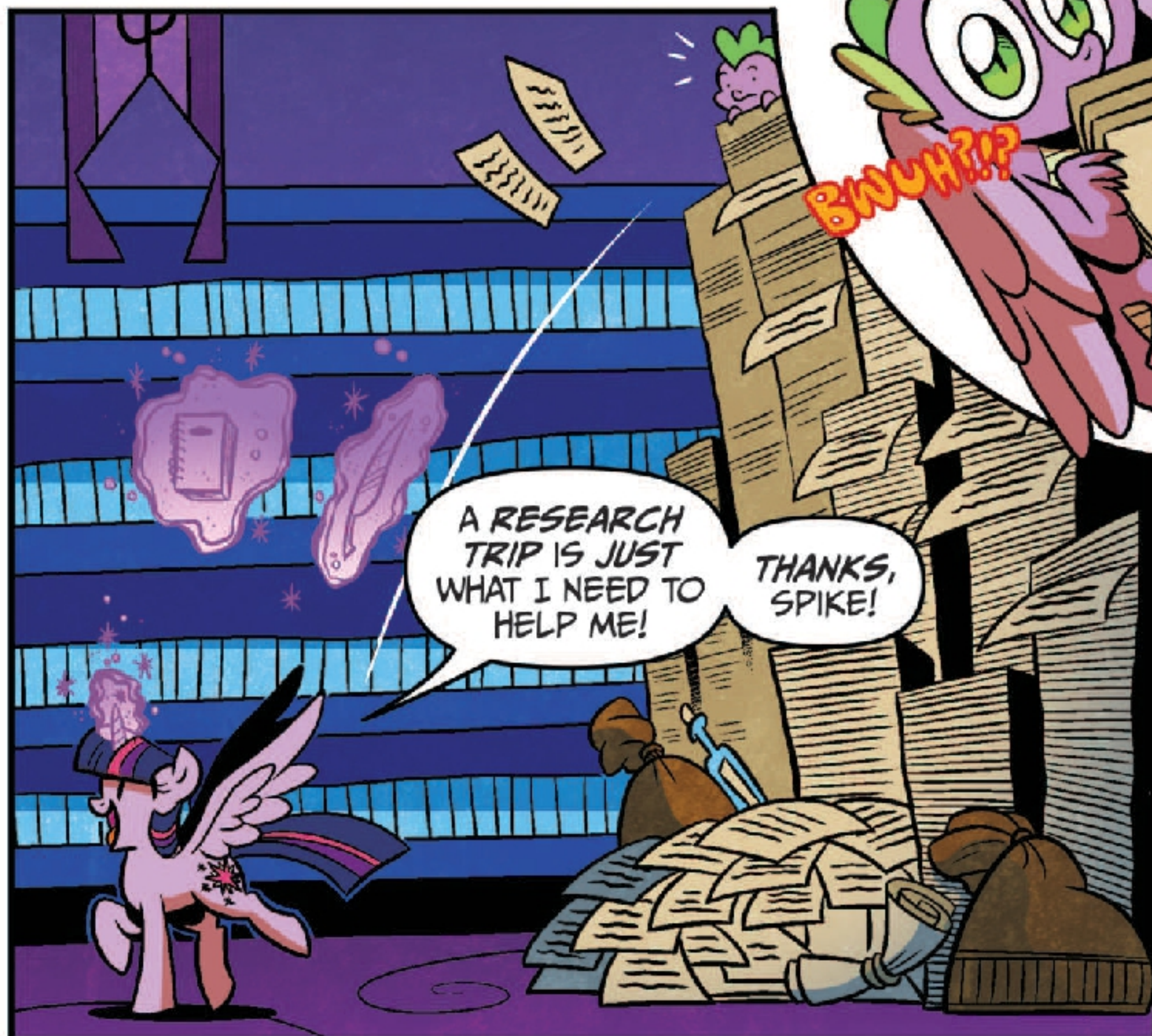
SIGH



HANG OUT WITH SOME OTHER PONIES FOR A WHILE.

I'LL HAVE A BATCH OF DAISY MUFFINS READY WHEN YOU GET BACK!

OTHER PONIES...



A RESEARCH TRIP IS JUST WHAT I NEED TO HELP ME!

THANKS, SPIKE!



SPIKE, THAT'S IT!

I SHOULD SEE HOW OTHER PONIES HANDLE LOTS OF WORK!



WELL...

WHATEVER GETS HER EXCITED, I GUESS.



HARD-WORKING
PONIES, HMMM...

WHO'S A
HARD WORKER IN
PONYVILLE?



THE CAKES
GET A LOT
DONE...



MAYBE THE
MAYOR?



Snore

DEFINITELY
NOT.



WAIT—A
HARD-WORKING
PONY?

OF
COURSE! I
KNOW WHO
TO VISIT!

WELL,
NORMALLY I'D
LOVE TO HELP
YOU OUT, SUGAR
CUBE...



...BUT ME AN' APPLE BLOOM HAVE TO CART THESE CRATES OF COOKING APPLES TO THE CANTERLOT CULINARY COLLEGE!

TRY SAYIN' THAT SIX TIMES FAST!



WE'LL BE GONE ALL WEEK!

SORRY, TWILIGHT.

IT'S OKAY, AJ.

I CAN ALWAYS FIND SOME OTHER HARD-WORKING PONIES TO RESEARCH...



SHOOT, IF IT'S HARD-WORKING YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR, WHY NOT TRY BIG MCINTOSH?

HE GETS MORE DONE IN A DAY THAN MOST PONIES DO IN A WEEK!



THE TWO OF US RUN THE FARM TOGETHER—

—BUT FRANKLY, BIG MAC COULD PROBABLY RUN THE WHOLE PLACE BY HIMSELF!

REALLY?!



IF YOU WANNA KNOW HOW TO WORK HARD—

—TALK TO BIG MAC!

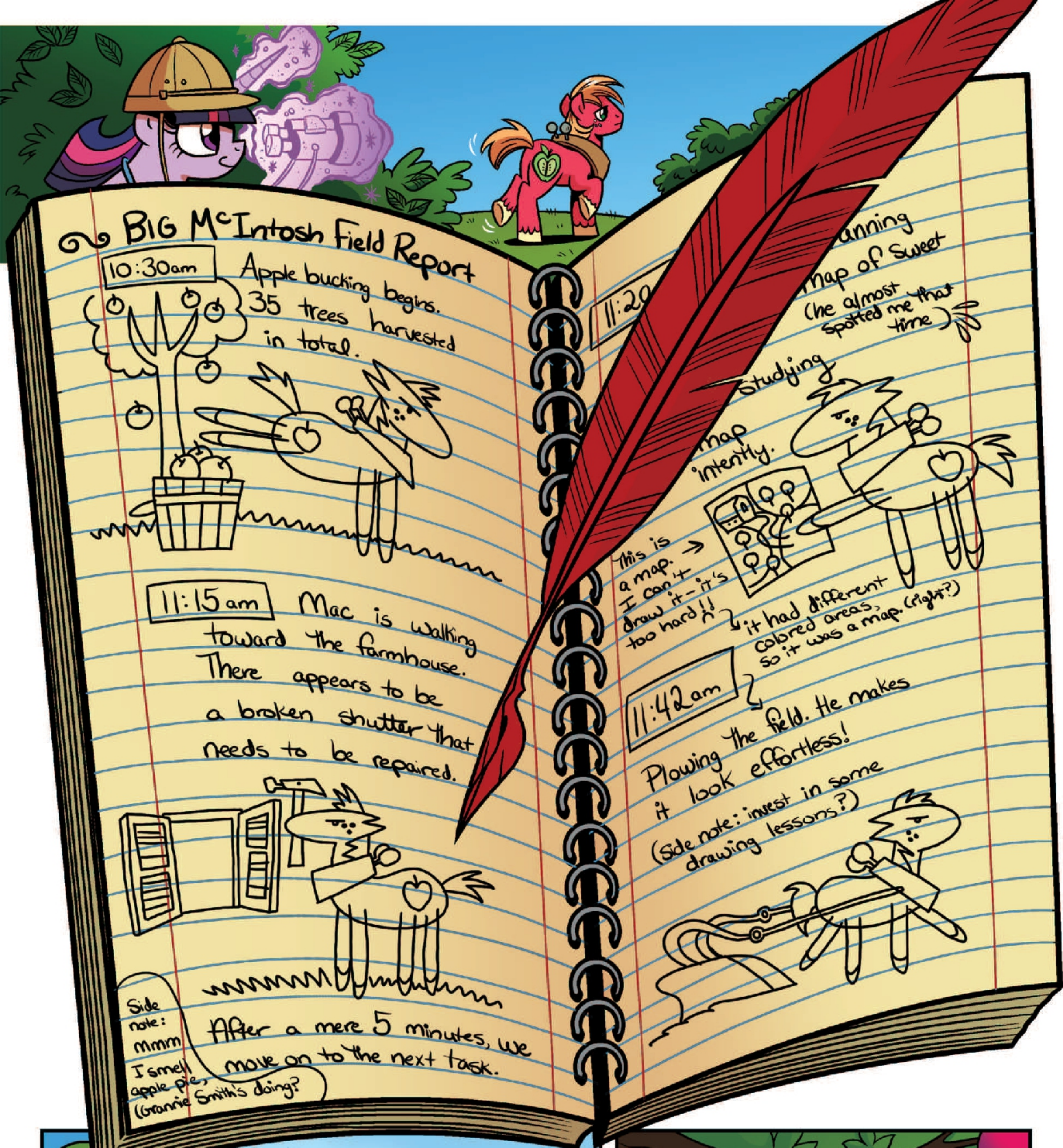
I WILL! THANKS, AJ!



'COURSE, BIG MAC DON'T SAY MORE THAN TWO WORDS IN A ROW.

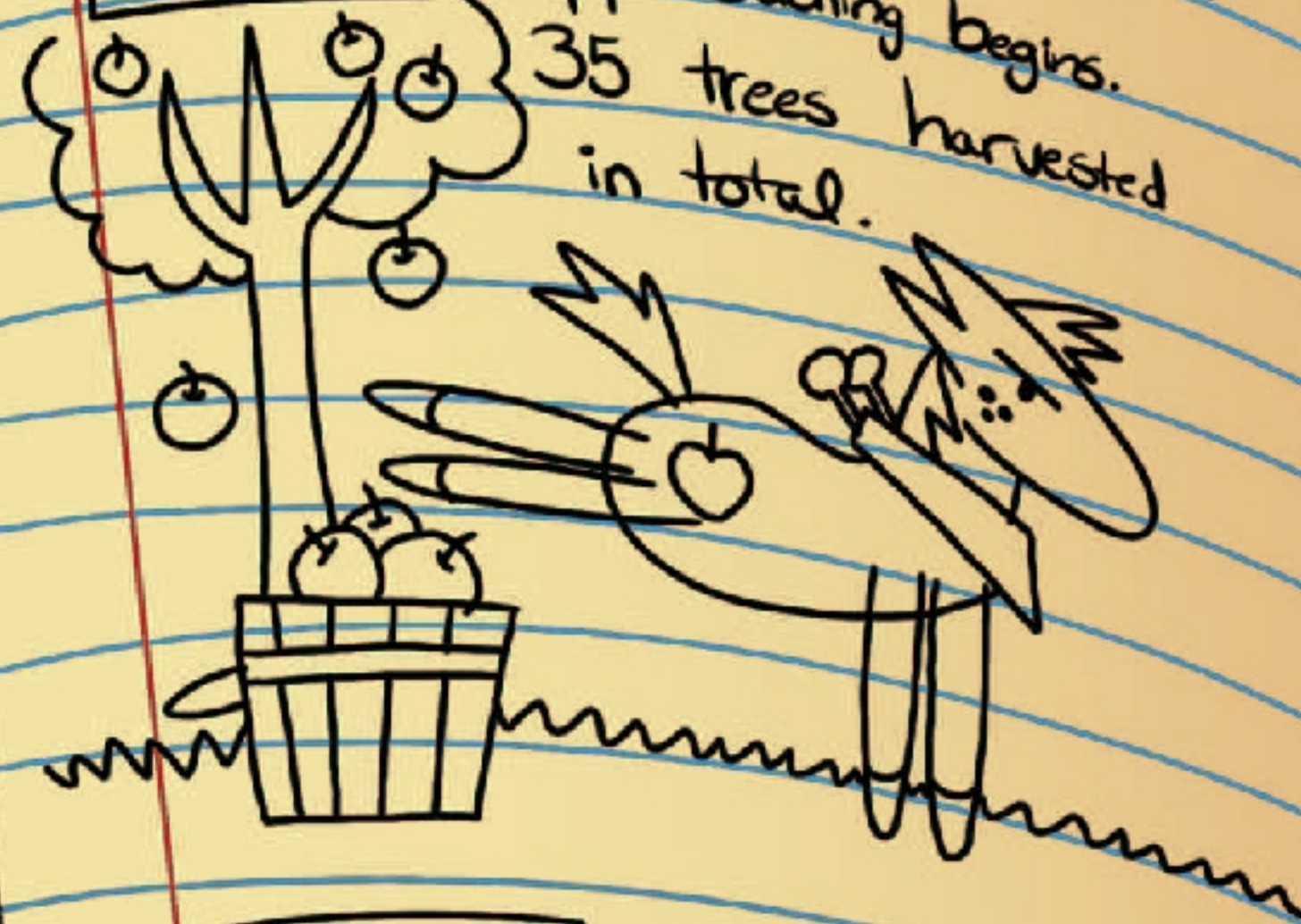
WELL, MAYBE HE'S FEELIN' TALKATIVE TODAY.

HE MIGHT SAY THREE WORDS.



BIG McIntosh Field Report

10:30am Apple bucking begins.
35 trees harvested in total.

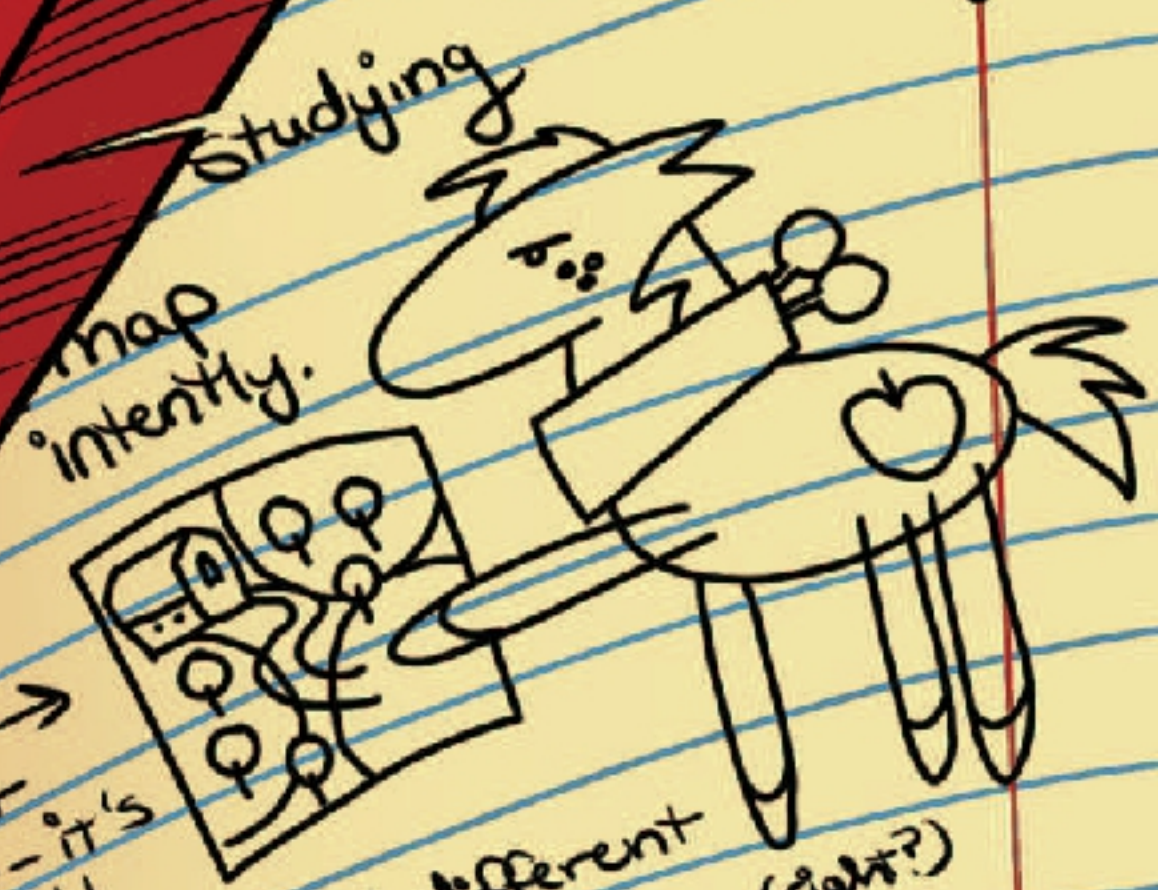


11:15am Mac is walking toward the farmhouse. There appears to be a broken shutter that needs to be repaired.



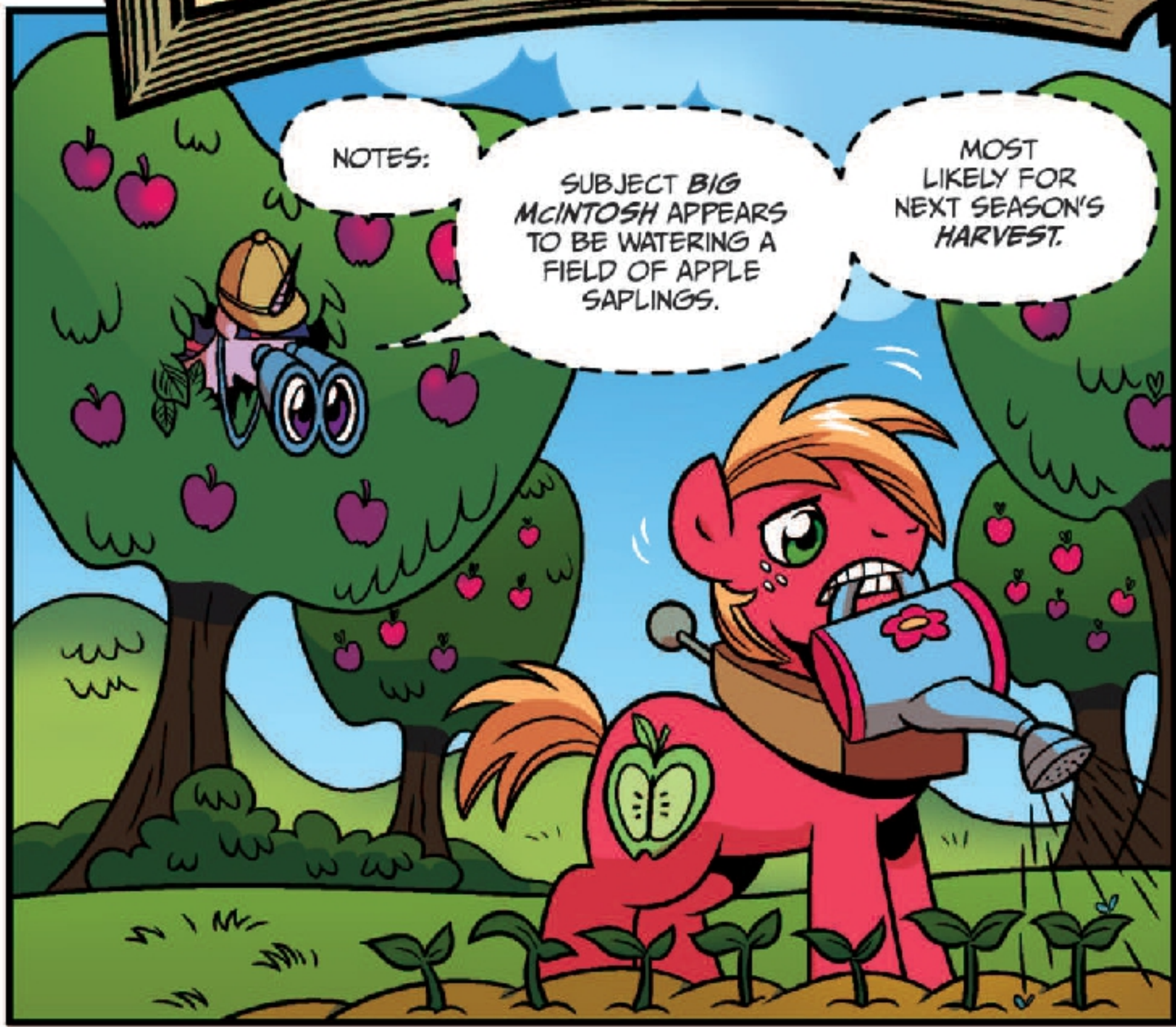
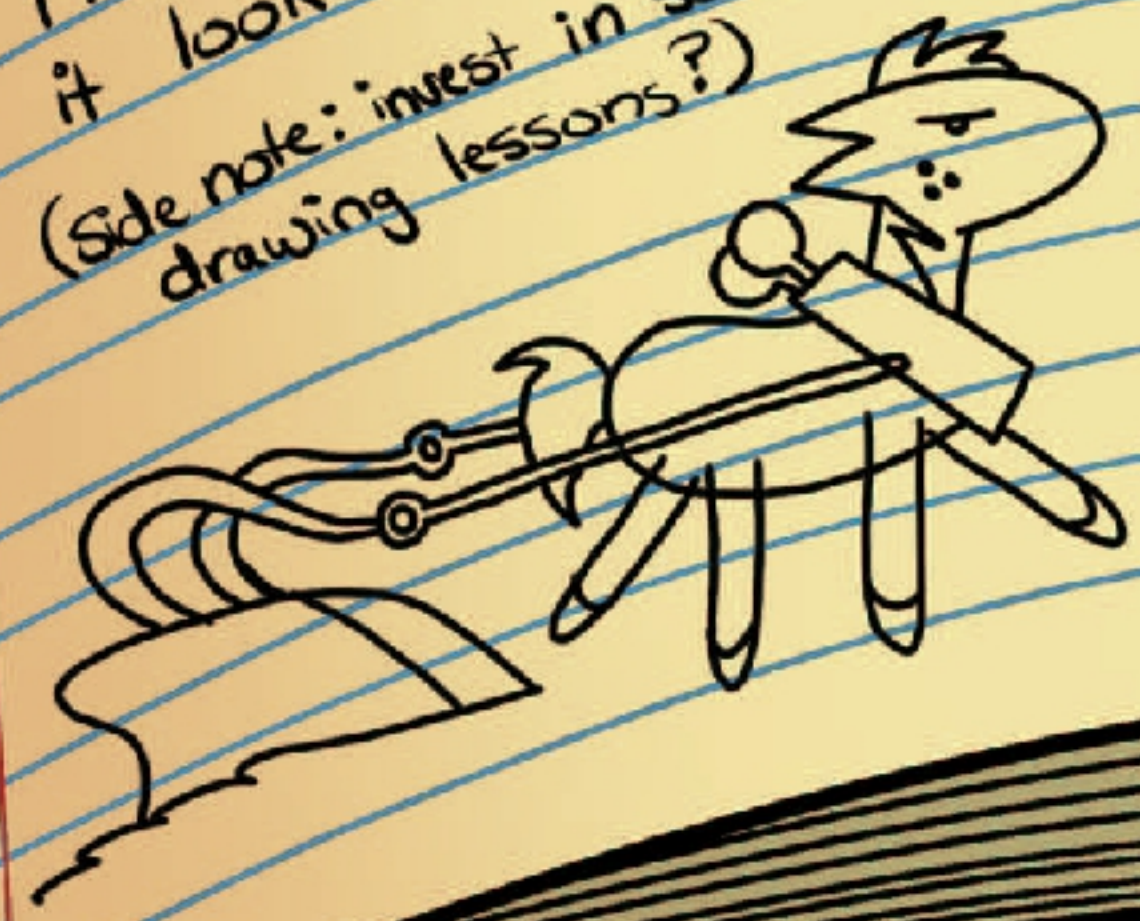
Side note: mmm I smell apple pie, (Grannie Smith's doing?)
After a mere 5 minutes, we move on to the next task.

11:20 Studying map of Sweet (he almost spotted me that time)



This is a map. I can't draw it - it's too hard!
it had different colored areas, so it was a map. (right?)

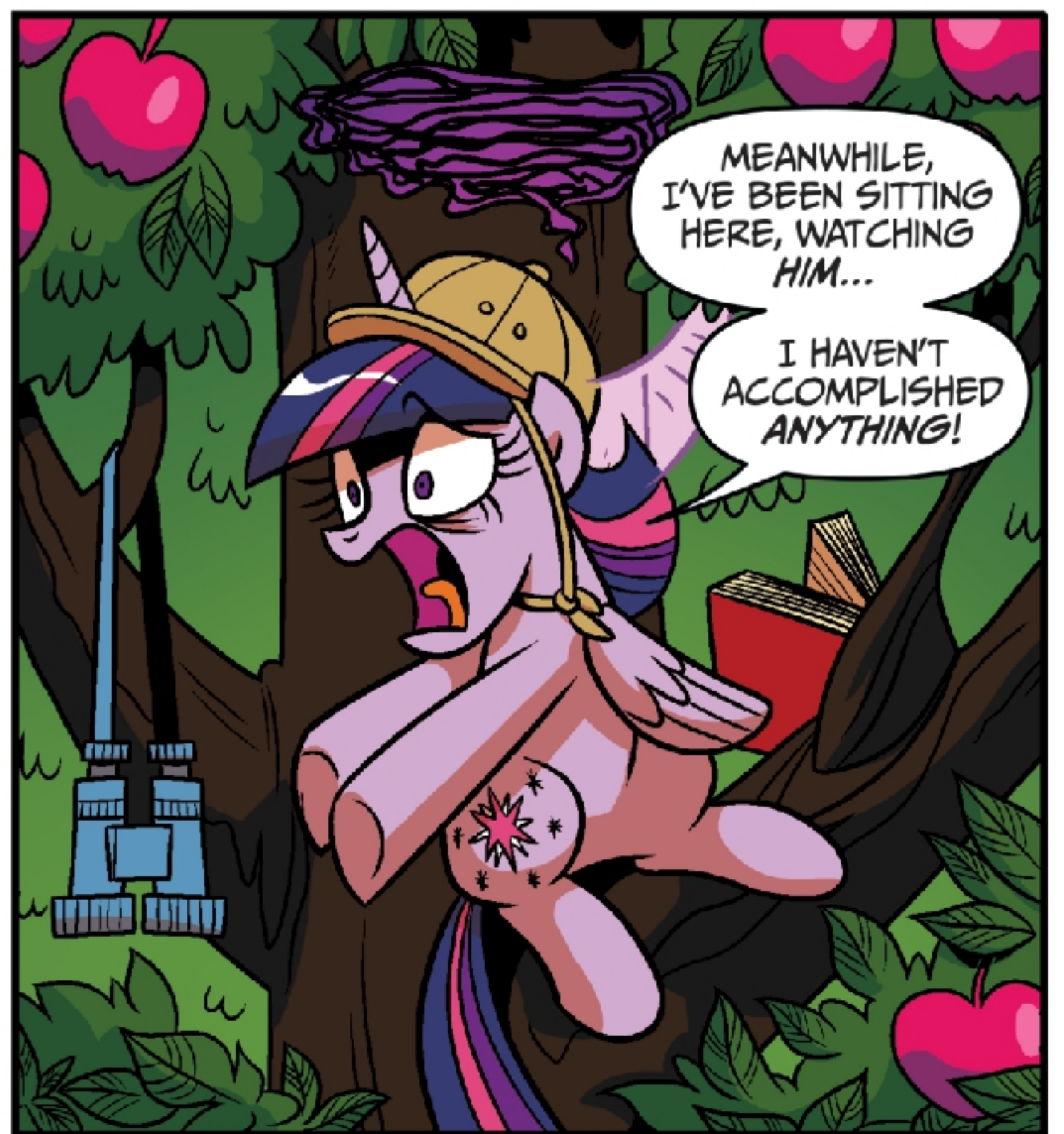
11:42am Plowing the field. He makes it look effortless!
(Side note: invest in some drawing lessons?)

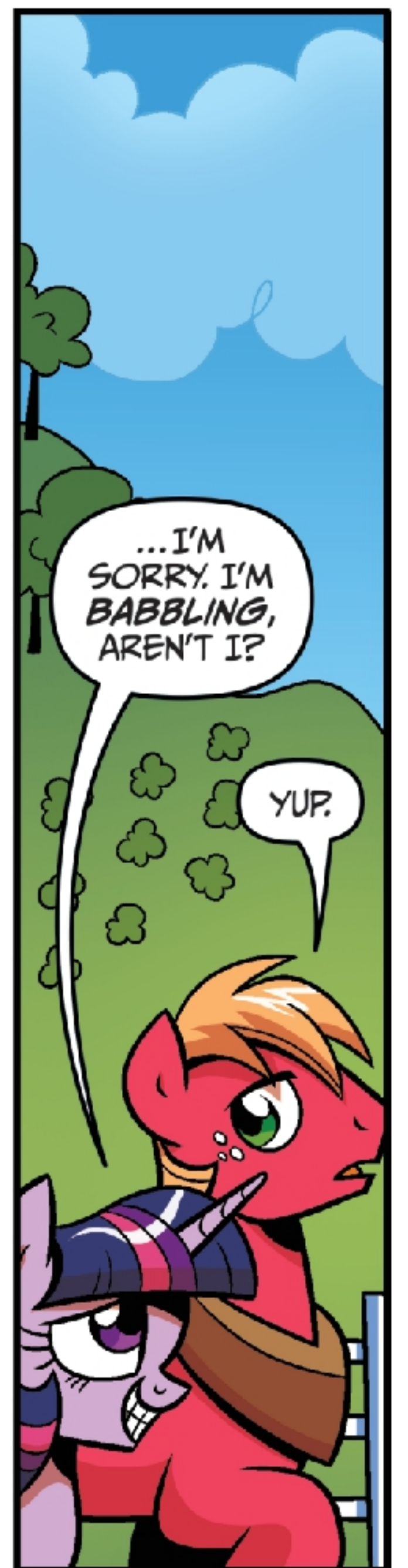


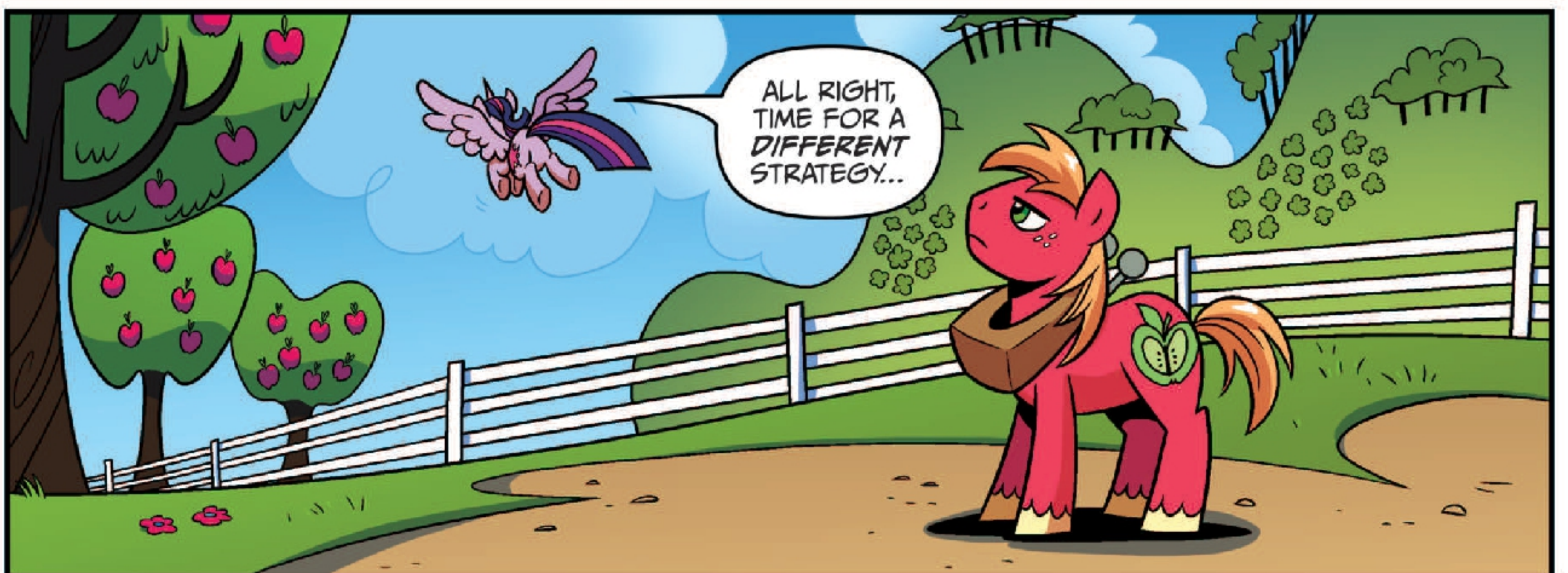
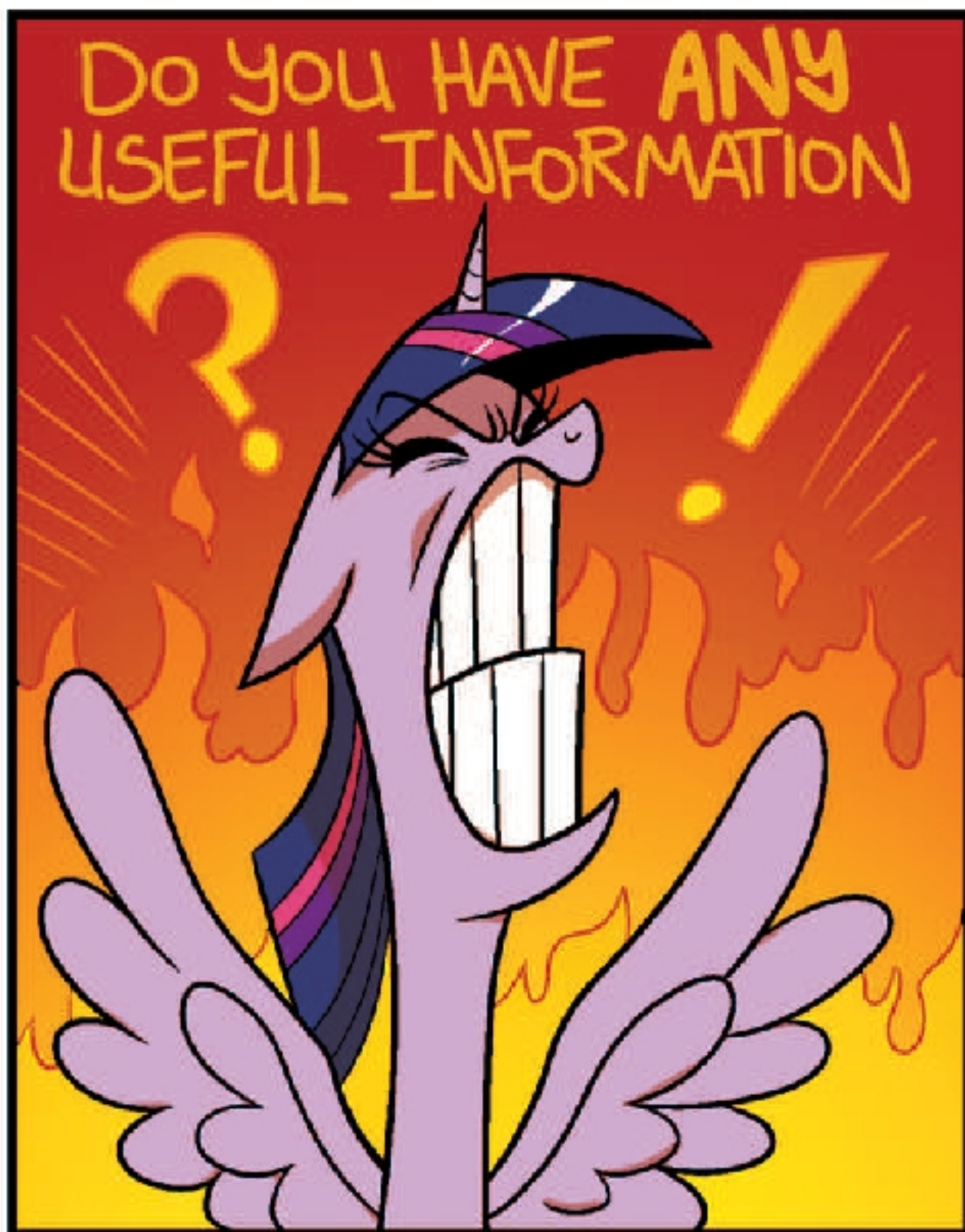
NOTES:
SUBJECT BIG MCINTOSH APPEARS TO BE WATERING A FIELD OF APPLE SAPLINGS.
MOST LIKELY FOR NEXT SEASON'S HARVEST.

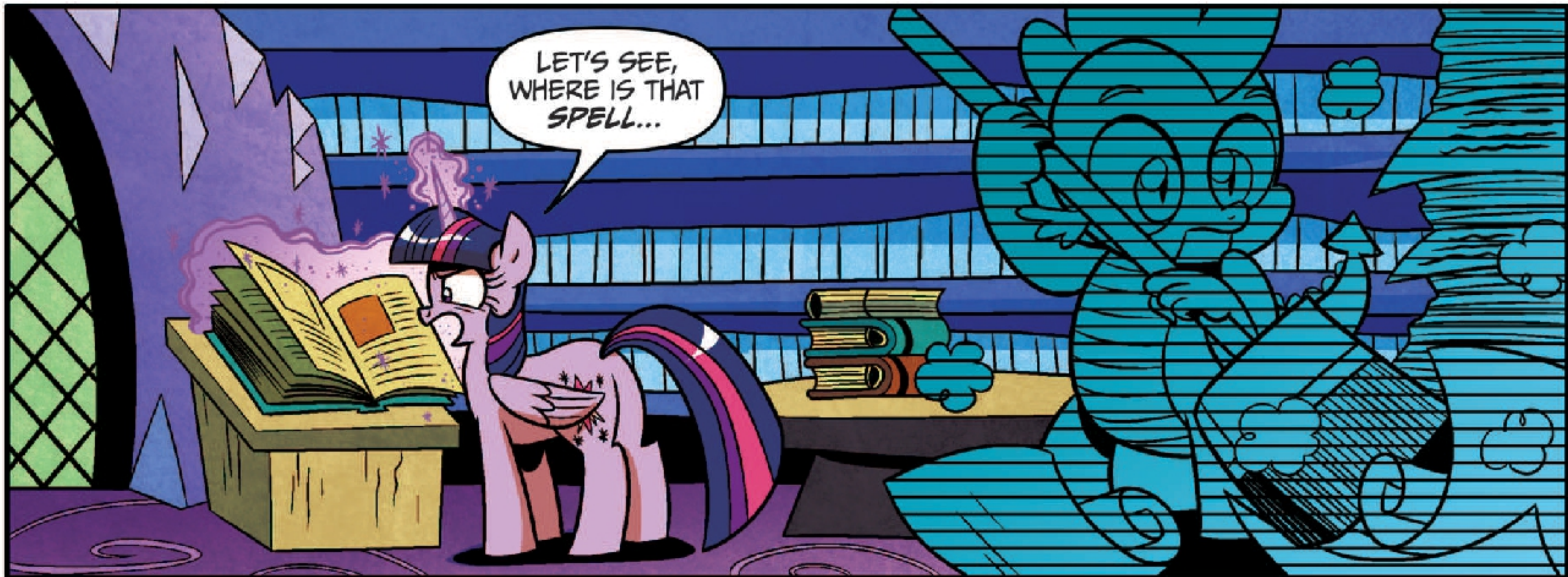


I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH HE'S ACCOMPLISHED!
I CAN BARELY GET THIS MUCH DONE IN A WEEK!









LET'S SEE,
WHERE IS THAT
SPELL...

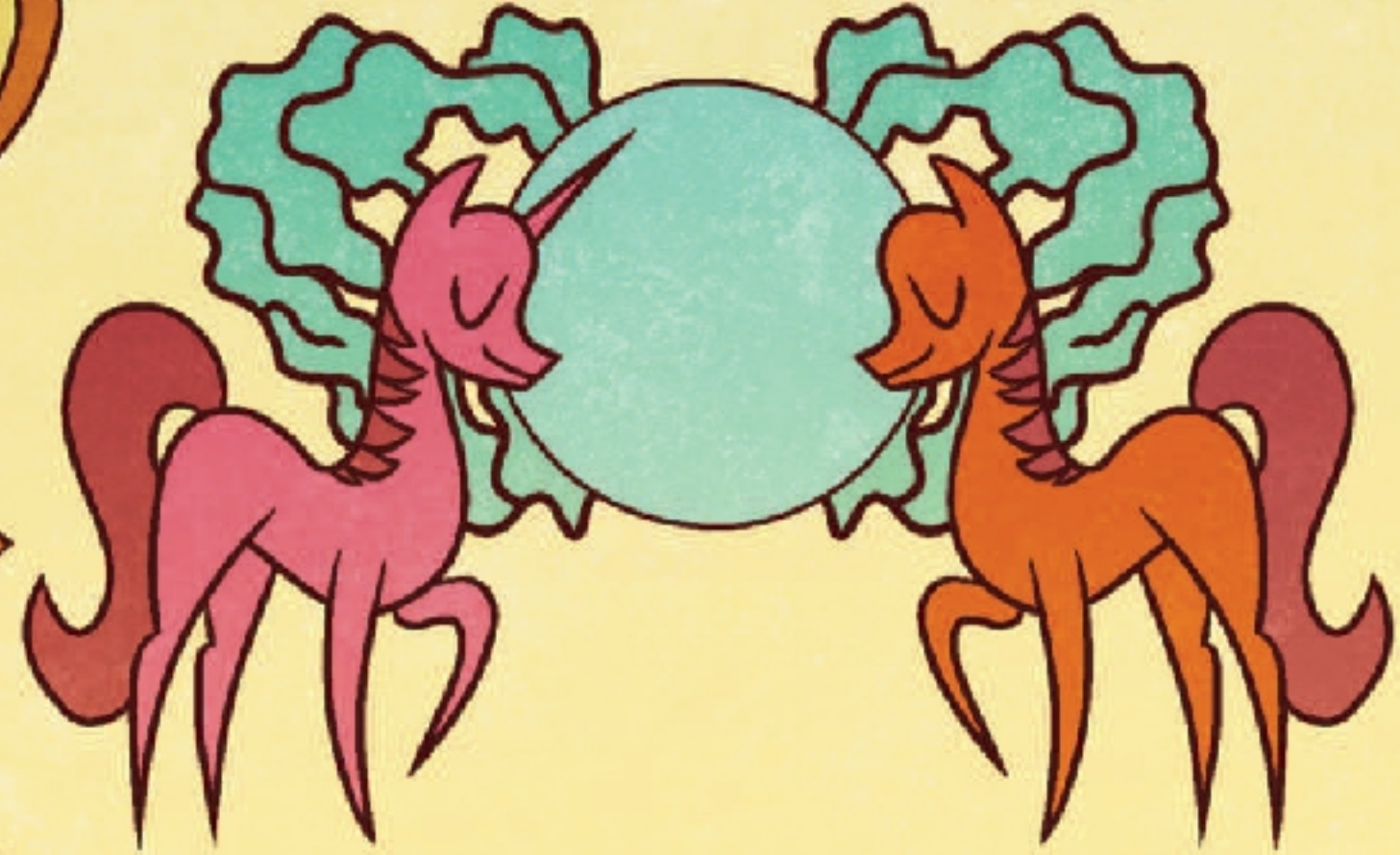


AHA!

THE
MAGICAL
MINDSCAPE
MANIFESTATION
SPELL!

ONE OF THE FINEST
WORKS OF MUMBO
JUMBO THE MYSTICALLY
ENLIGHTENED!

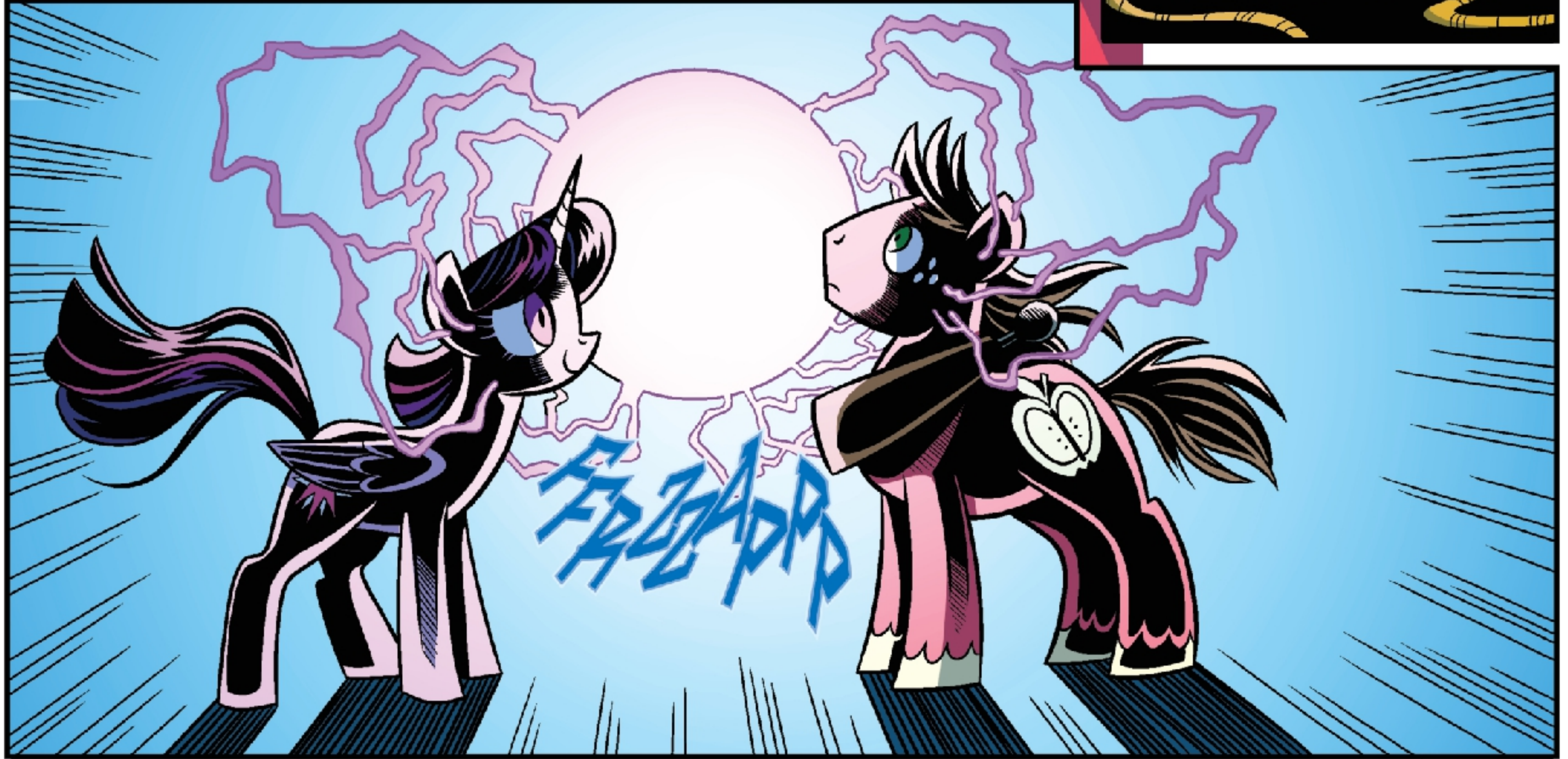
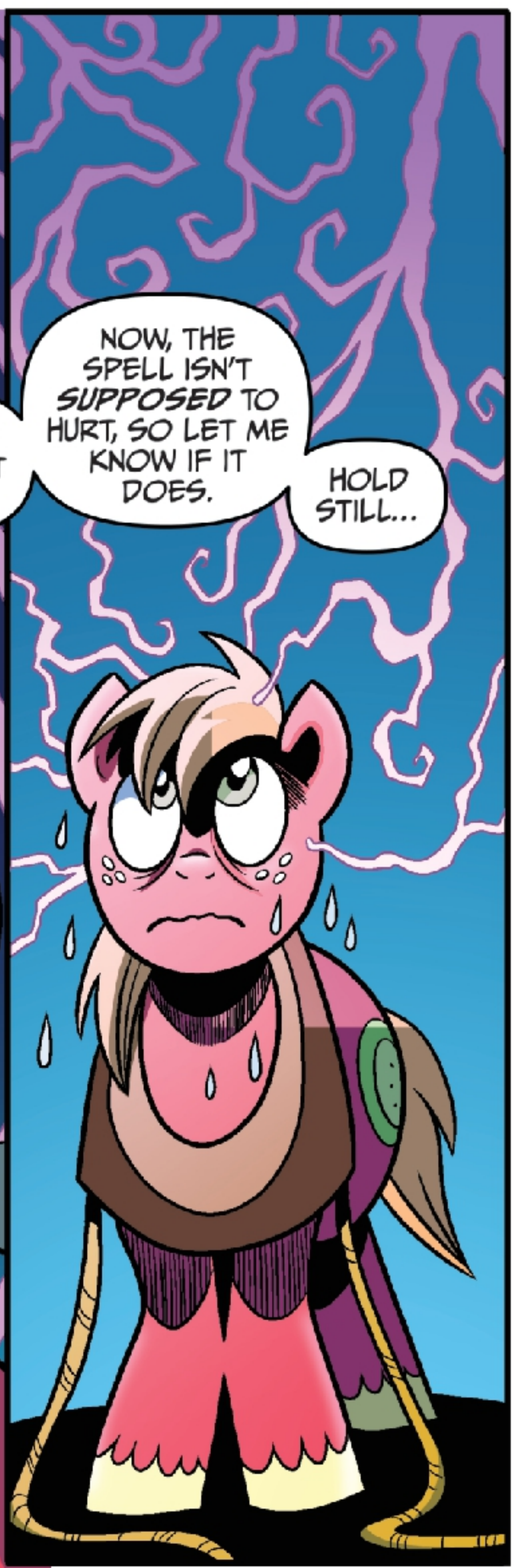
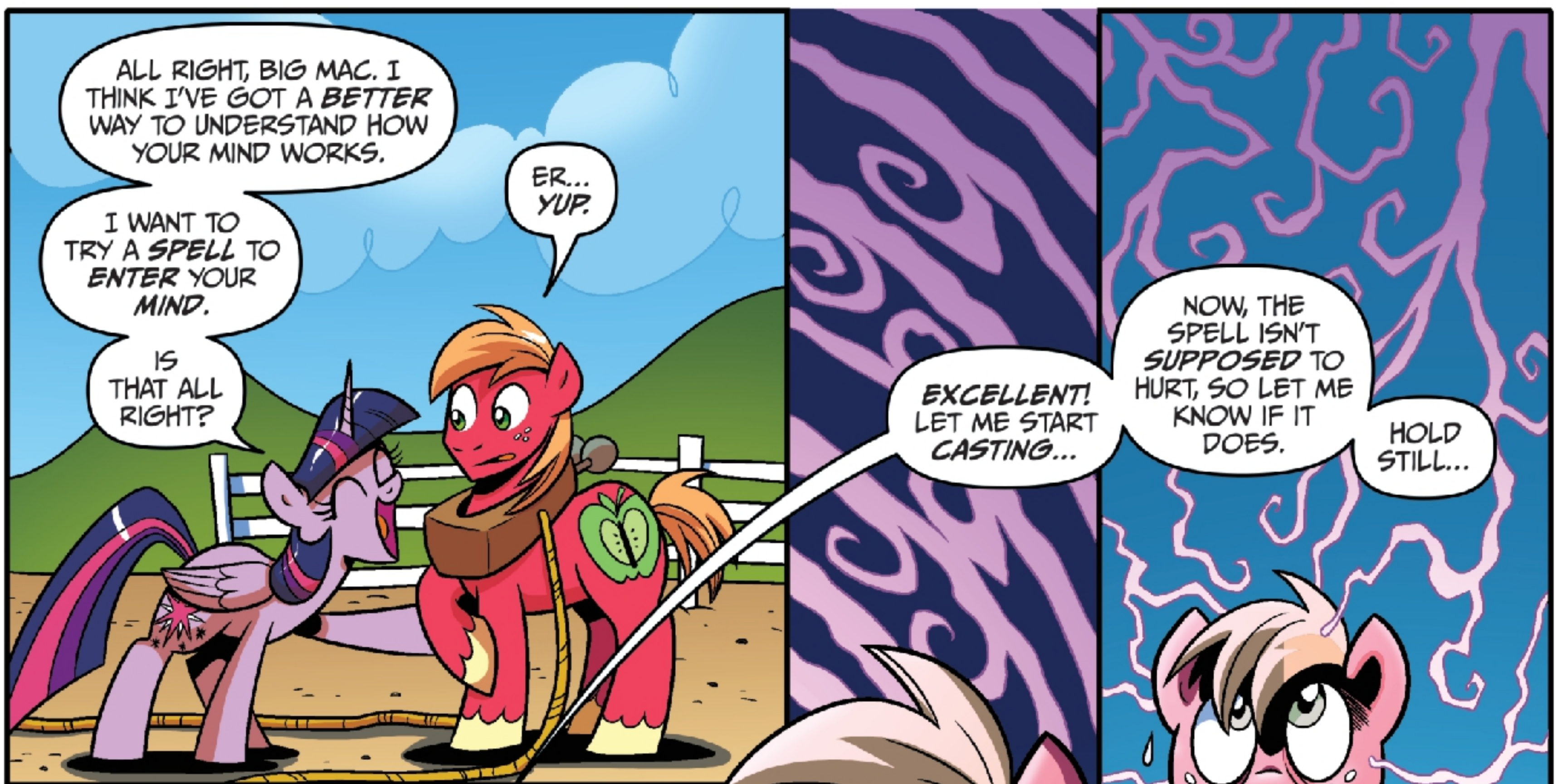
M M H G M
H M V N
U U W H U H
G R H M M
H H Y H Y R N P
C A M R K S K P Z
H D F Q I R X W U
H O L M H R I M M D
T A H R H A Z
B L I K D P K z
V S K M A O N
F A R W A R C H
O F T H S K H J
K I A N R T I G H U

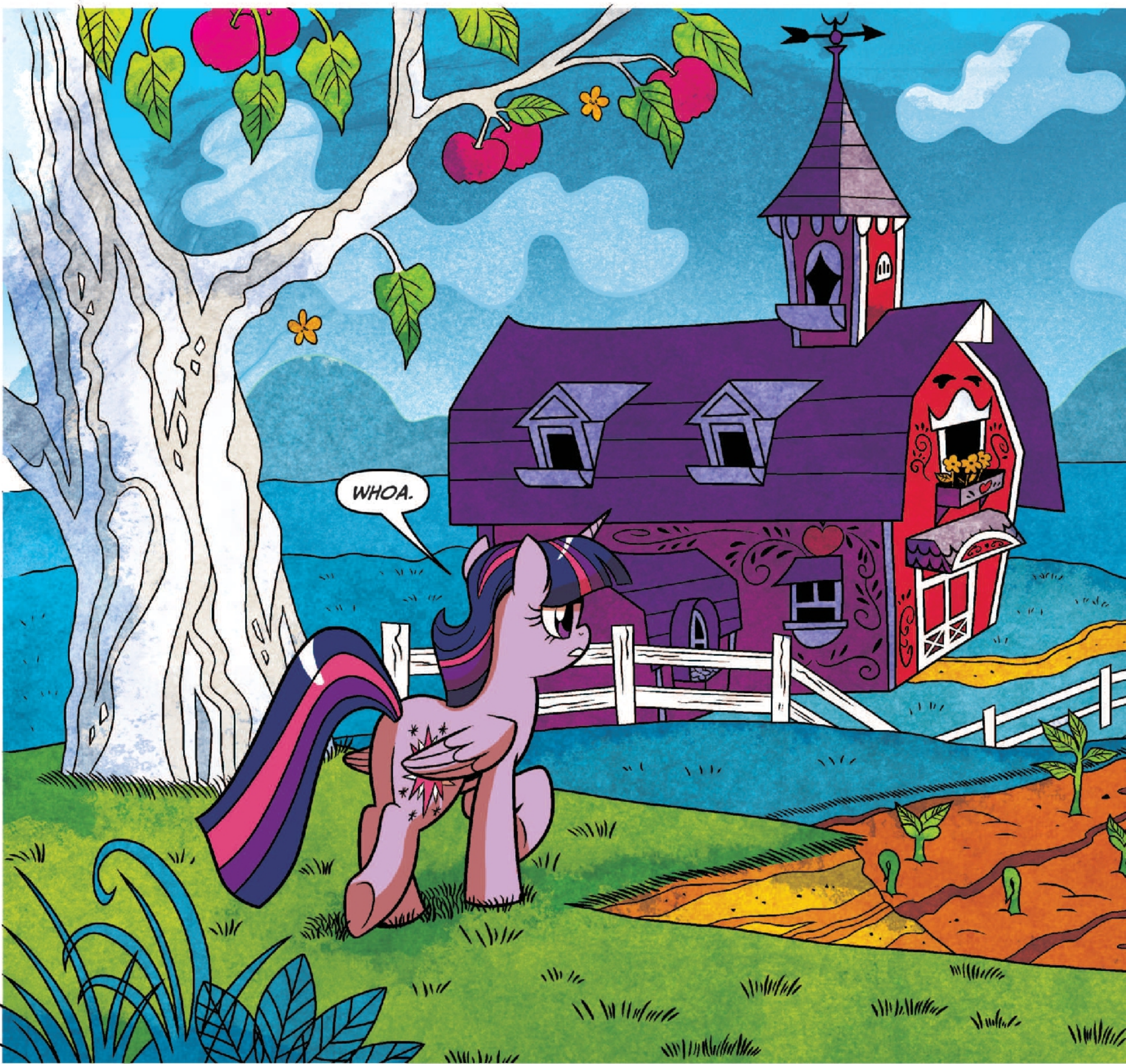


MAYBE THIS
WILL GIVE ME SOME
INSIGHT INTO BIG
MCINTOSH!



SWOOP!





WHOA.



THE INSIDE OF BIG MCINTOSH'S MIND LOOKS LIKE AN APPLE FARM?

I GUESS THAT'S NOT SURPRISING.

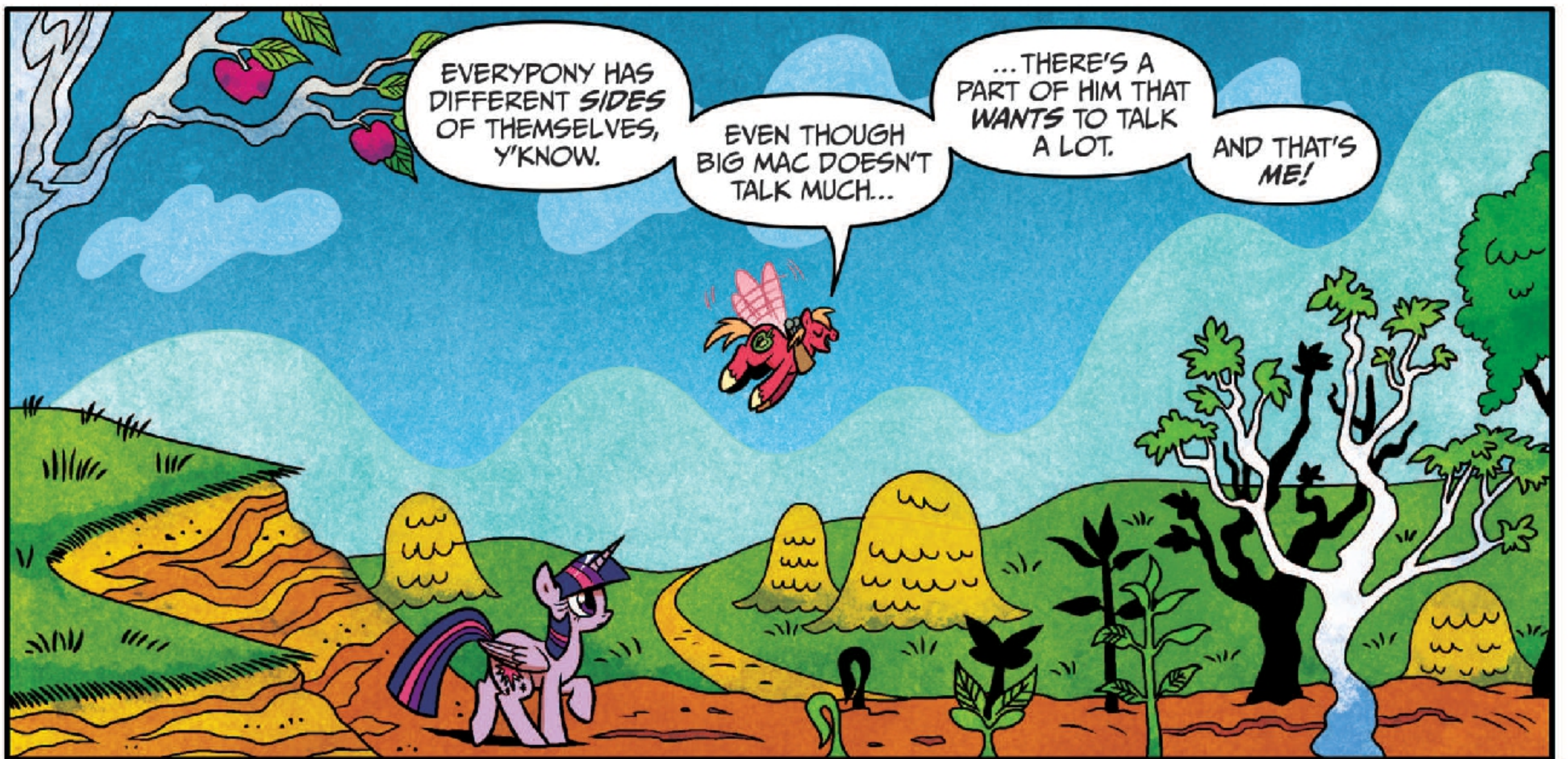


HOWDY!

BLAUGH

WELCOME INSIDE THE MIND OF MAC!



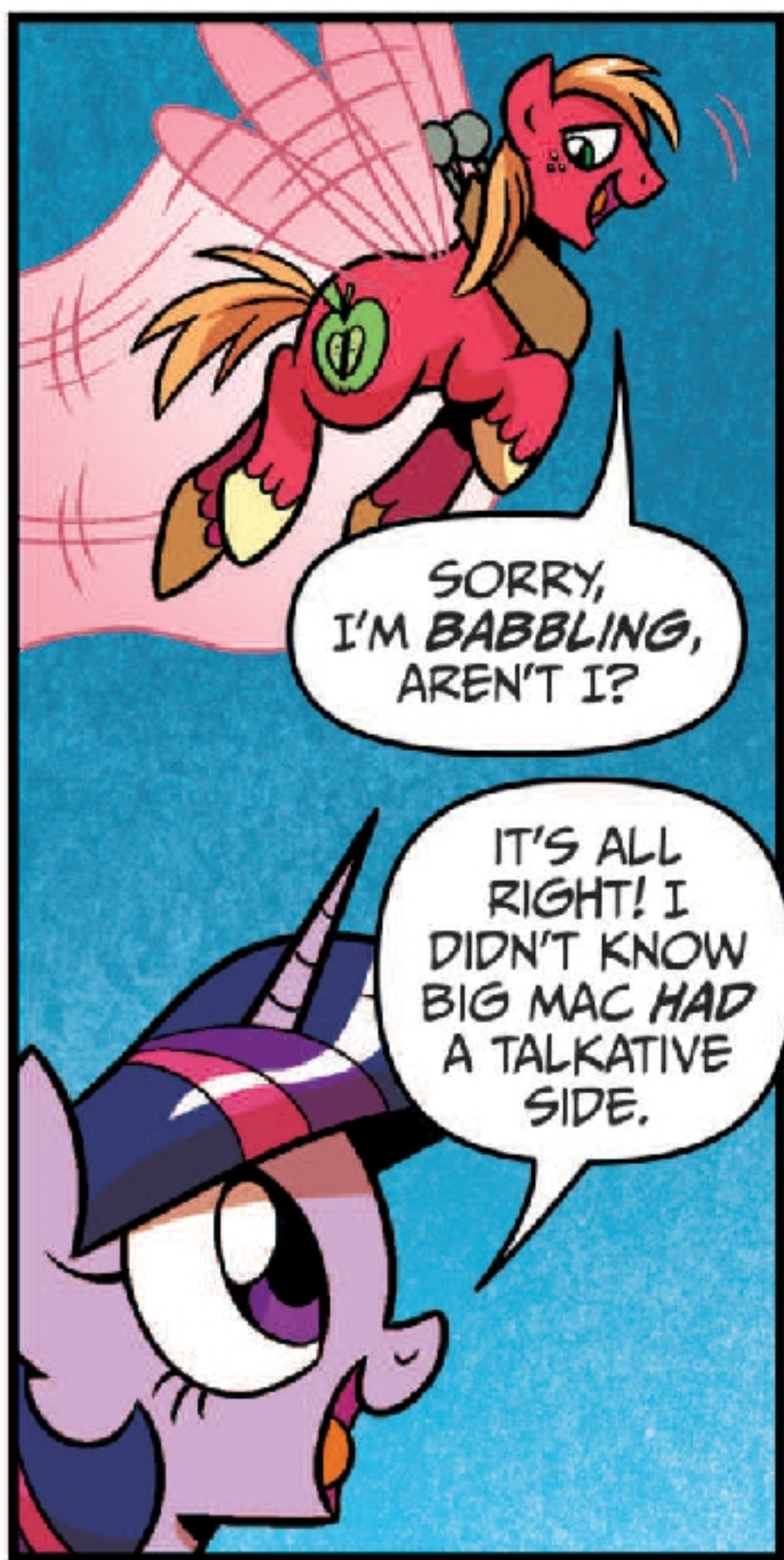


EVERYPONY HAS DIFFERENT *SIDES* OF THEMSELVES, Y'KNOW.

EVEN THOUGH BIG MAC DOESN'T TALK MUCH...

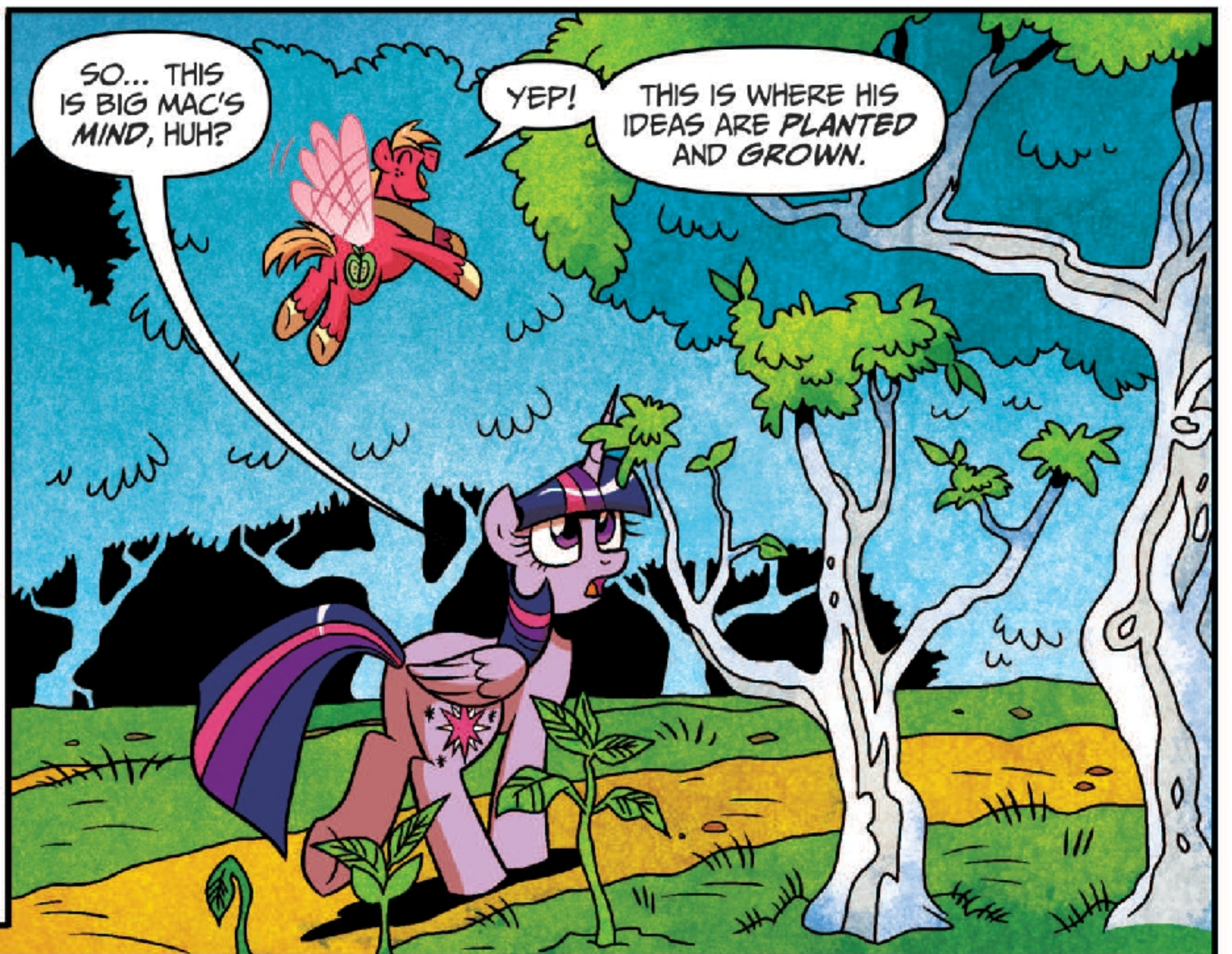
...THERE'S A PART OF HIM THAT WANTS TO TALK A LOT.

AND THAT'S *ME!*



SORRY, I'M BABBLING, AREN'T I?

IT'S ALL RIGHT! I DIDN'T KNOW BIG MAC HAD A TALKATIVE SIDE.



SO... THIS IS BIG MAC'S MIND, HUH?

YEP!

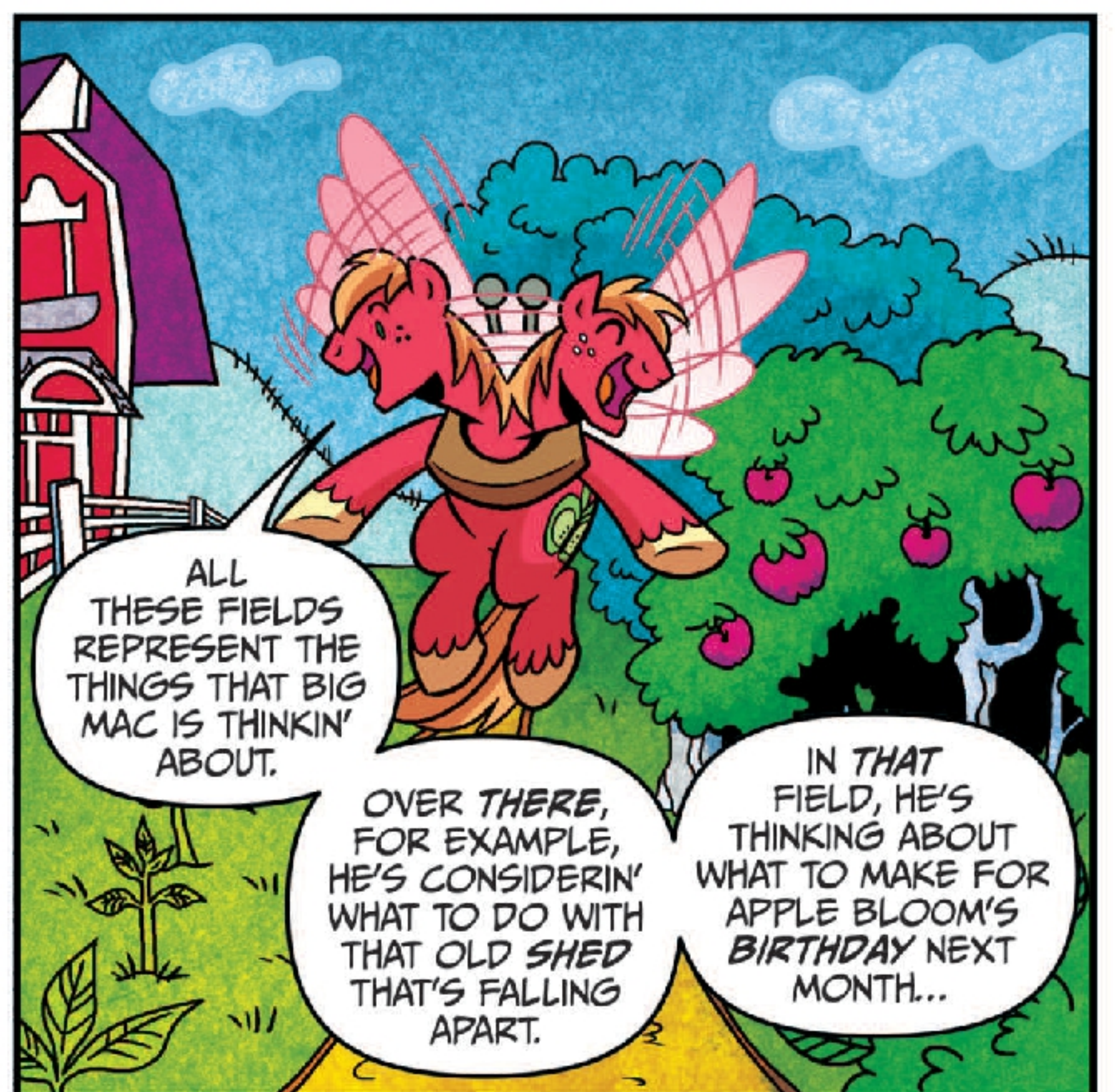
THIS IS WHERE HIS IDEAS ARE PLANTED AND GROWN.



"PLANTED"? "GROWN"?

I DIDN'T KNOW IDEAS WERE PLANTS.

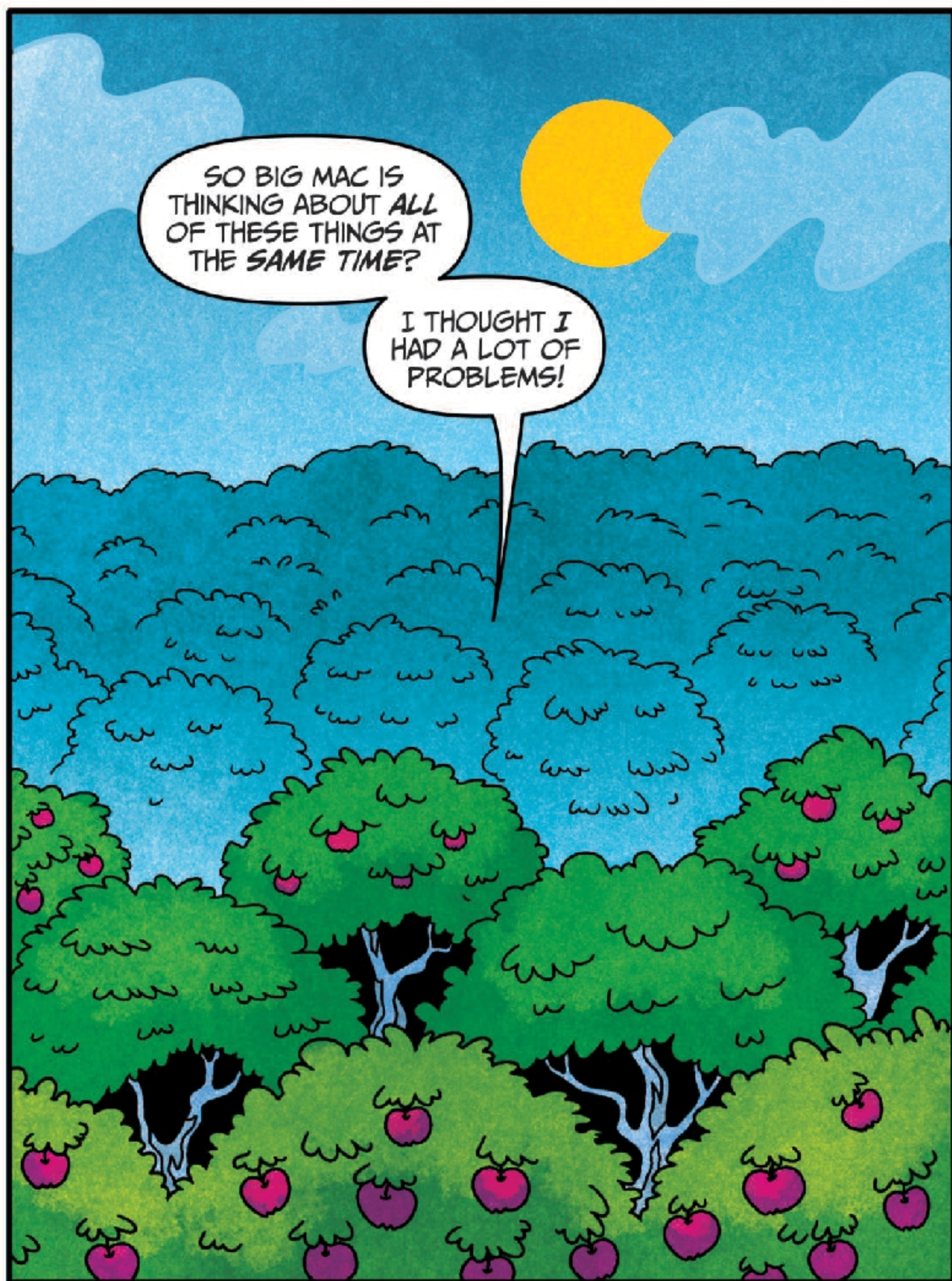
THEY ARE *HERE!*



ALL THESE FIELDS REPRESENT THE THINGS THAT BIG MAC IS THINKIN' ABOUT.

OVER *THERE*, FOR EXAMPLE, HE'S CONSIDERIN' WHAT TO DO WITH THAT OLD *SHED* THAT'S FALLING APART.

IN *THAT* FIELD, HE'S THINKING ABOUT WHAT TO MAKE FOR APPLE BLOOM'S BIRTHDAY NEXT MONTH...



SO BIG MAC IS THINKING ABOUT ALL OF THESE THINGS AT THE SAME TIME?

I THOUGHT I HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS!



DID YOU SAY YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS?

GLEEP!

MAYBE I CAN HELP!



LET ME GUESS—YOU'RE THE HELPFUL SIDE OF BIG MAC, RIGHT?

RIGHT!

NOW, WHAT'S THE MATTER?



WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK ABOUT MY PROBLEMS, I CAN'T FIND SOLUTIONS!

I THINK ABOUT THEM IN THE MORNING, WHEN I'M EATING, WHEN I'M FLYING, WHEN I'M READING...

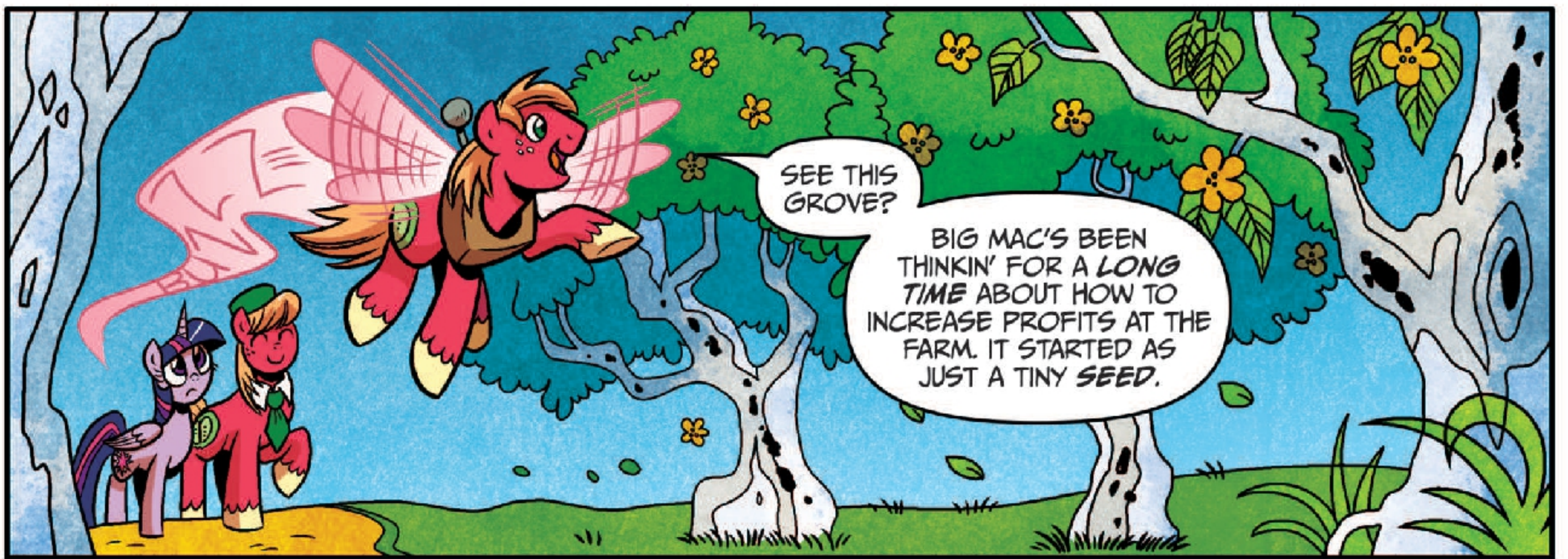
BUT IT'S JUST NO GOOD!



WELL, THERE'S YOUR PROBLEM!

YOU CAN'T THINK ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS ALL THE TIME!

JUST LIKE YOU CAN'T GROW AN APPLE ORCHARD IN A DAY!



SEE THIS GROVE?

BIG MAC'S BEEN THINKIN' FOR A LONG TIME ABOUT HOW TO INCREASE PROFITS AT THE FARM. IT STARTED AS JUST A TINY SEED.



BUT HE DOESN'T THINK ABOUT IT CONSTANTLY!

IF HE'S STUCK ON A PROBLEM, HE GOES OFF AND DOES SOMETHING ELSE FOR A WHILE!

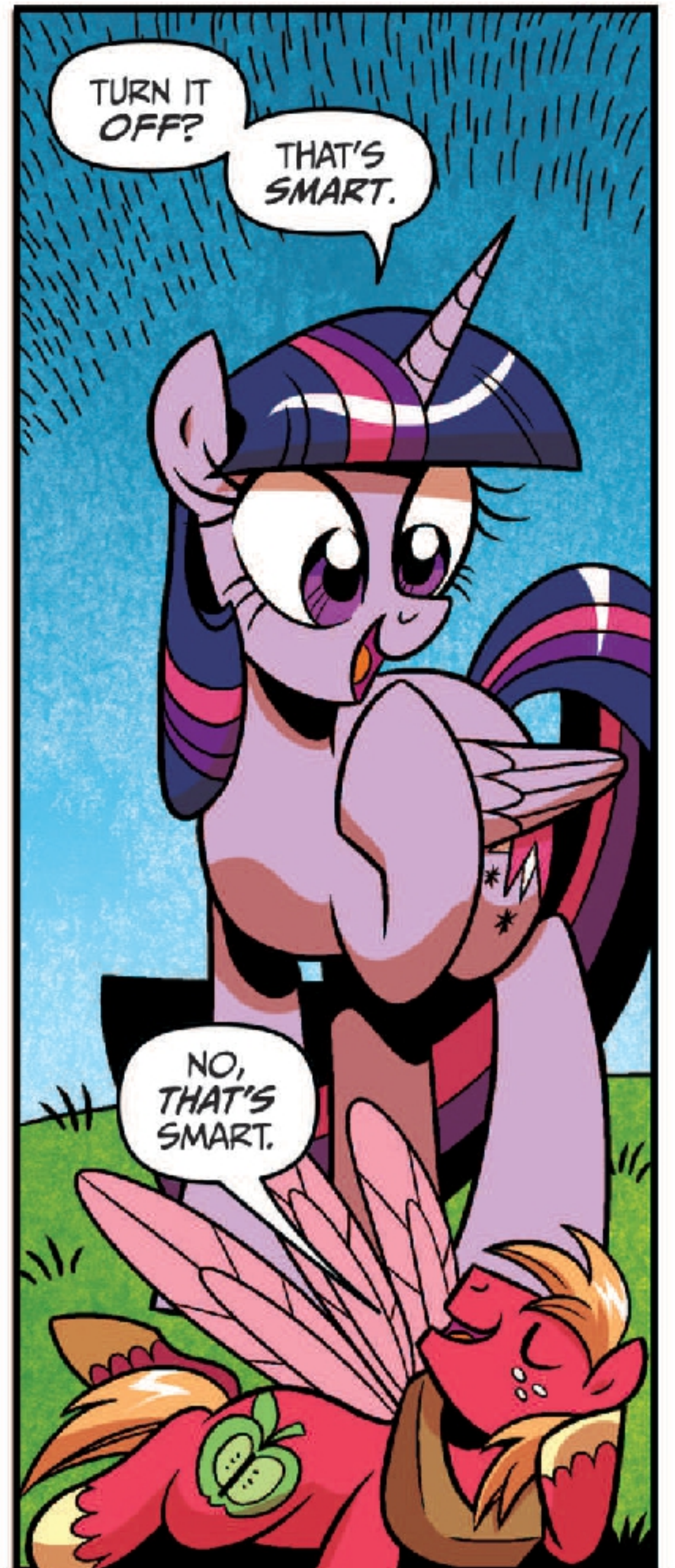


LIKE WHAT?

OH, HE THINKS ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, OR HE GOES AN' FIXES SOMETHING...

OR EVEN JUST TAKES A WALK!

YOU GOTTA TURN YOUR BRAIN OFF EVERY NOW AND THEN!



TURN IT OFF?

THAT'S SMART.

NO, THAT'S SMART.



WHAT?

SMART BIG MAC IS OVER THERE.

AH! A FINE SPECIMEN OF THE MALUS SYLVESTRIS FLOWER!

GLANCE



SALUTATIONS, FELLOW ERUDITE EQUINE!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET A LEGENDARILY LEARNED LADY SUCH AS YOURSELF!

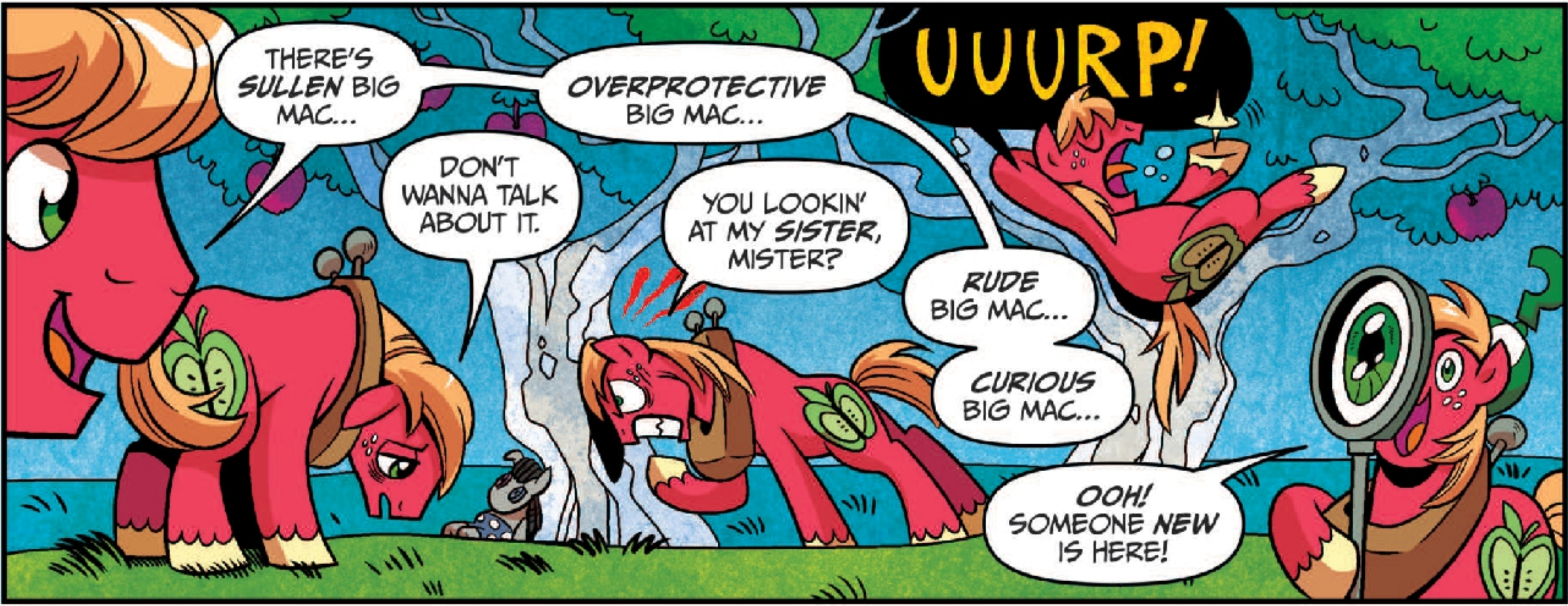


YOUR BULBOUS BRAINPAN IS MOST BEWITCHING!

WELL, LET'S SEE...

SO THIS IS BIG MAC'S SMART SIDE?

JUST HOW MANY SIDES OF BIG MAC ARE THERE?



THERE'S SULLEN BIG MAC...

OVERPROTECTIVE BIG MAC...

DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT.

YOU LOOKIN' AT MY SISTER, MISTER?

RUDE BIG MAC...

CURIOUS BIG MAC...

OOH! SOMEONE NEW IS HERE!

UUURP!



IS YOUR HEAD THIS CROWDED, TOO?

UM—I DON'T KNOW?

I'VE NEVER BEEN INSIDE MY OWN HEAD.



WELL, LET'S TAKE A LOOK!



wiggle wiggle



WHA—HEY!

NO GOING INSIDE MY HEAD UNLESS YOU'RE INVITED!

POUNCE





IF YOU'RE WORKING ON EIGHT PROBLEMS AT ONCE, IT'S HARD TO KEEP TRACK OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

WHY IS THERE A BEEKEEPING MANUAL IN THE SAME PILE AS THE HISTORY OF HAIRCUTS?



I THINK YOU NEED SOME FOCUS, TWILIGHT.

AND SOME TIME OFF!

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, BIG MAC.

BIG MACS.



I NEED TO STOP OBSESSING OVER MY PROBLEMS...

...AND START MAKING TIME TO RELAX!

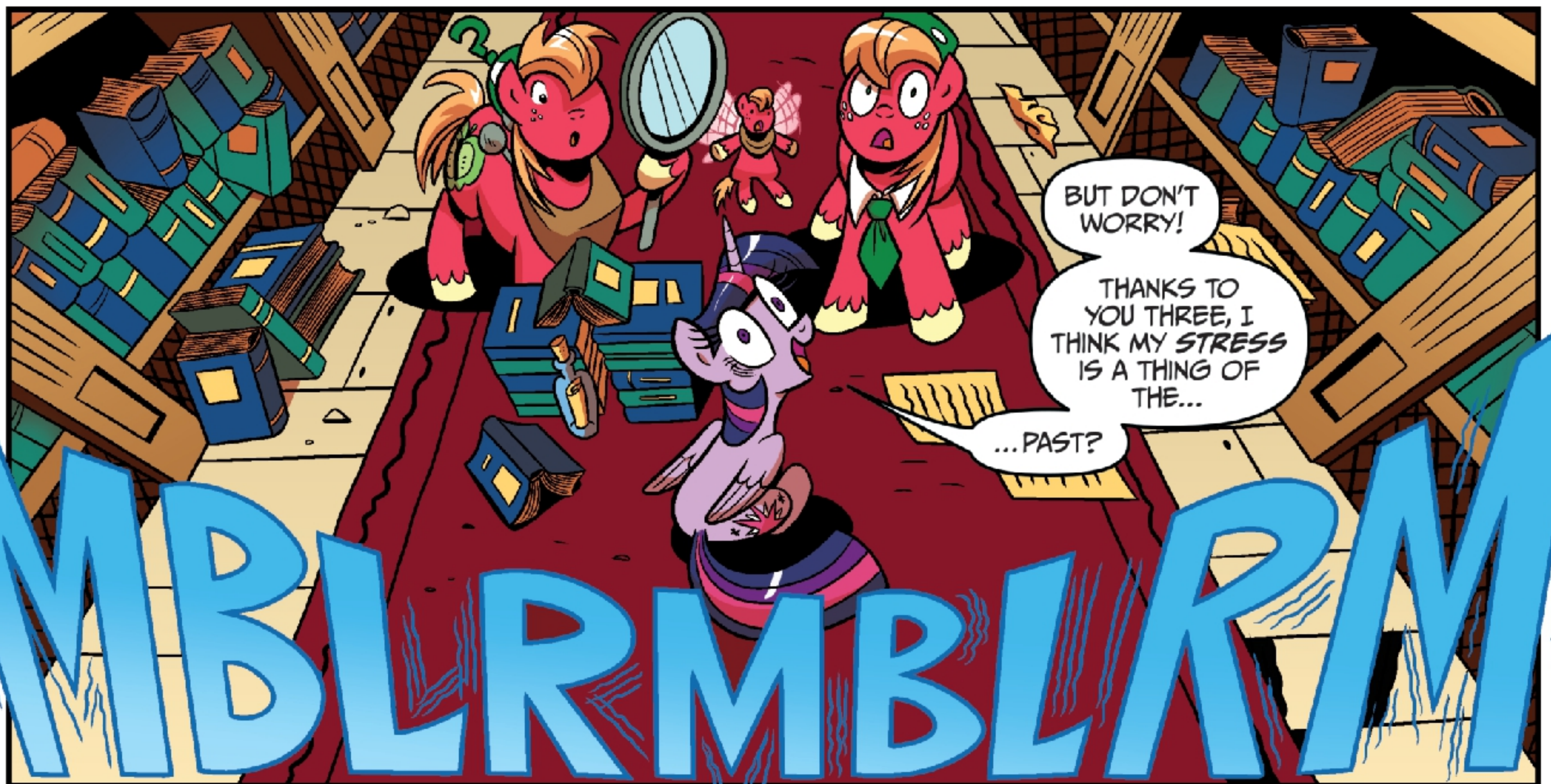
I CAN'T GET SO STRESSED!



YOU GET STRESSED?

OH, YES!

I'VE BEEN CHEWING MY MANE, LOSING SLEEP, NOT EATING...



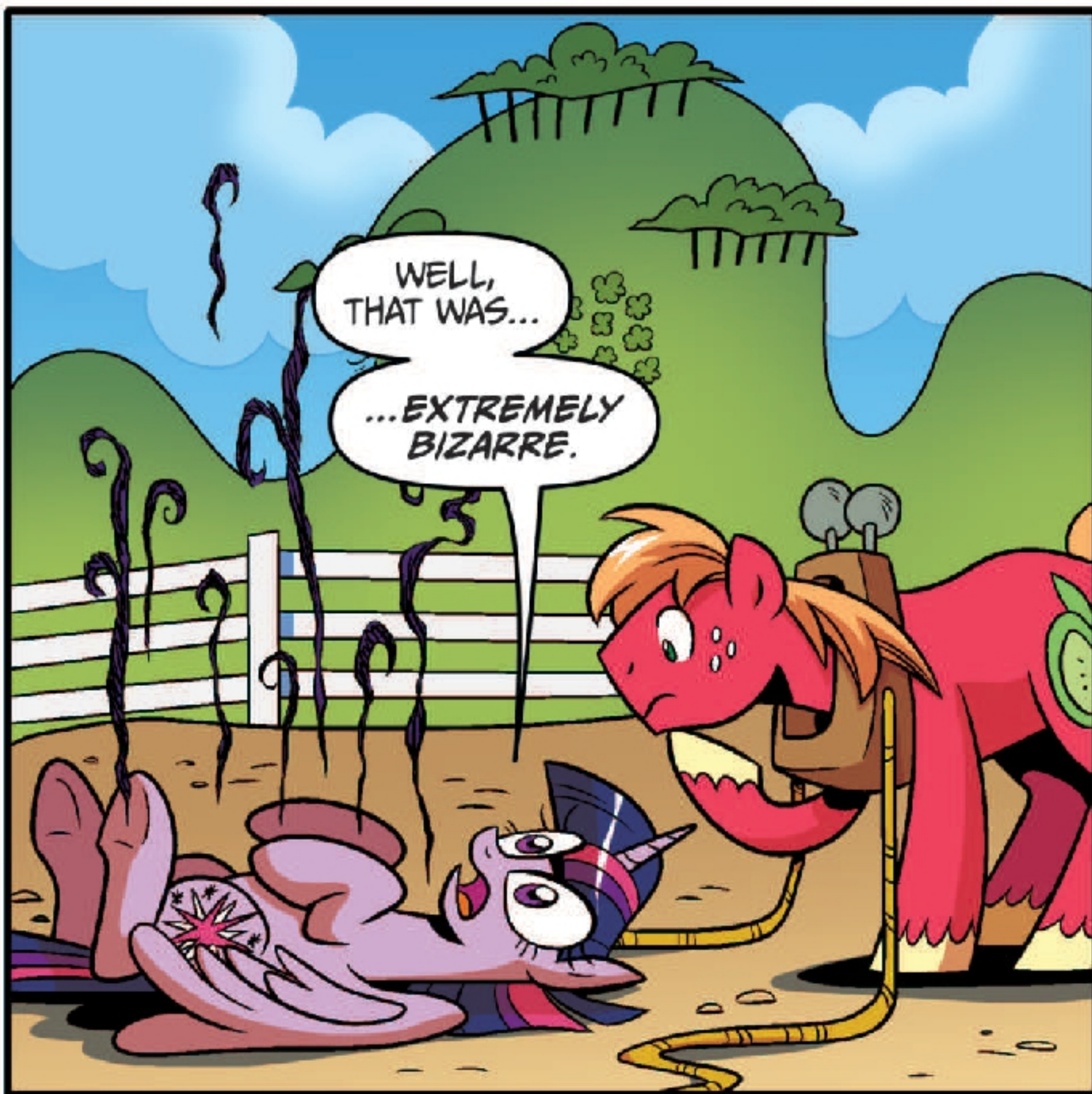
BUT DON'T WORRY!

THANKS TO YOU THREE, I THINK MY STRESS IS A THING OF THE...

...PAST?

MBLRMBLRM





WELL,
THAT WAS...
...EXTREMELY
BIZARRE.



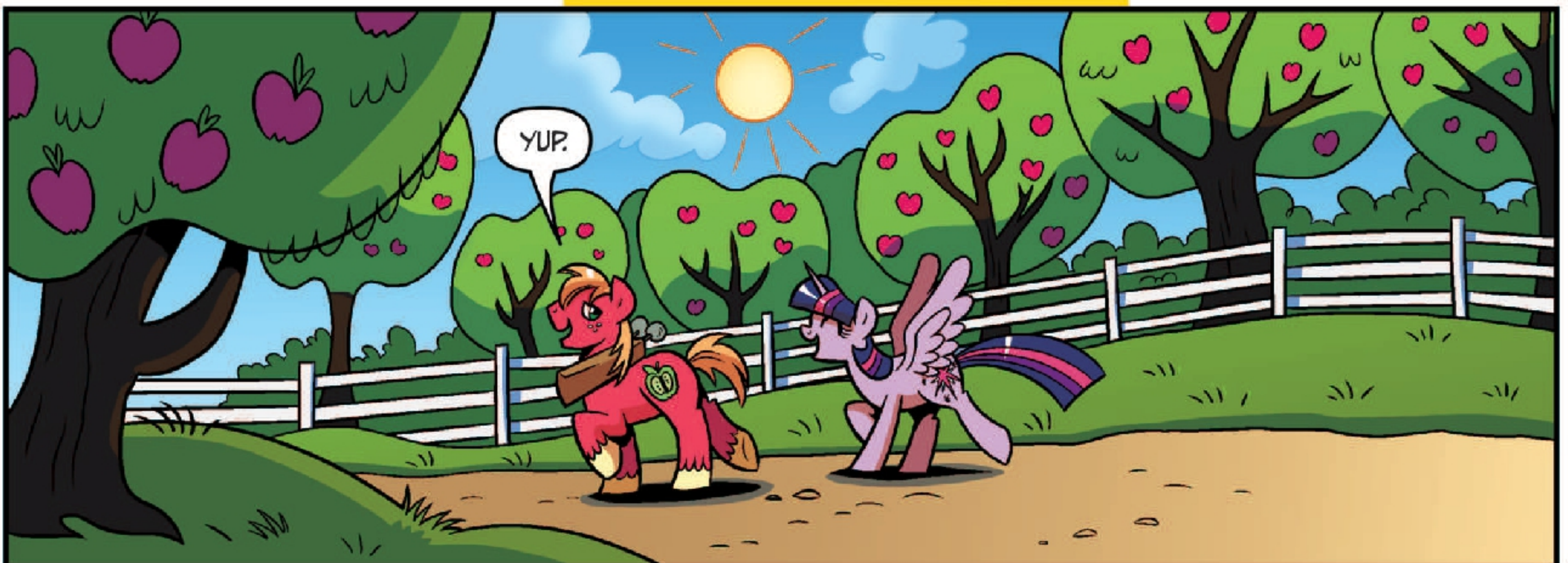
UM...
THANK YOU,
BIG MCINTOSH.
YOUR
BRAIN IS A...
FASCINATING
PLACE.



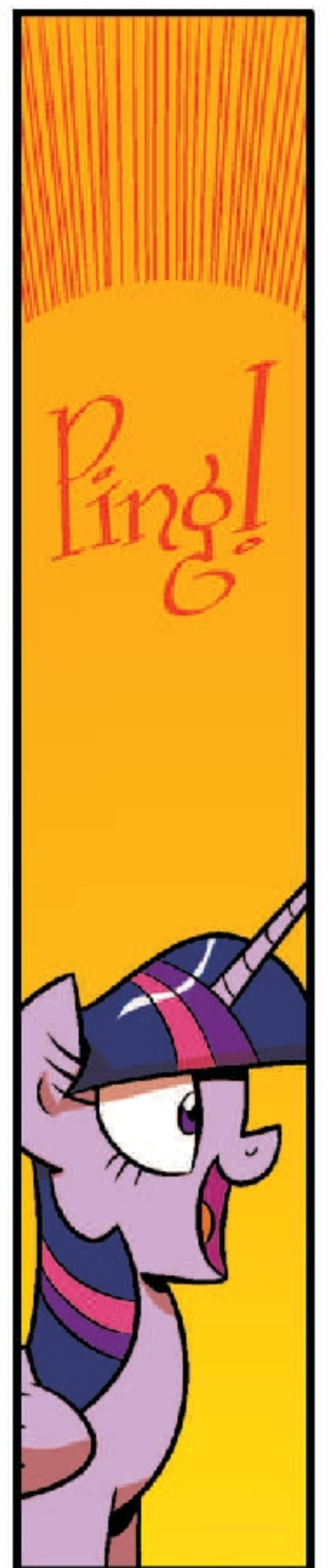
WELL, I
SUPPOSE I
SHOULD GET
BACK TO—



ACTUALLY...
DO YOU HAVE
ANY **CHORES** I CAN
HELP WITH?
SOMETHING TO
TAKE MY **MIND** OFF
MY **PROBLEMS**?



YUP.



my LITTLE PONY

NEXT MONTH:
ISSUE #18

FRIENDS
FOREVER

FLIGHT CAMP REUNION!

RAINBOW DASH

VOTED MOST LIKELY TO SOAR



FLUTTERSHY

VOTED MOST LIKELY TO HIDE
BEHIND A TRASH CAN



DAY
BEAT