

IDW
ISSUE
35

my LITTLE PONY



ANDERSON • FOSGITT

AMF/16



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Language : English

File source : iTunes Store

Edition : PDF

Lossless : Yes

Original version released by : YayPonies.eu

Translated by : NNOPE

Translated version released by : NNOPE

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Special thanks to Meghan McCarthy, Eliza Hart, Ed Lane, Beth Artale, and Michael Kelly.

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SPIKE, YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO HEAR I'M MAKING **GREAT** PROGRESS ON MY GIFT-GIVING LISTS FOR NEXT HEARTH'S WARMING EVE!

UH... I LOVE PRESENTS AS MUCH AS ANYONE, TWILIGHT, BUT HEARTH'S WARMING EVE IS **MONTHS** AWAY...



...NOT THAT YOU CAN EVER SPEND TOO MUCH TIME PLANNING GIFTS FOR ME.

NO PEEKING! BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M FOCUSED ON **CELESTIA**, AND I HAVE THE PERFECT IDEA.

ALL THOSE OLD BOOKS ARE JUST SITTING IN THE CASTLE OF TWO SISTERS. I KNOW SHE'D LOVE IT IF THEY WERE ORGANIZED. I CAN SELECT A FEW SPECIAL ONES AS A GIFT FOR HER. WHAT WE NEED IS A...



BOOK-SORT-CATION! HOO!



PLUS, PLANNING THE PERFECT GIFT IS A **GREAT** FRIENDSHIP LESSON FOR **STARLIGHT**. WHERE DID SHE GET TO?

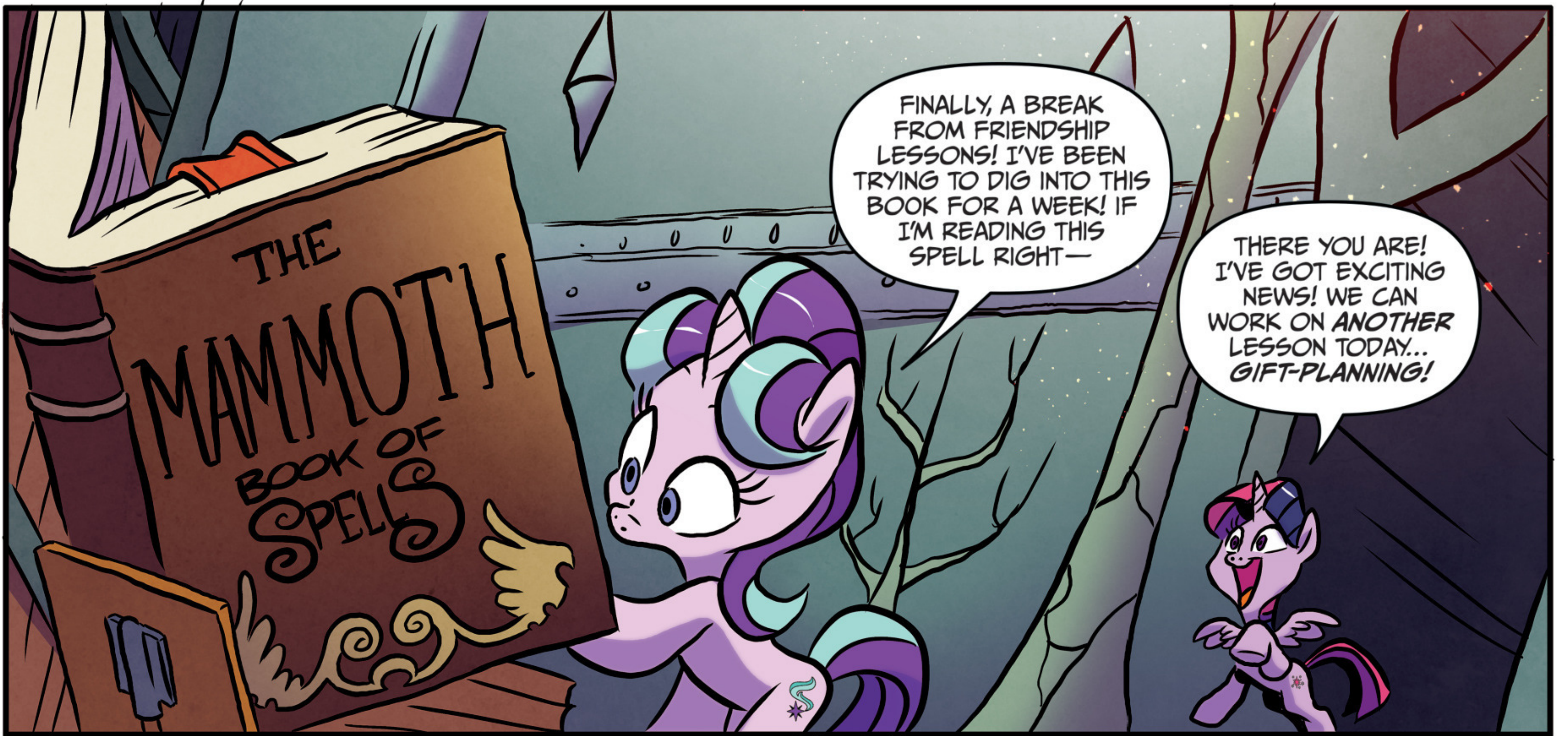
I THINK SHE MIGHT BE TRYING TO **READ**... AND SHE DID ALREADY HAVE **TWO** FRIENDSHIP LESSONS THIS MORNING WHEN YOU—



IF SHE JOINS US, I CAN CHECK OFF ITEMS ON **TWO** CHECKLISTS AT ONCE! LET'S GET READY TO GO!

SURE, TWI!

JUST BRINGING ALONG A FEW MORE COMICS TO **SORT**.



FINALLY, A BREAK FROM FRIENDSHIP LESSONS! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DIG INTO THIS BOOK FOR A WEEK! IF I'M READING THIS SPELL RIGHT—

THERE YOU ARE! I'VE GOT EXCITING NEWS! WE CAN WORK ON ANOTHER LESSON TODAY... GIFT-PLANNING!



IF WE TAKE A MINI-BOOK-SORT-CATION OVER AT THE CASTLE OF THE TWO SISTERS, WE CAN PUT TOGETHER A PERFECT GROUP OF BOOKS FOR CELESTIA AND—

AS FUN AS THAT SOUNDS, I'D REALLY LIKE TO "SORT" THROUGH THESE SPELL BOOKS RIGHT HERE. DON'T LET ME STOP YOU, THOUGH. I'LL JUST WATCH OVER THE QUIET CASTLE WHILE YOU'RE GONE.



REALLY? YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO...?

I MEAN, WE HAVE TWO DIFFERENT CHECKLIST ITEMS WE COULD...



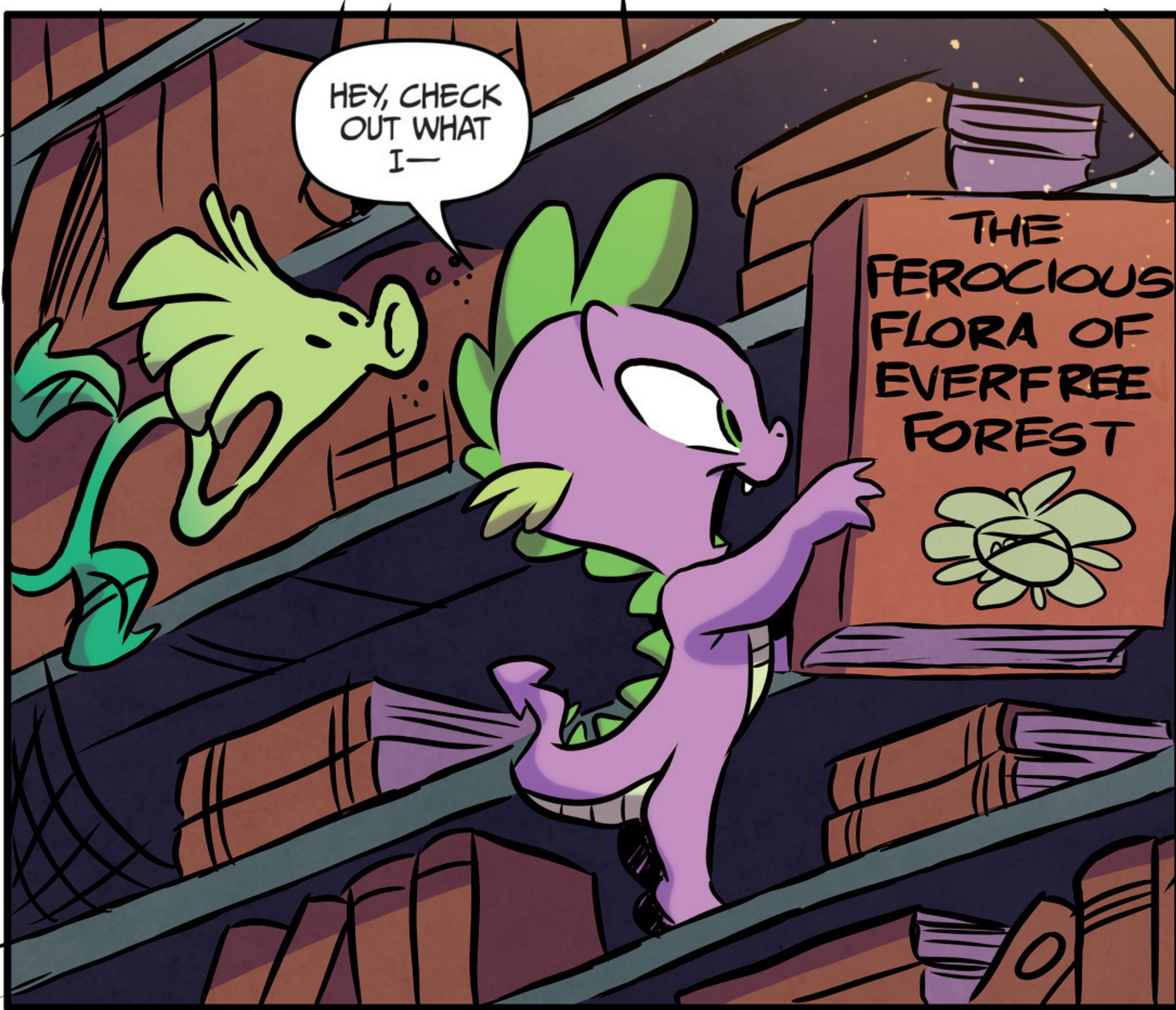
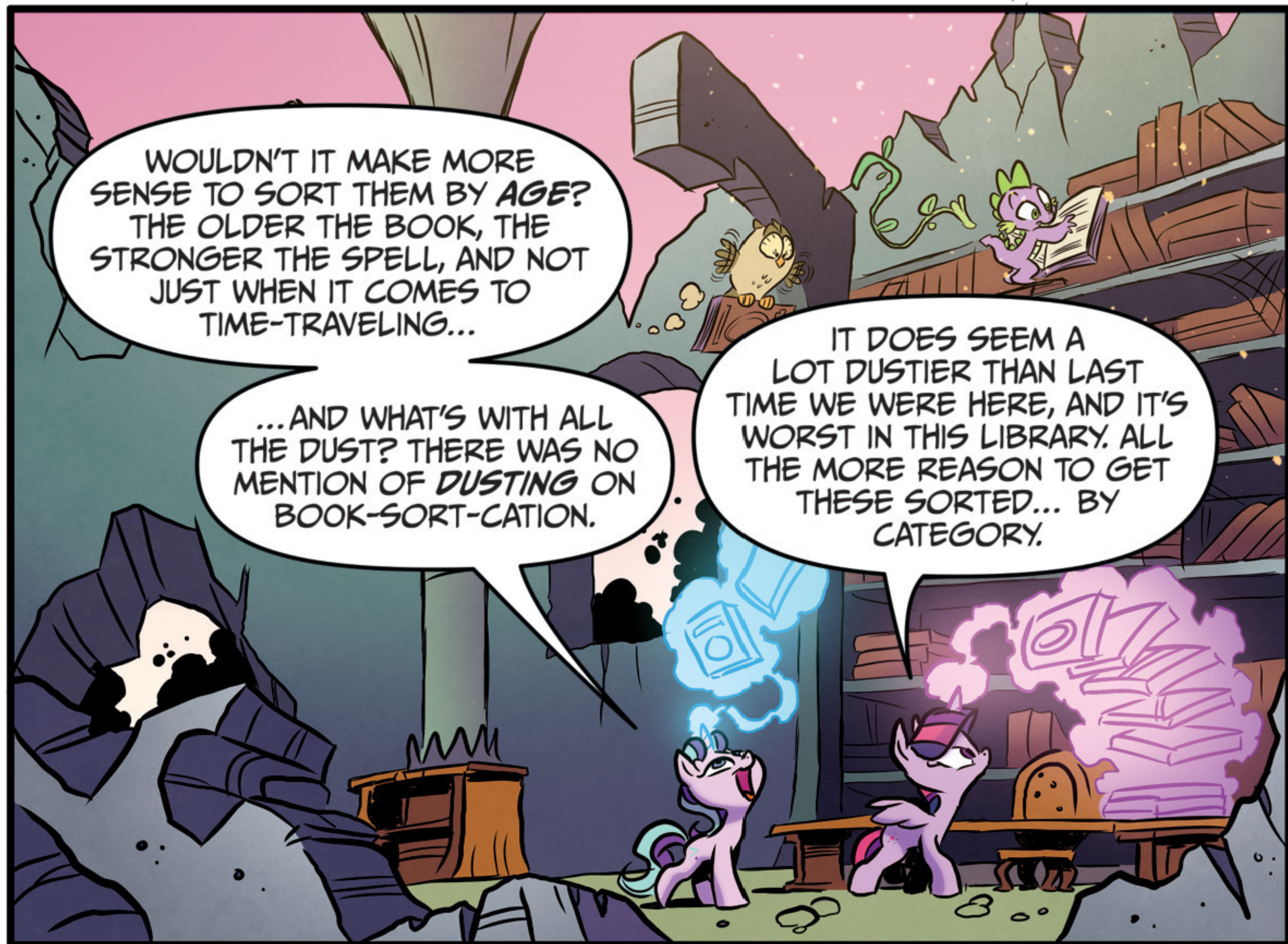
OH, OK...

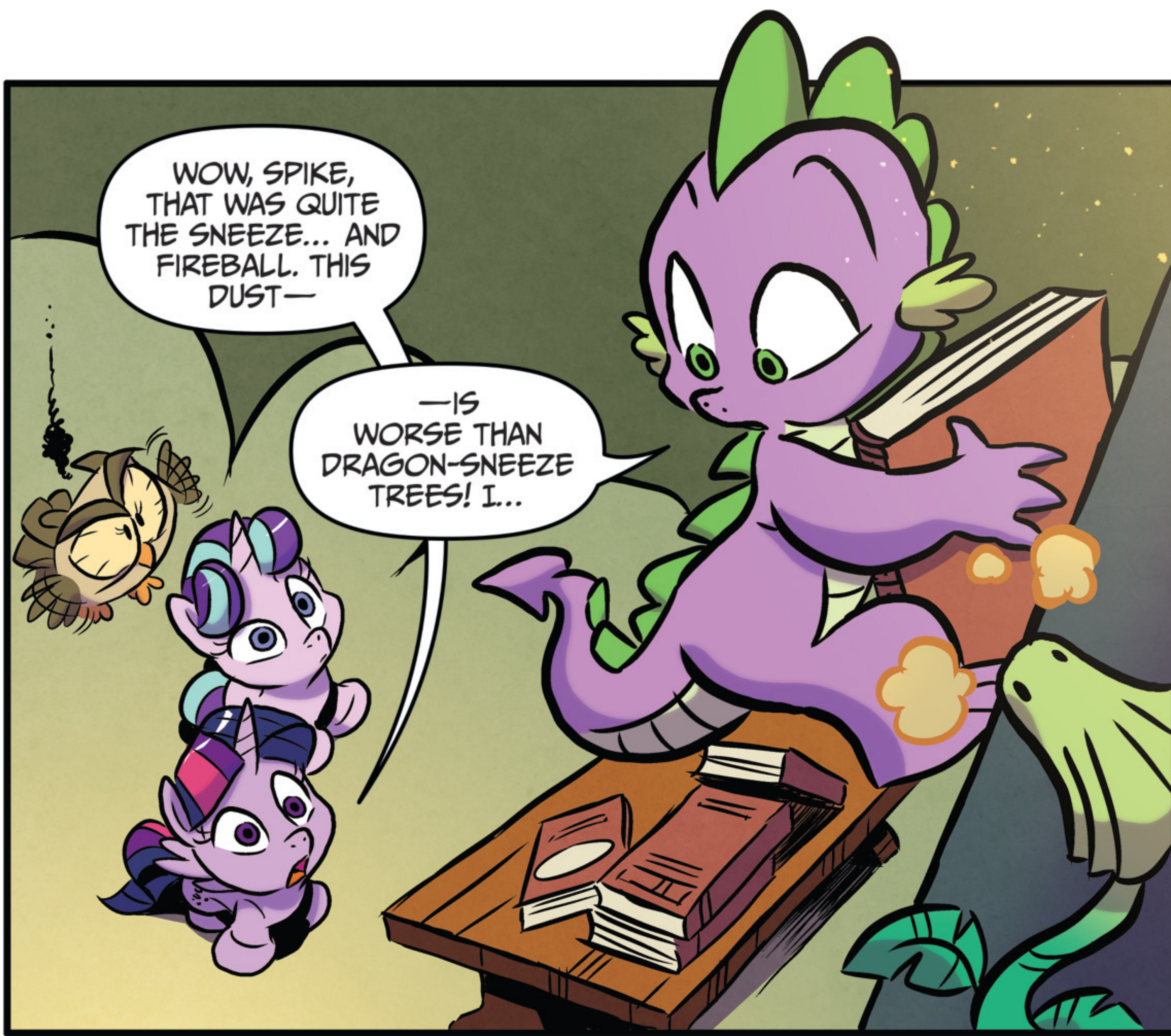
I ALSO THOUGHT WE MIGHT FIND SOME ANCIENT SPELLS TOGETHER, SINCE STAR SWIRL THE BEARDED HELPED BUILD THE CASTLE, BUT I CAN ALWAYS TELL YOU LATER IF—

STAR SWIRL?



...
WELL, MAYBE I COULD USE ONE MORE FRIENDSHIP LESSON TODAY.





WOW, SPIKE, THAT WAS QUITE THE SNEEZE... AND FIREBALL. THIS DUST—

—IS WORSE THAN DRAGON-SNEEZE TREES! I...



...AHHH... AHHH... AHHH...

POOT!
POOT!



...CHOO!



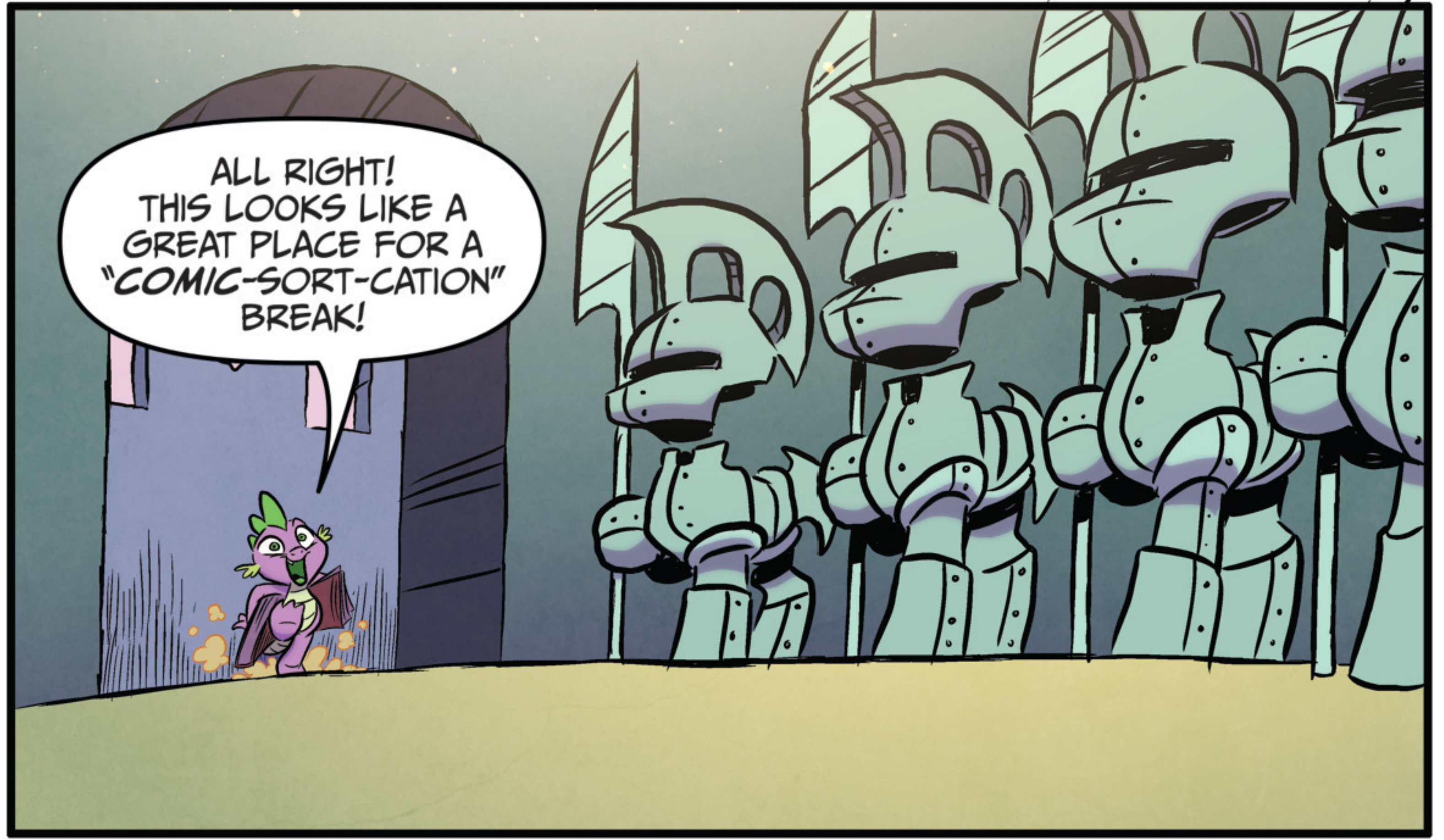
MAYBE SPIKE SHOULD LOOK FOR MORE BOOKS IN ANOTHER ROOM THAT'S LESS DUSTY?

AND WE CAN GET BACK TO OUR FRIENDSHIP LESSON ON THE BEST WAY TO SORT BOOKS.

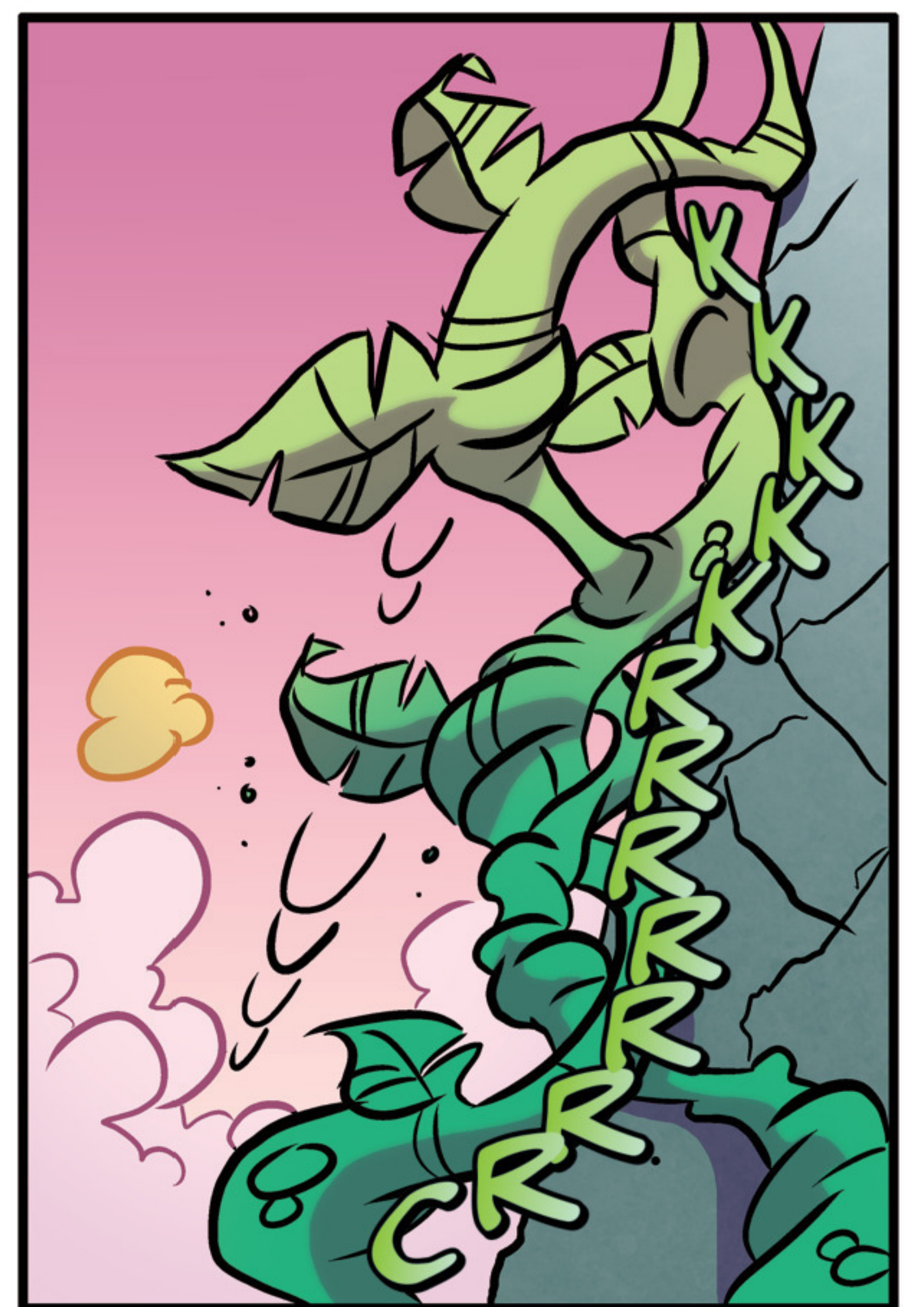
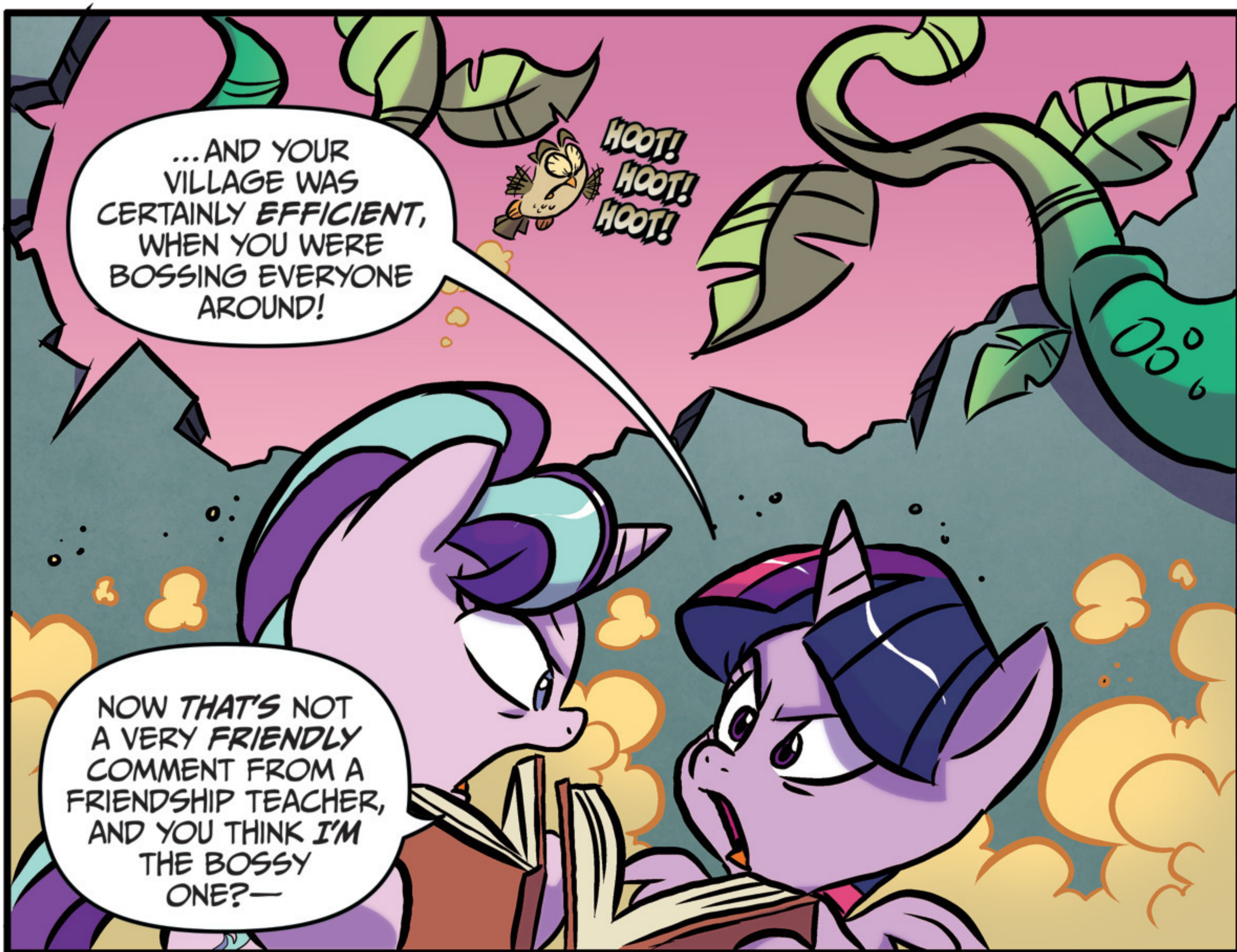
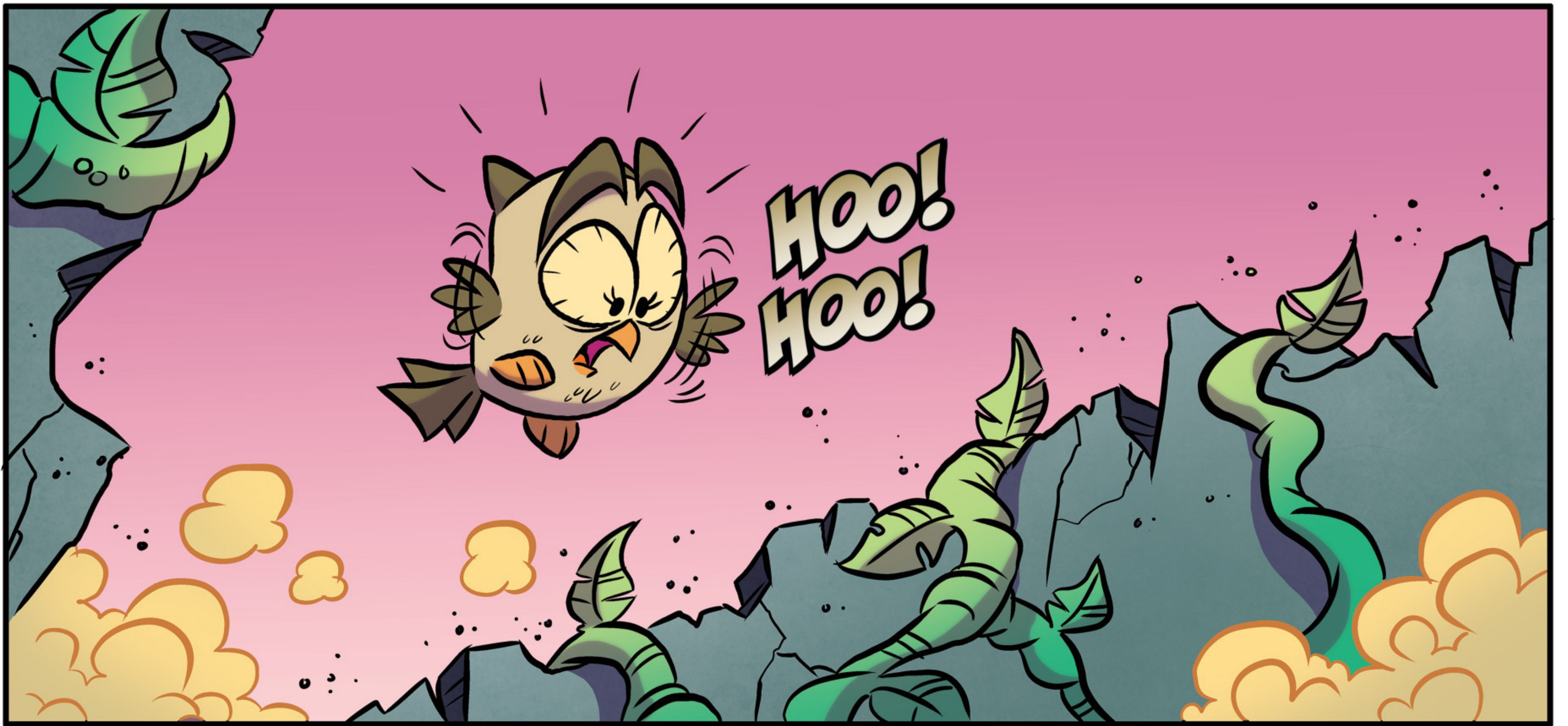


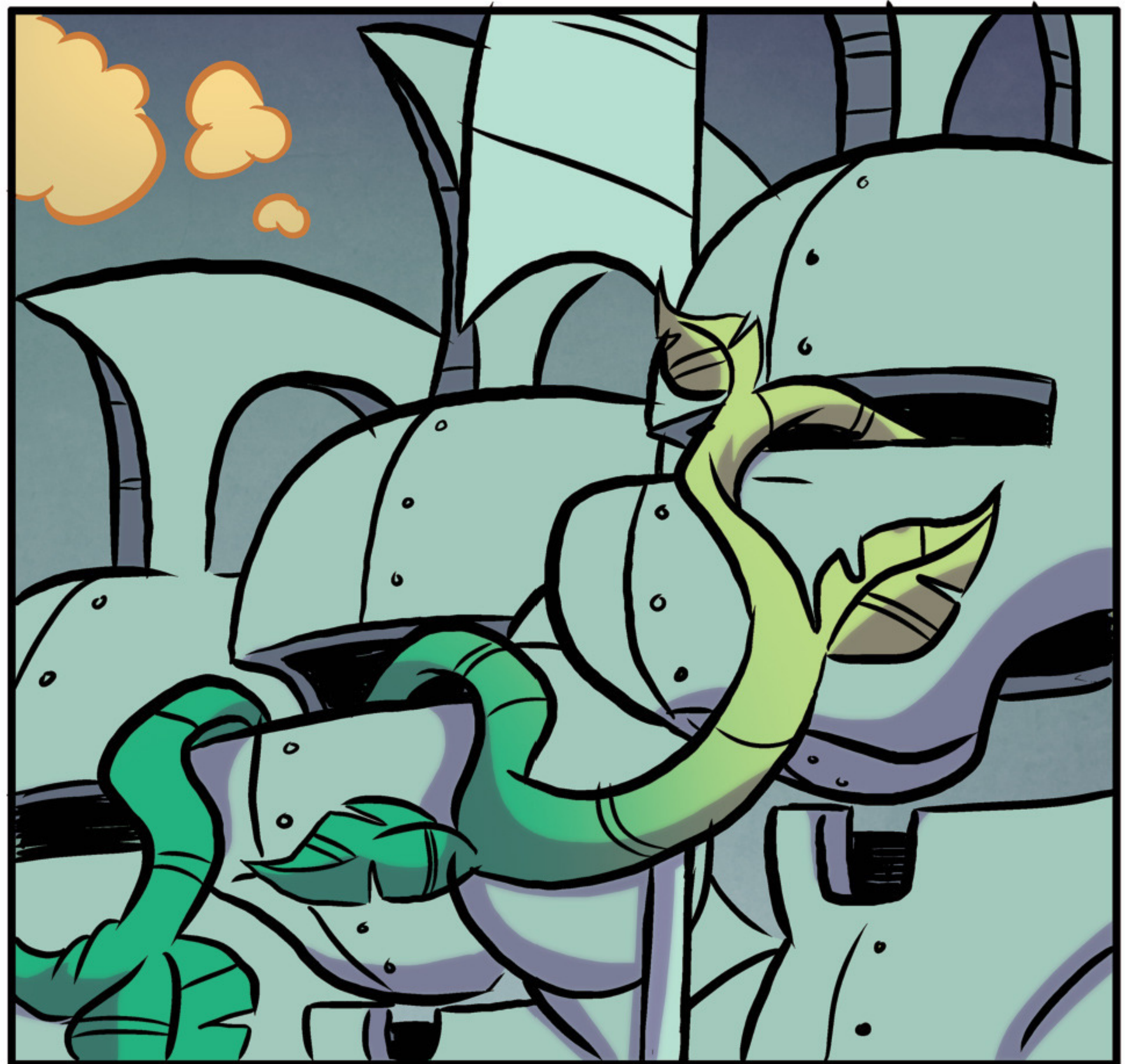
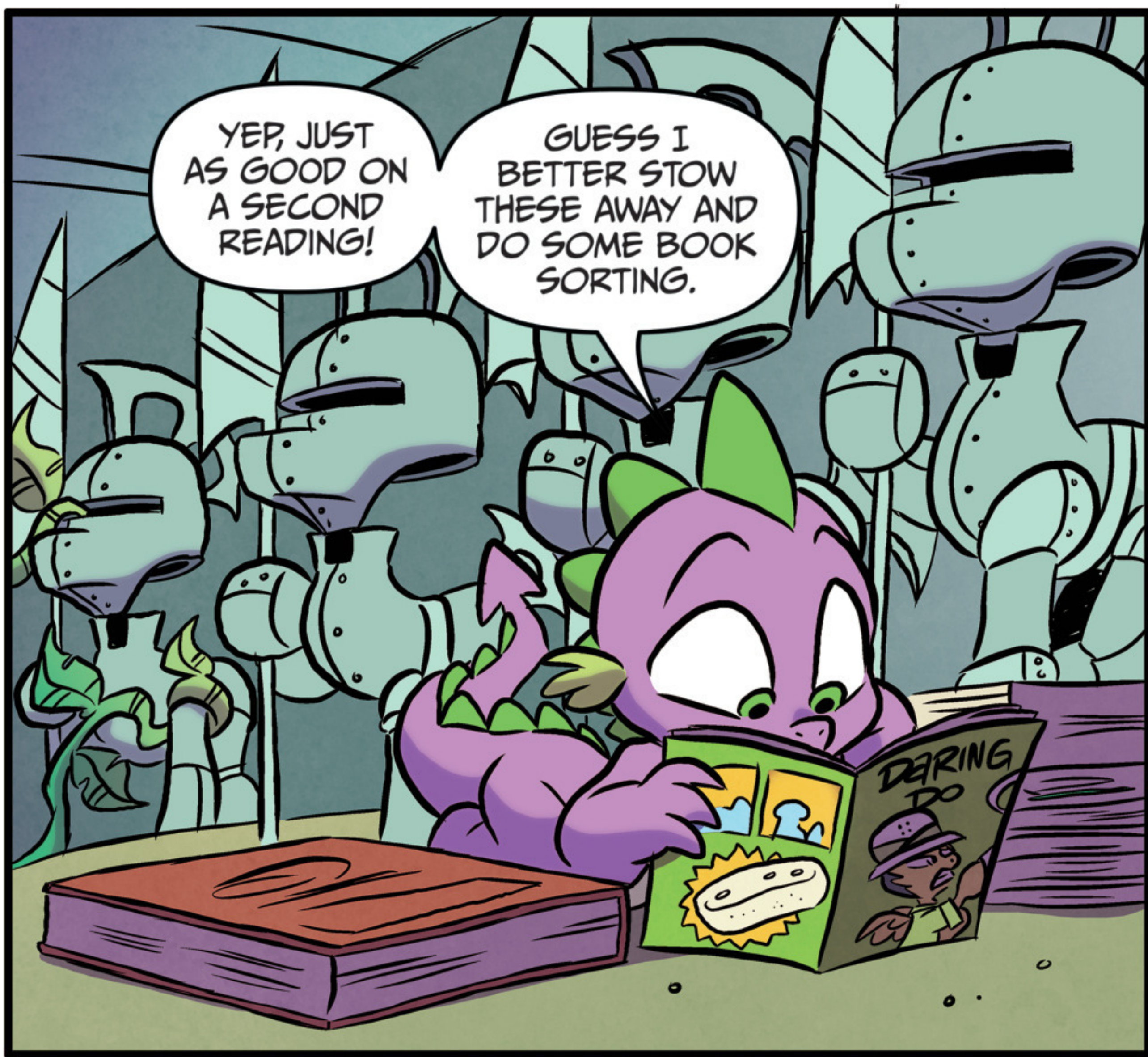
SNIFFS... SURE, GOOD IDEA.

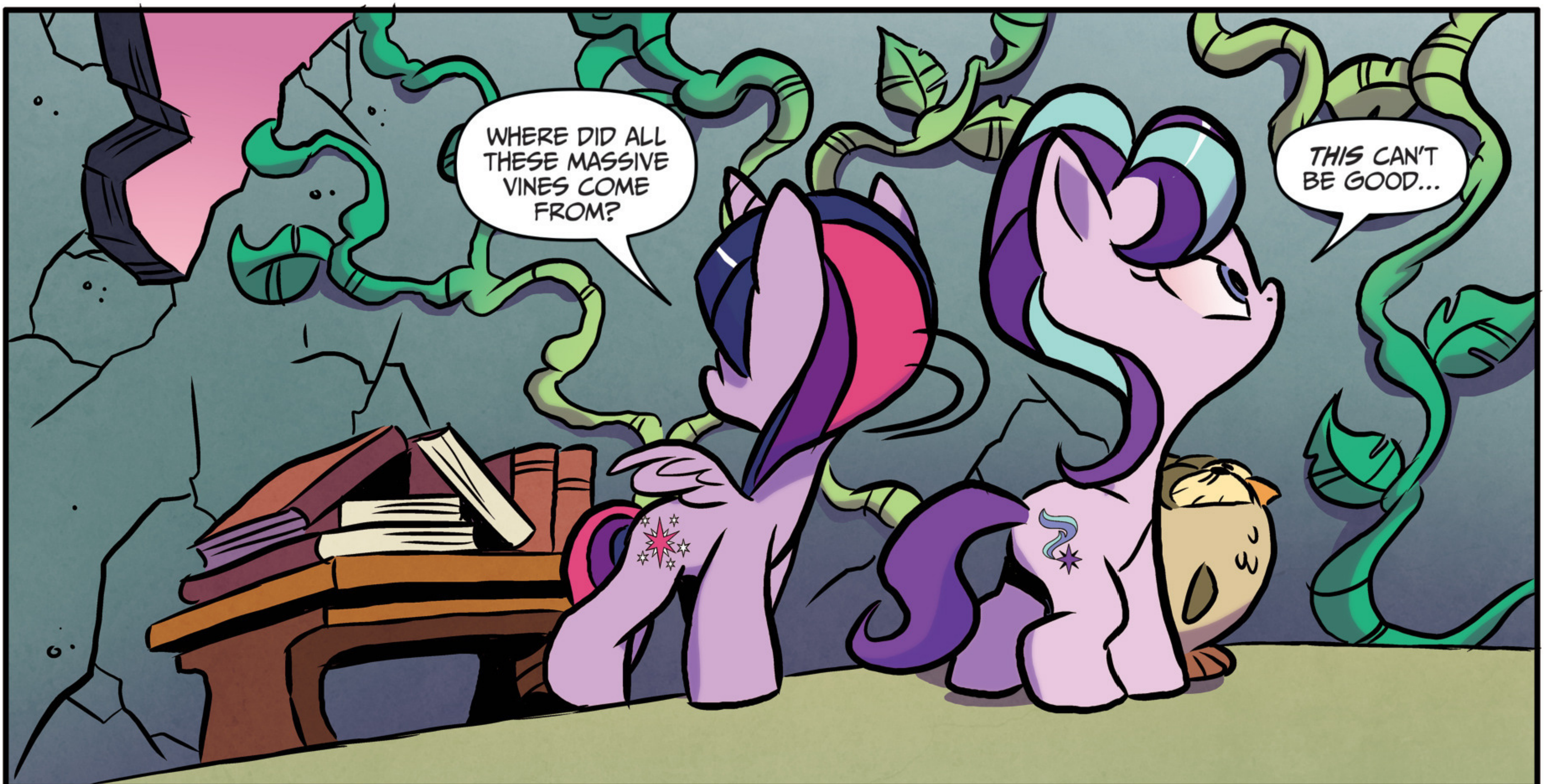
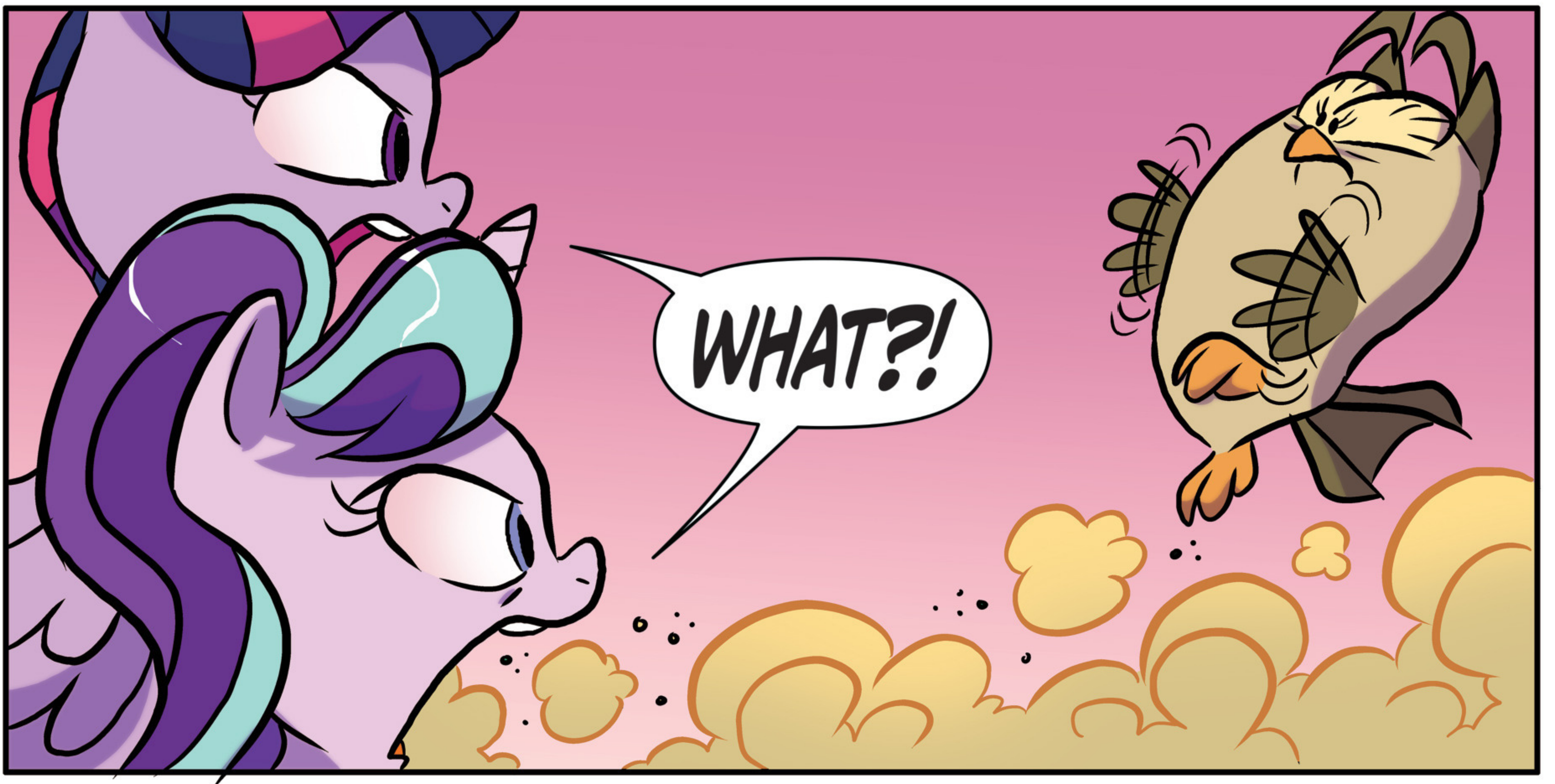
I'LL TAKE SOME "BOOKS" WITH ME TO SORT, TOO.

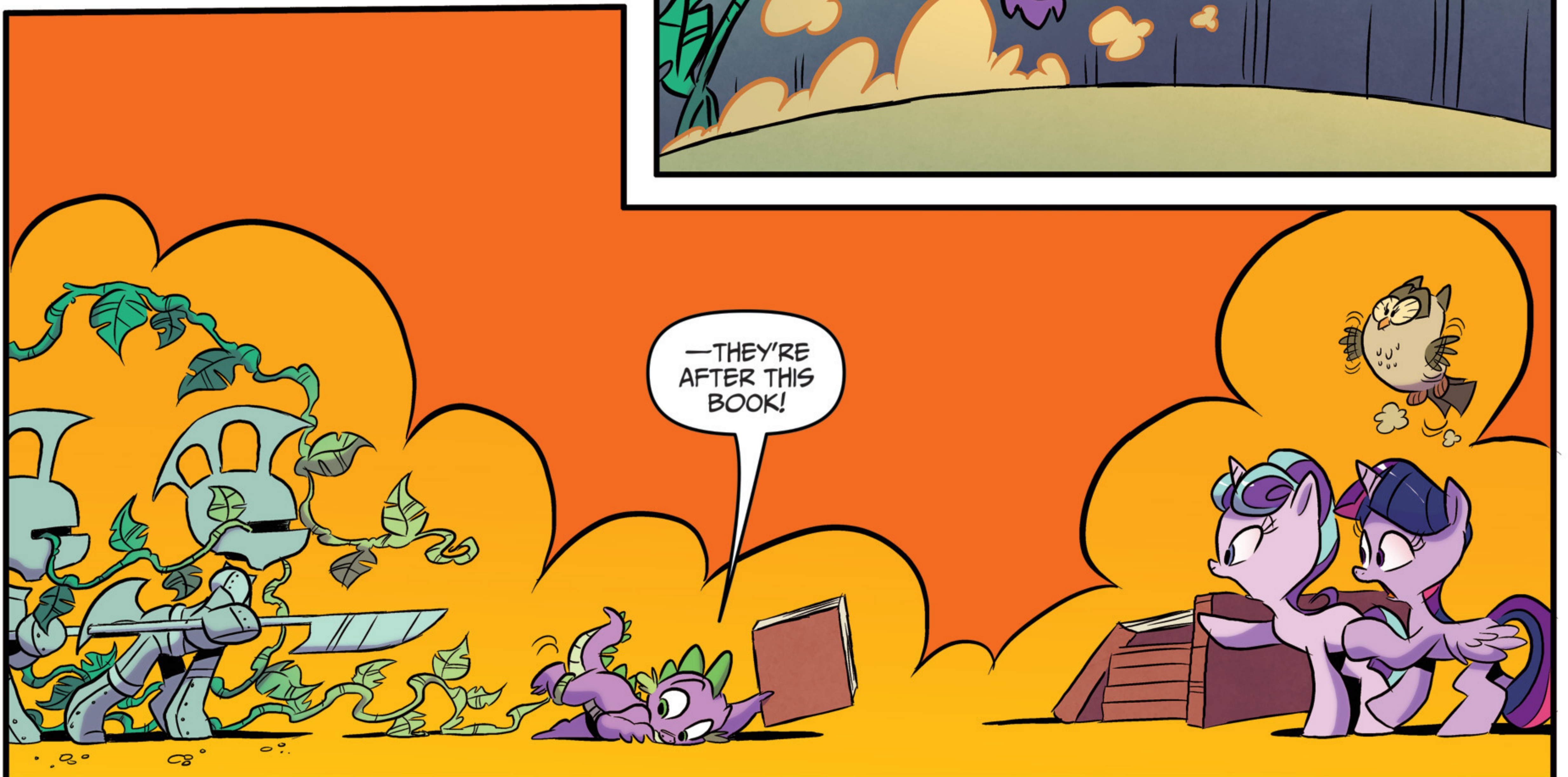
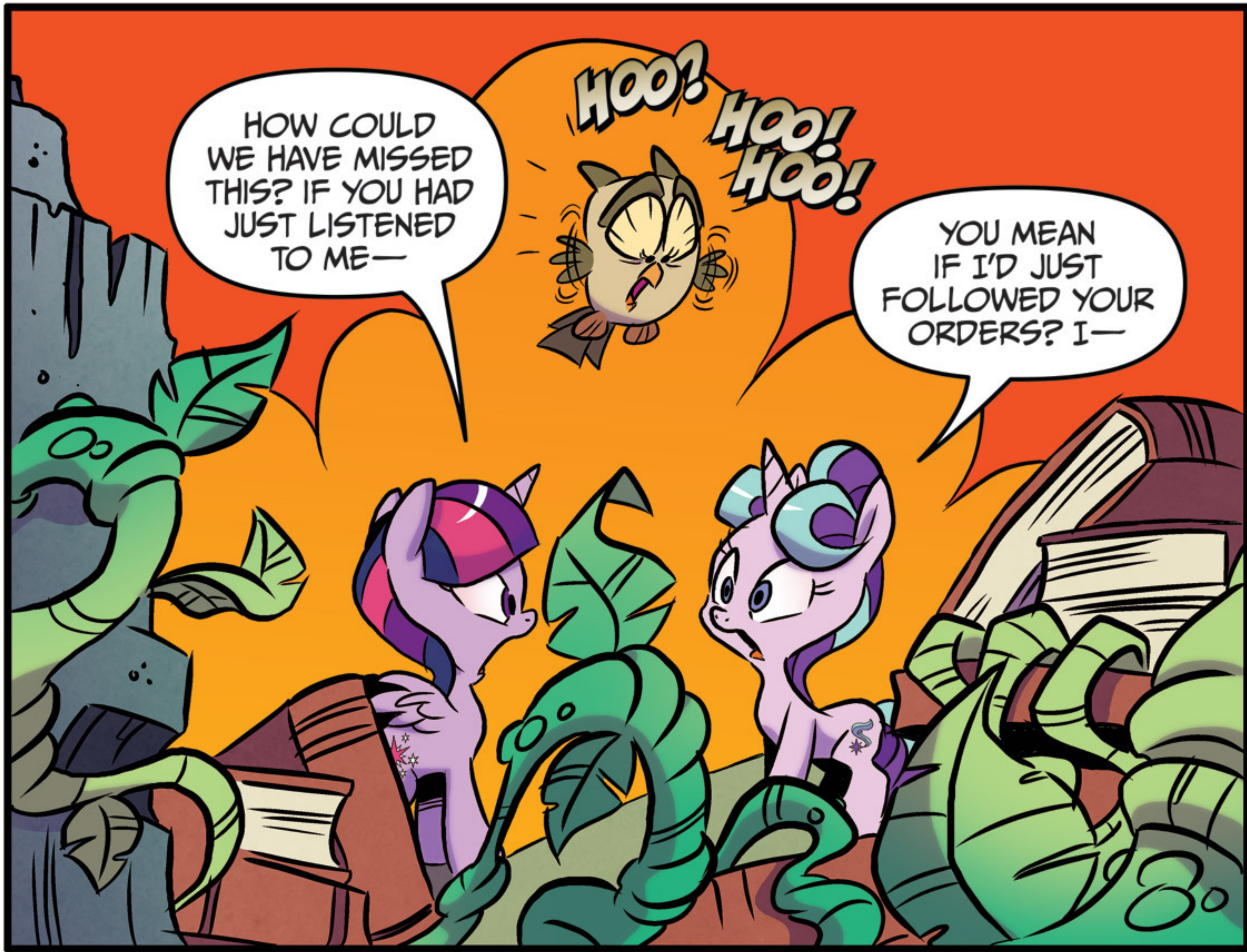


ALL RIGHT! THIS LOOKS LIKE A GREAT PLACE FOR A "COMIC-SORT-CATION" BREAK!

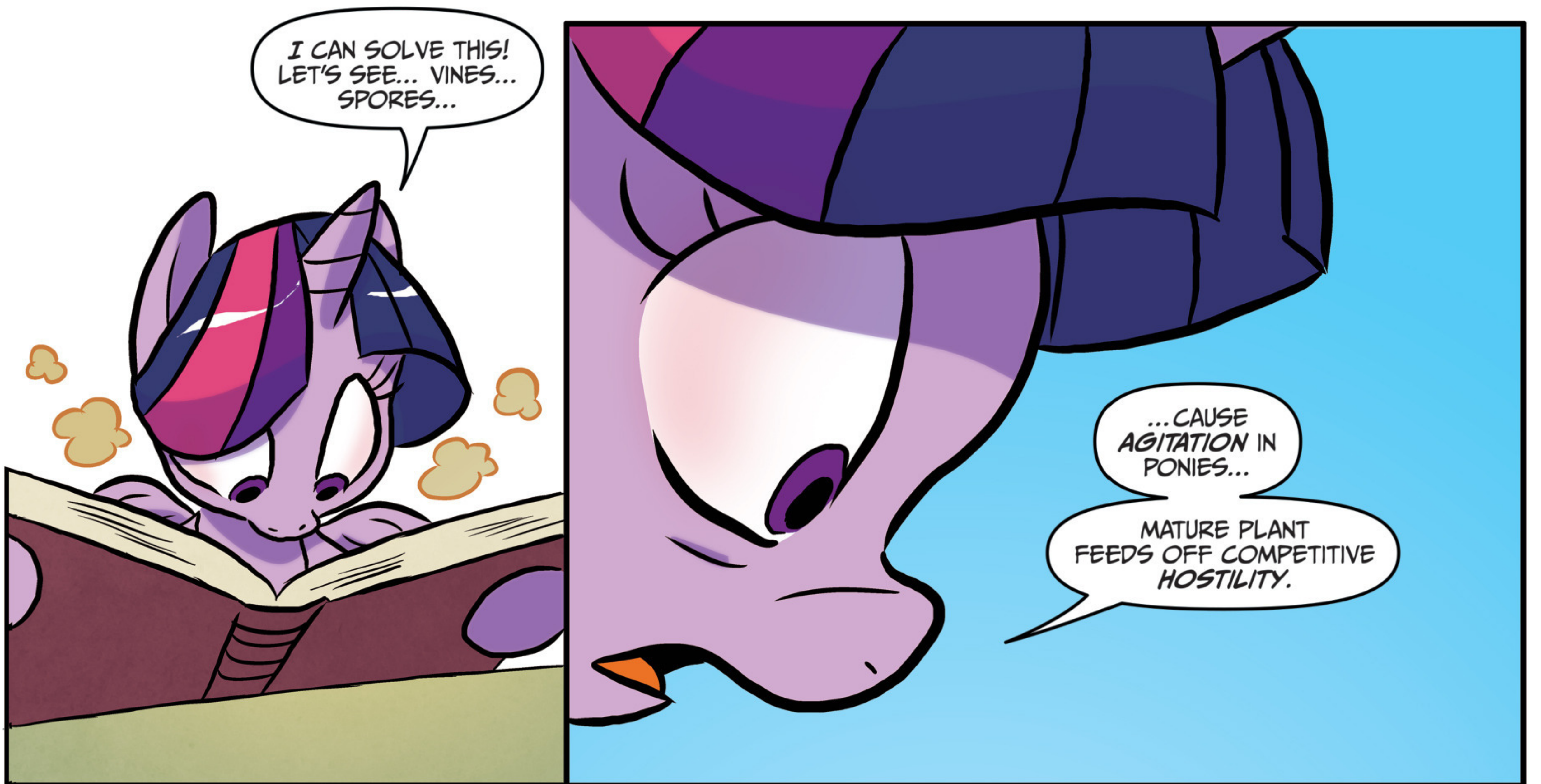
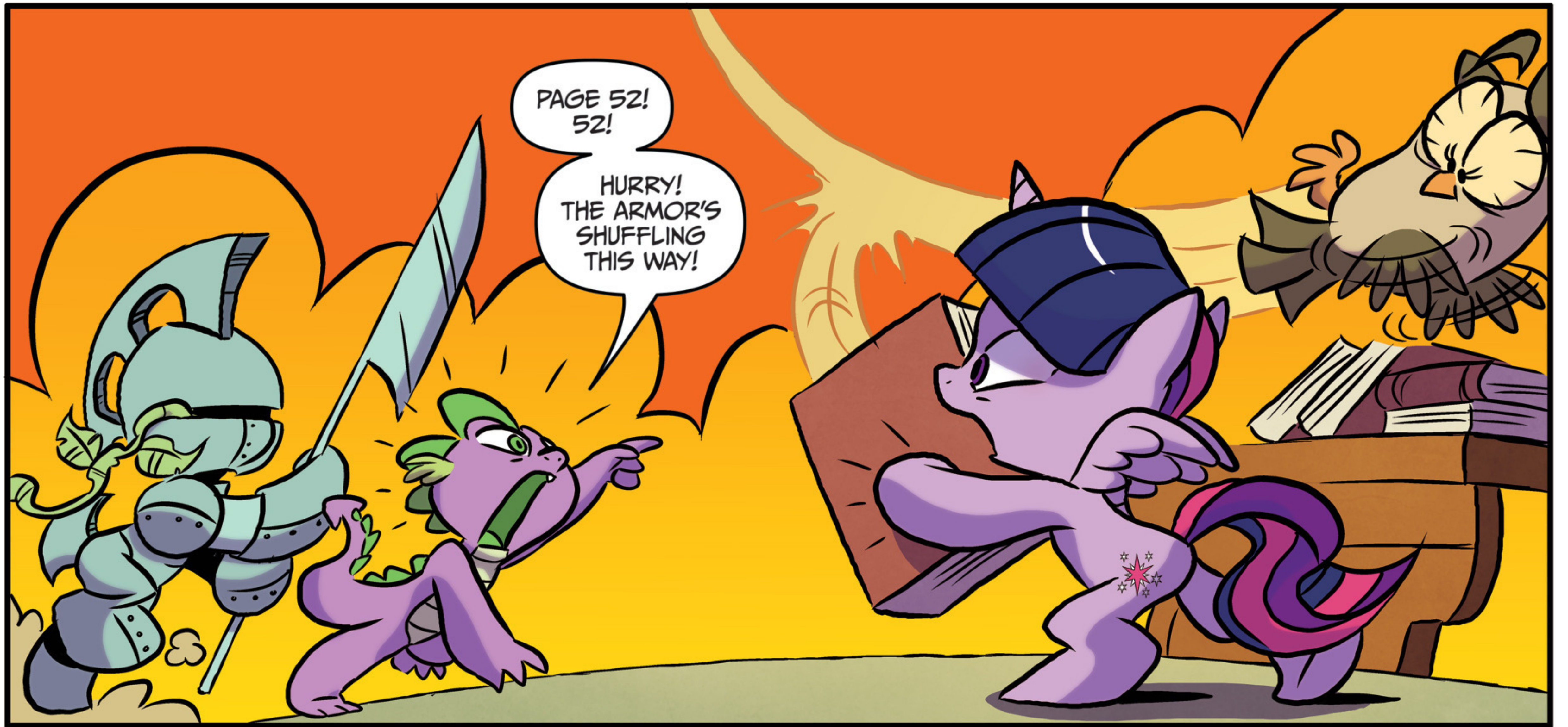


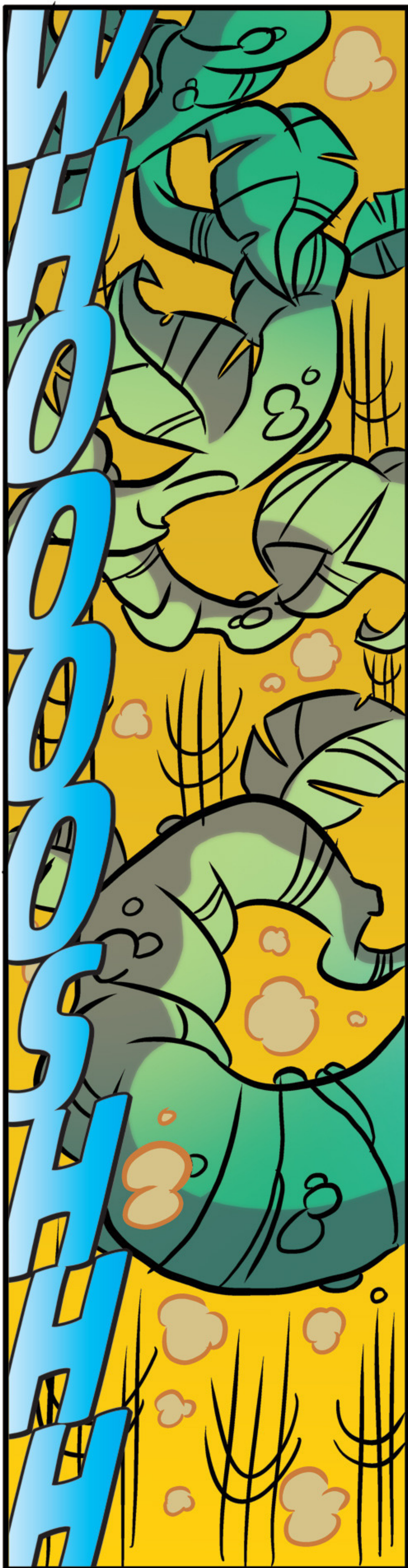


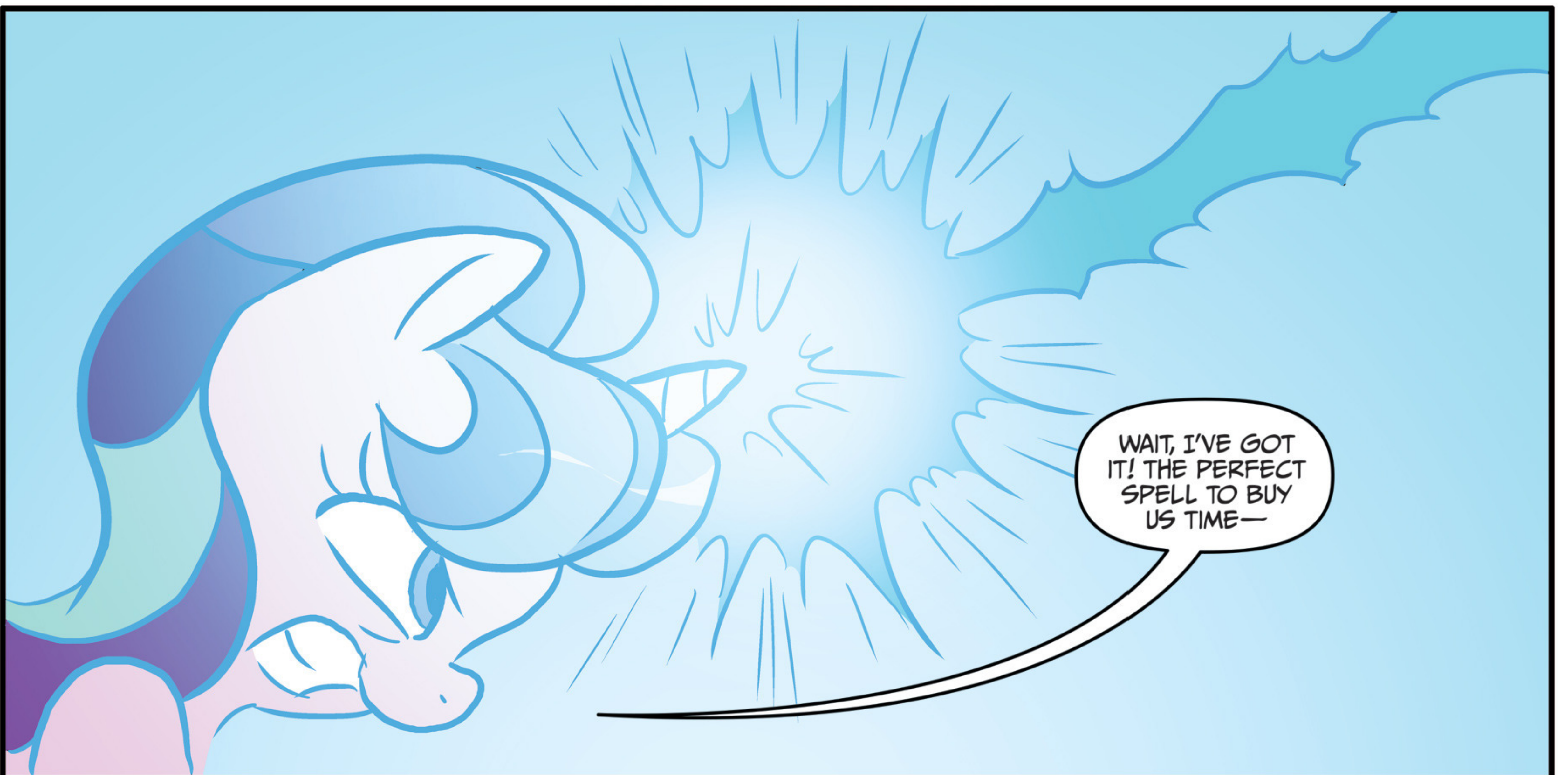
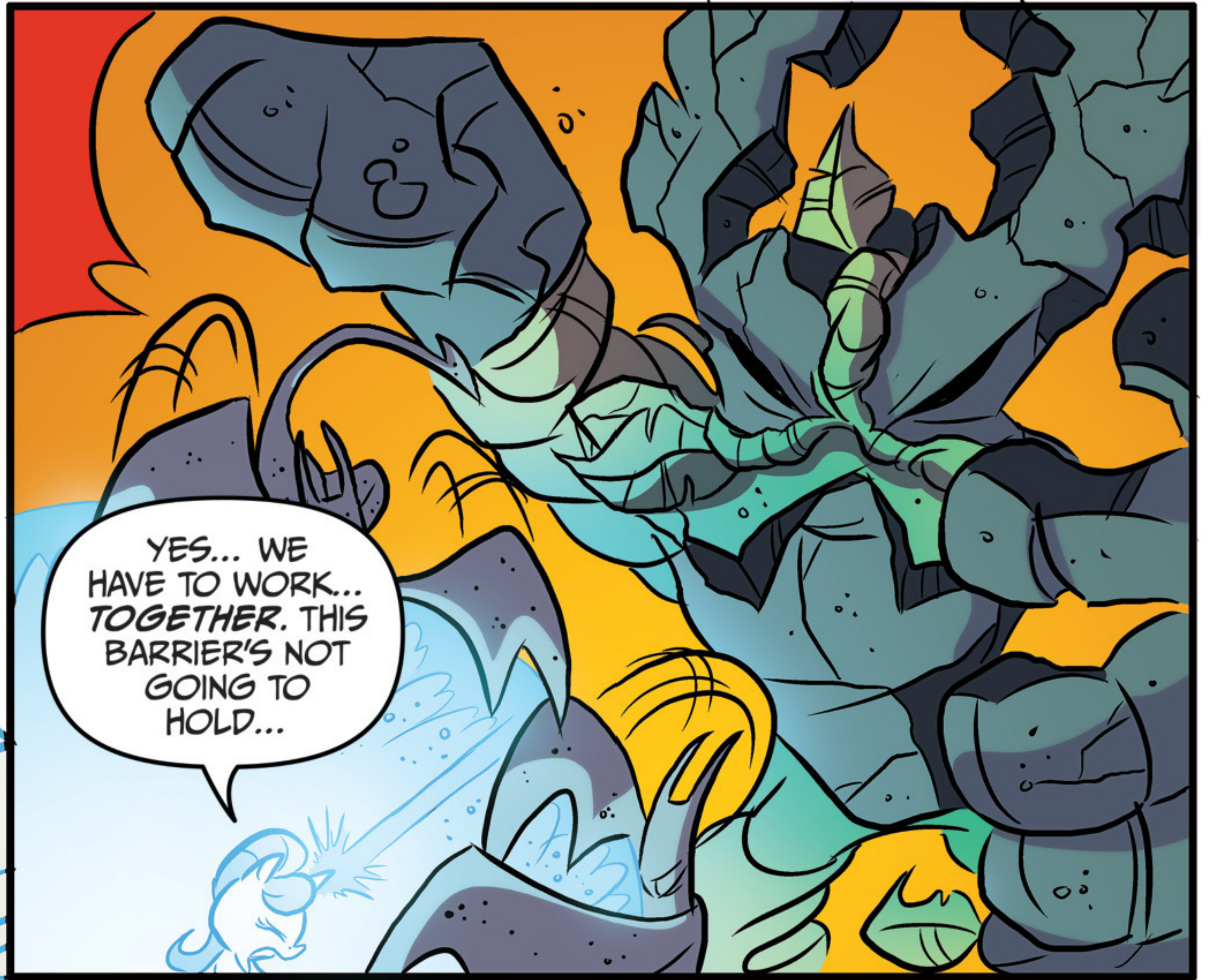








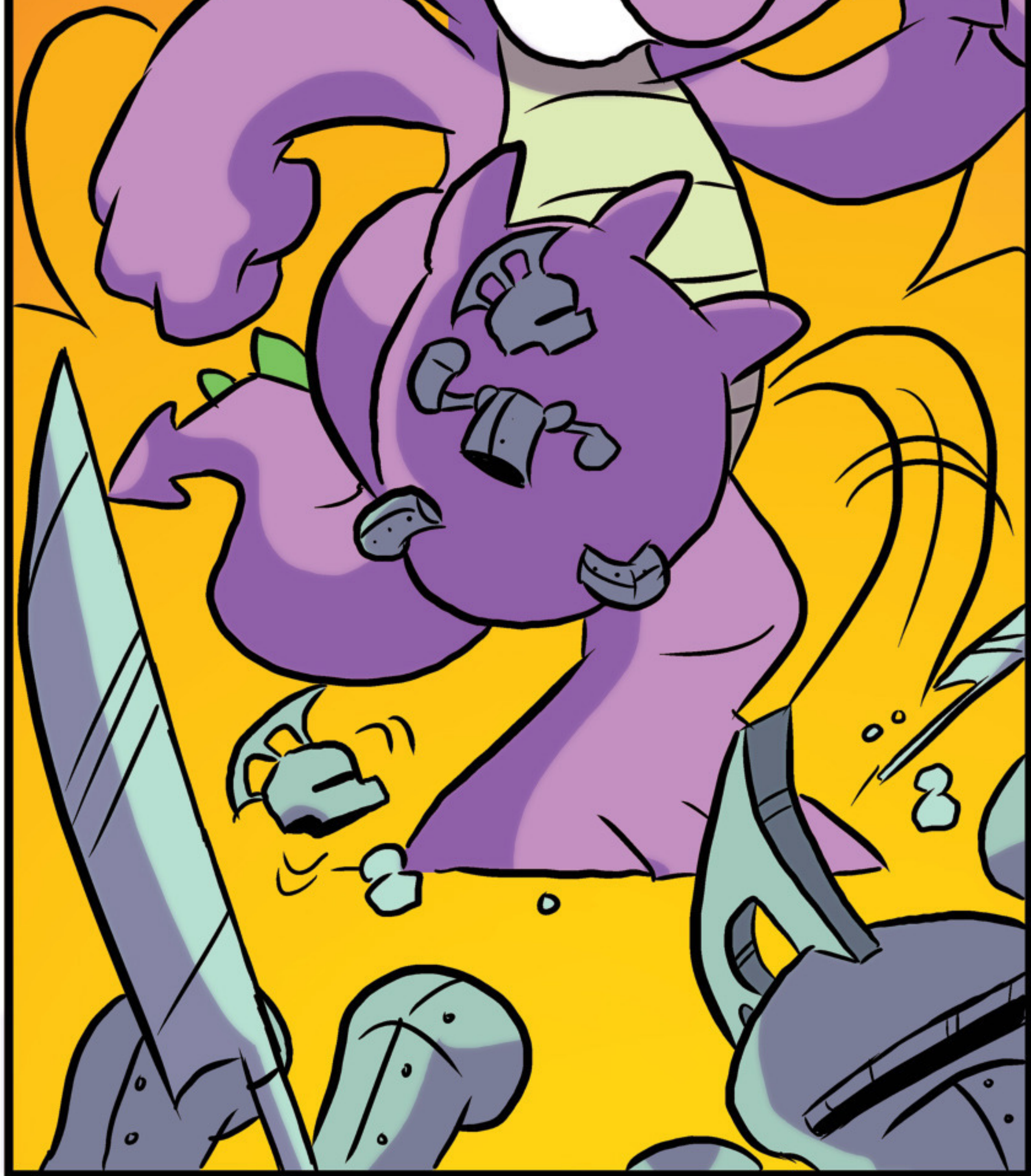


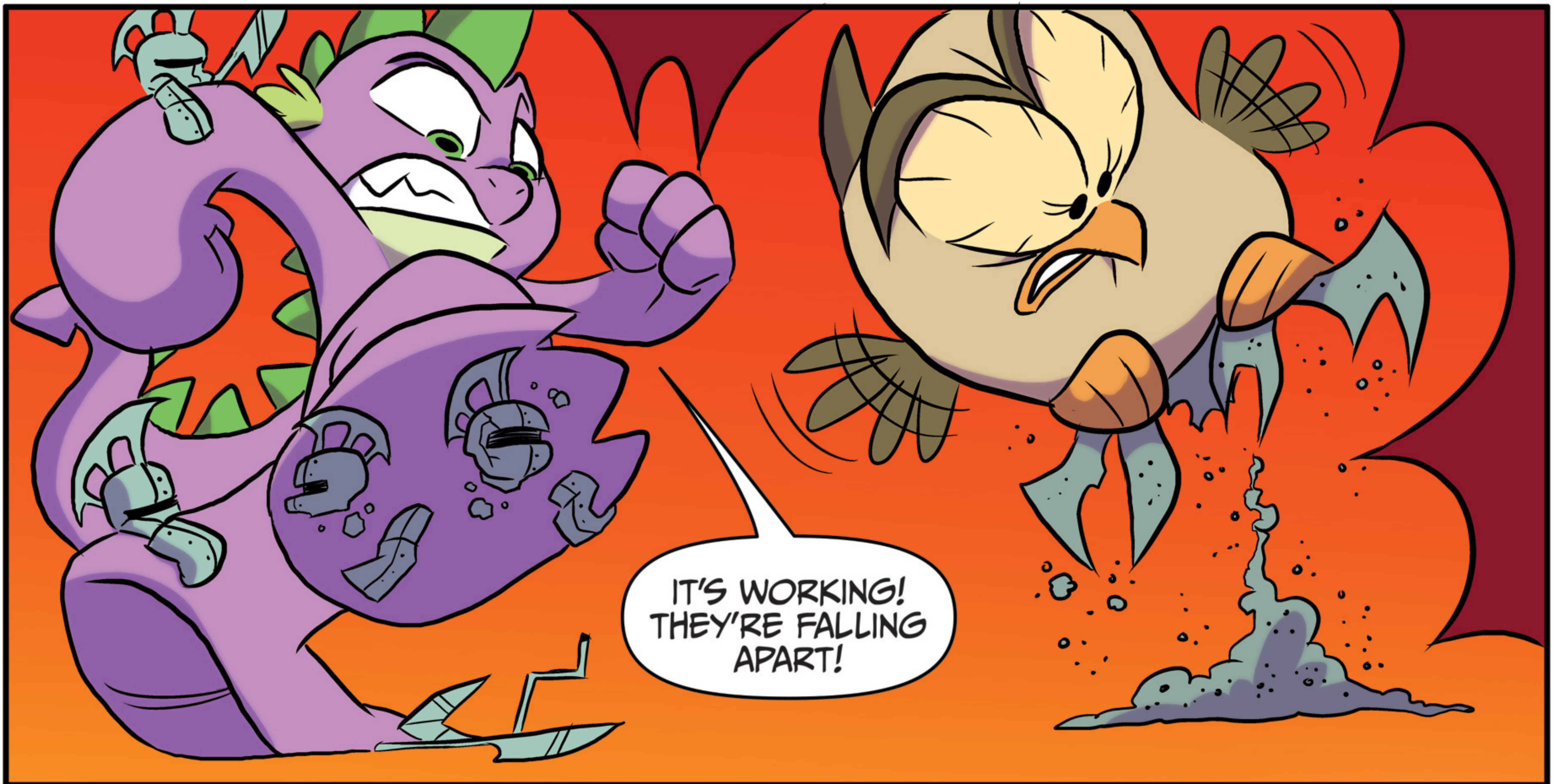


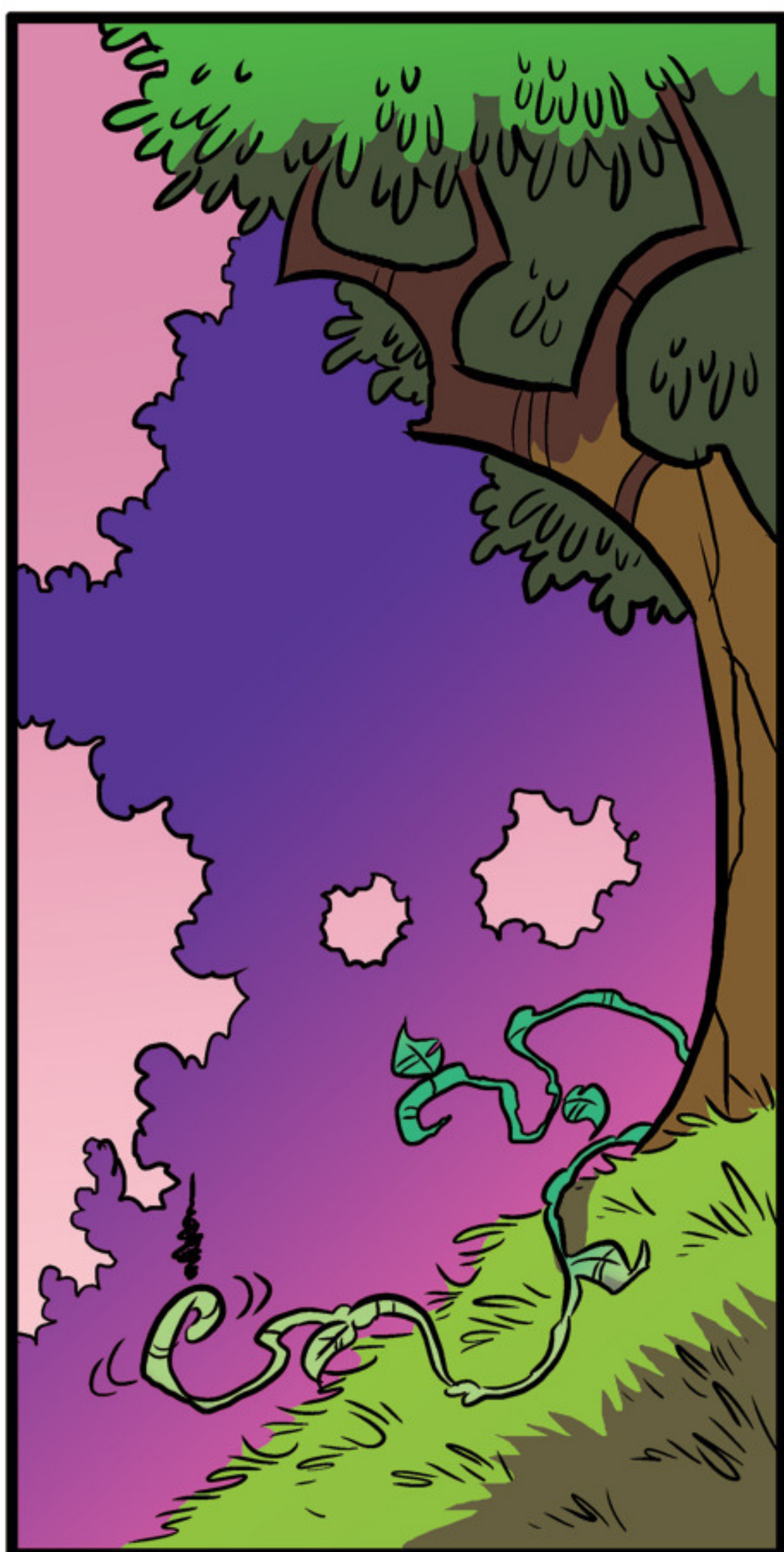
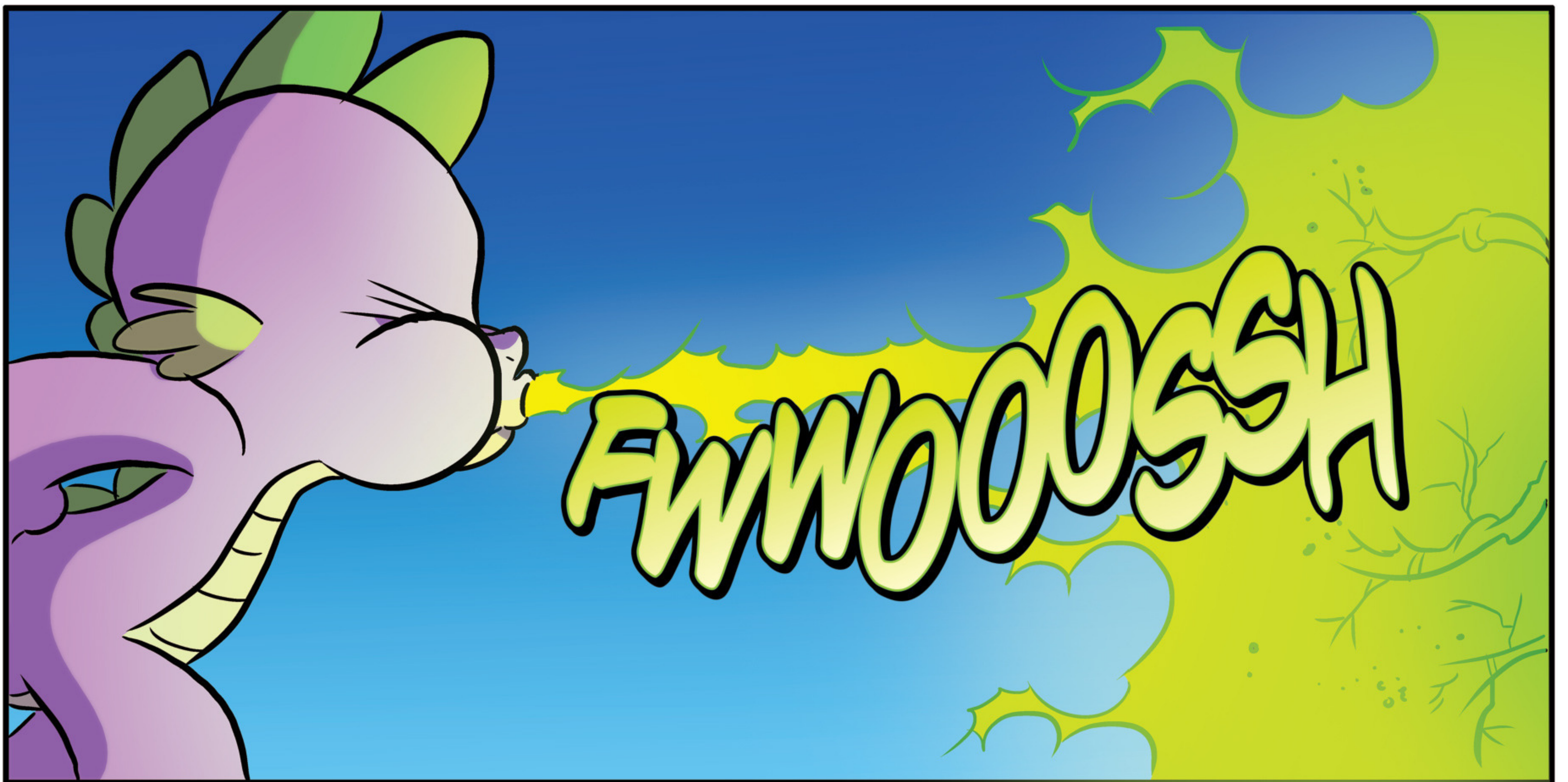
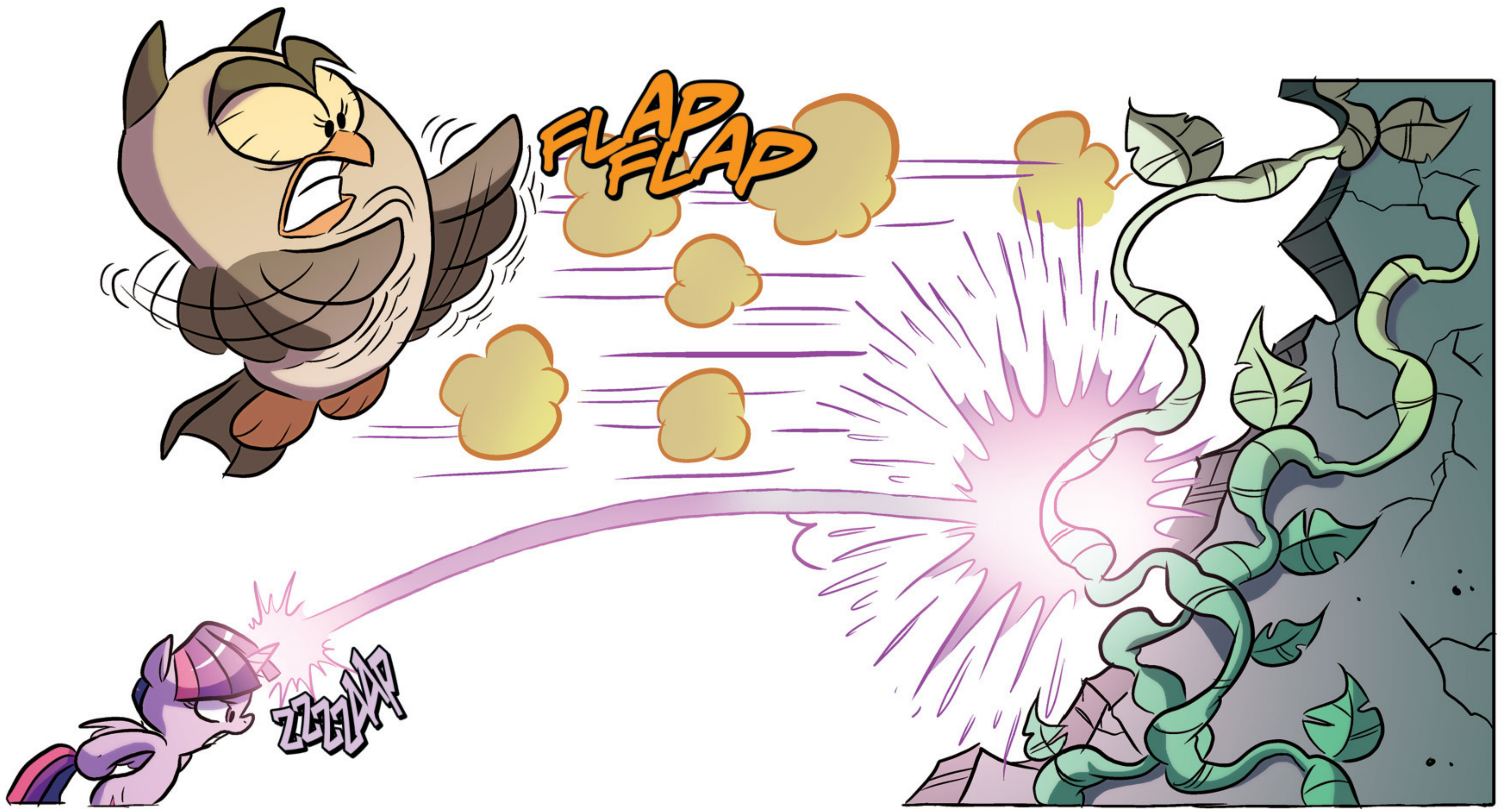


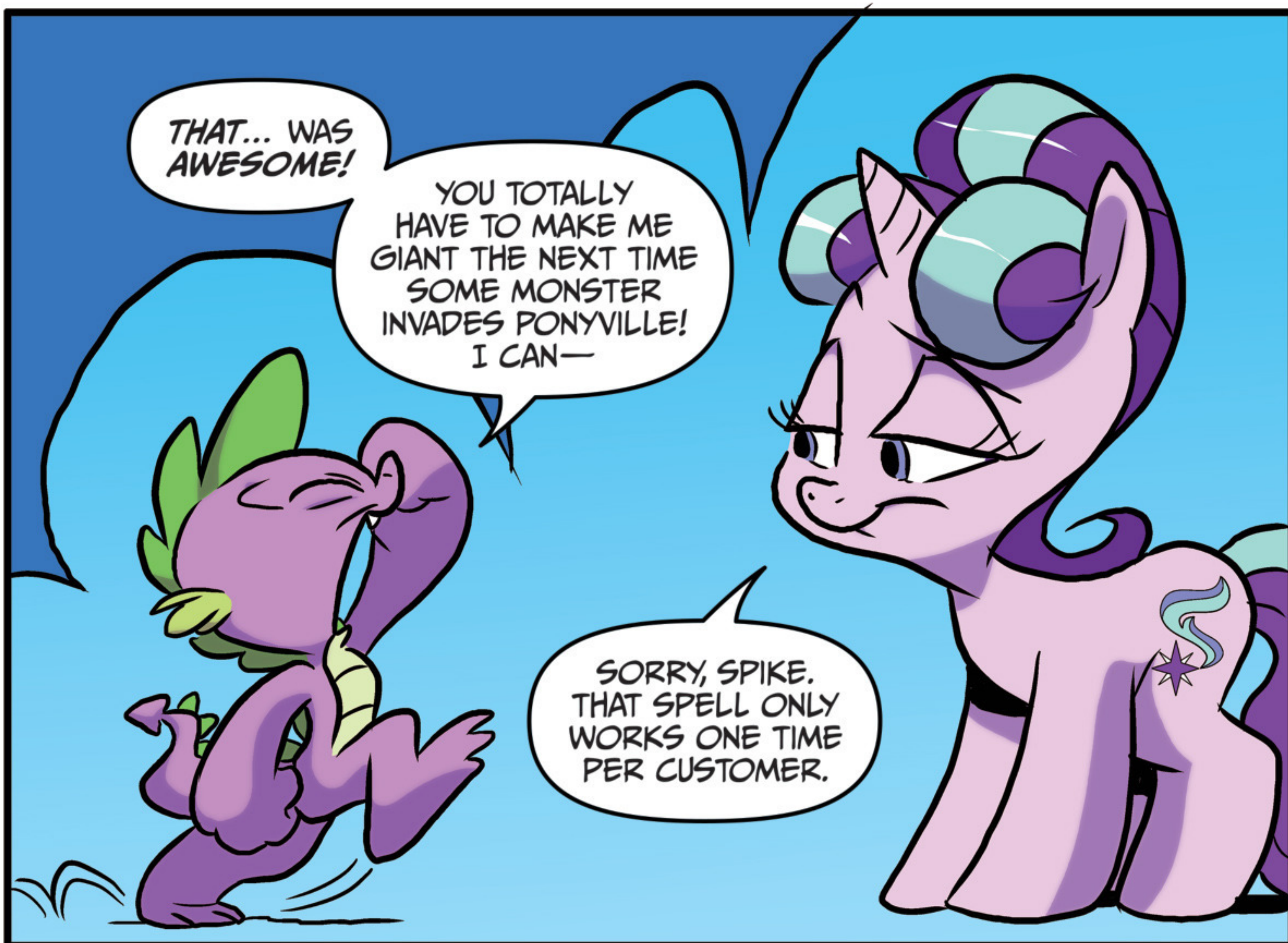
YES!

WHOA...









THAT... WAS AWESOME!

YOU TOTALLY HAVE TO MAKE ME GIANT THE NEXT TIME SOME MONSTER INVADES PONYVILLE! I CAN—

SORRY, SPIKE. THAT SPELL ONLY WORKS ONE TIME PER CUSTOMER.

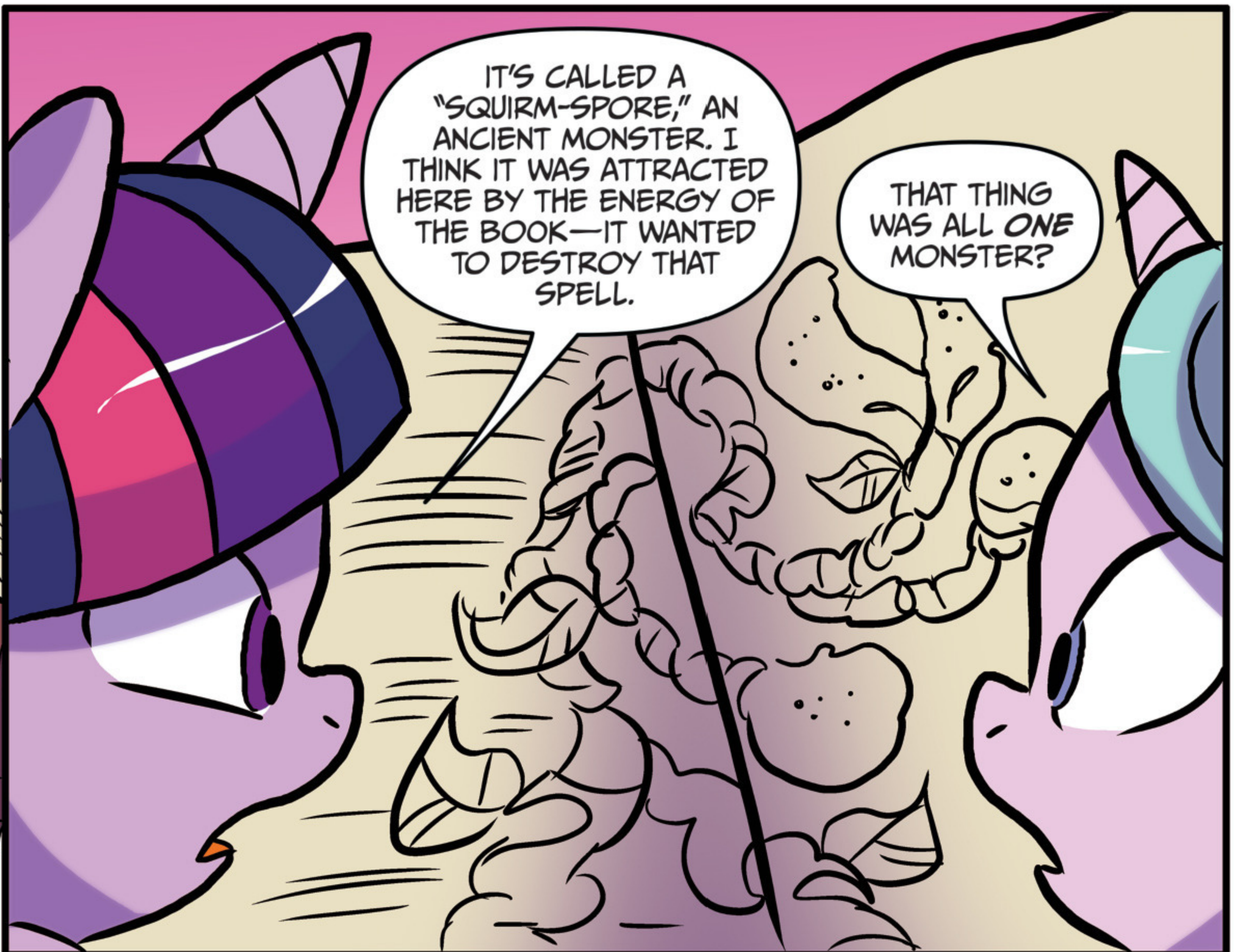


AWWW! RARITY WASN'T EVEN HERE TO SEE IT!

ALTHOUGH I GUESS THAT OTHER TIME I TURNED GIANT, I KIND OF KIDNAPPED HER...



IT LOOKS LIKE THIS FEROCIOUS FLORA BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY STAR SWIRL THE BEARDED. NO WONDER THAT INCANTATION SOUNDED SO FAMILIAR.



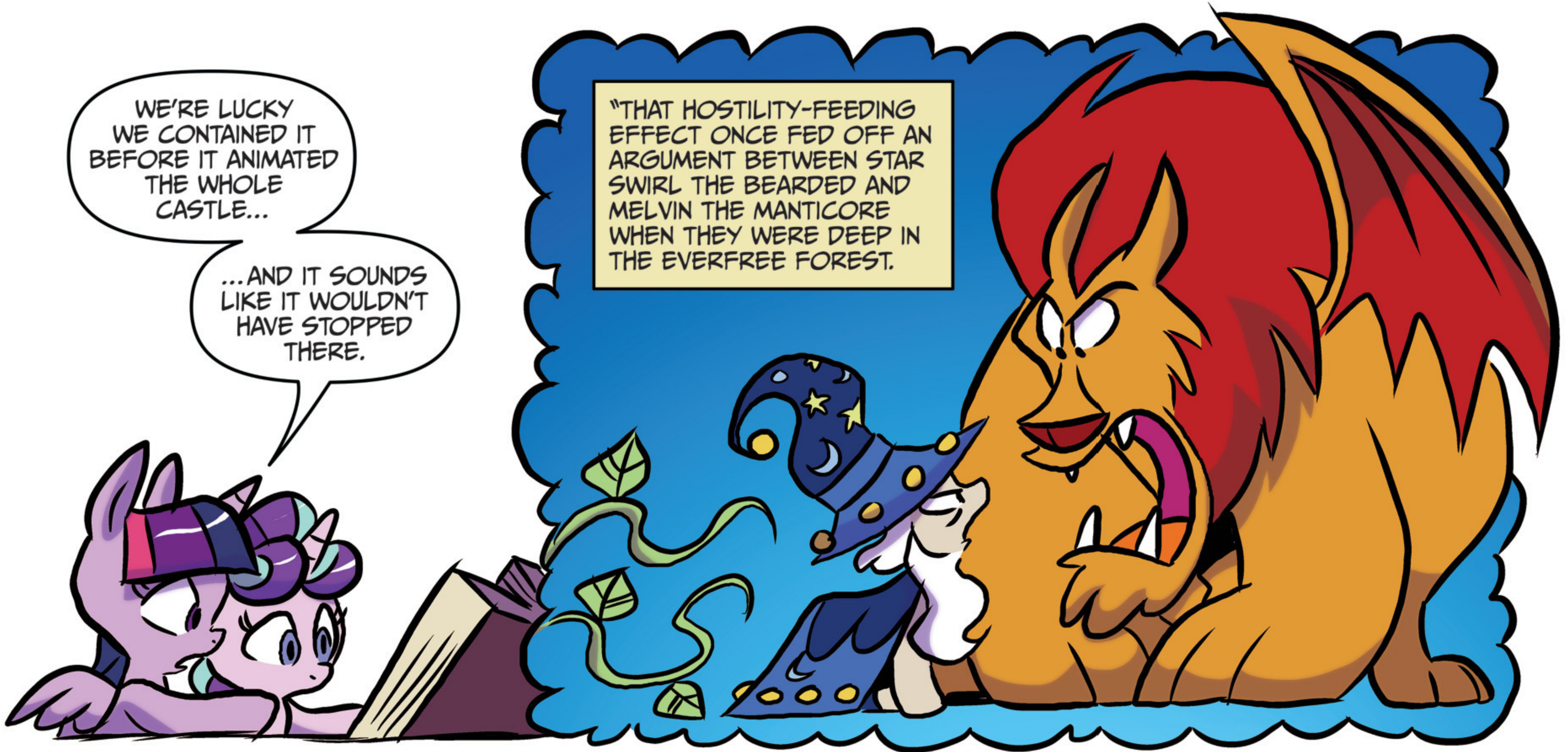
IT'S CALLED A "SQUIRM-SPORE," AN ANCIENT MONSTER. I THINK IT WAS ATTRACTED HERE BY THE ENERGY OF THE BOOK—IT WANTED TO DESTROY THAT SPELL.

THAT THING WAS ALL ONE MONSTER?



YEP, IT'S A "HIVE-MIND" CREATURE. IT MAINLY LIVES IN A VINE-LIKE FORM AND ITS SPORES CAN INVADE THE LUNGS OF PONIES CAUSING... UH... AGITATED BEHAVIOR. THOUGH I GUESS IT JUST MAKES DRAGONS SNEEZE.

THEN IT FEEDS ON THE NEGATIVE EMOTIONS IT CAUSES.

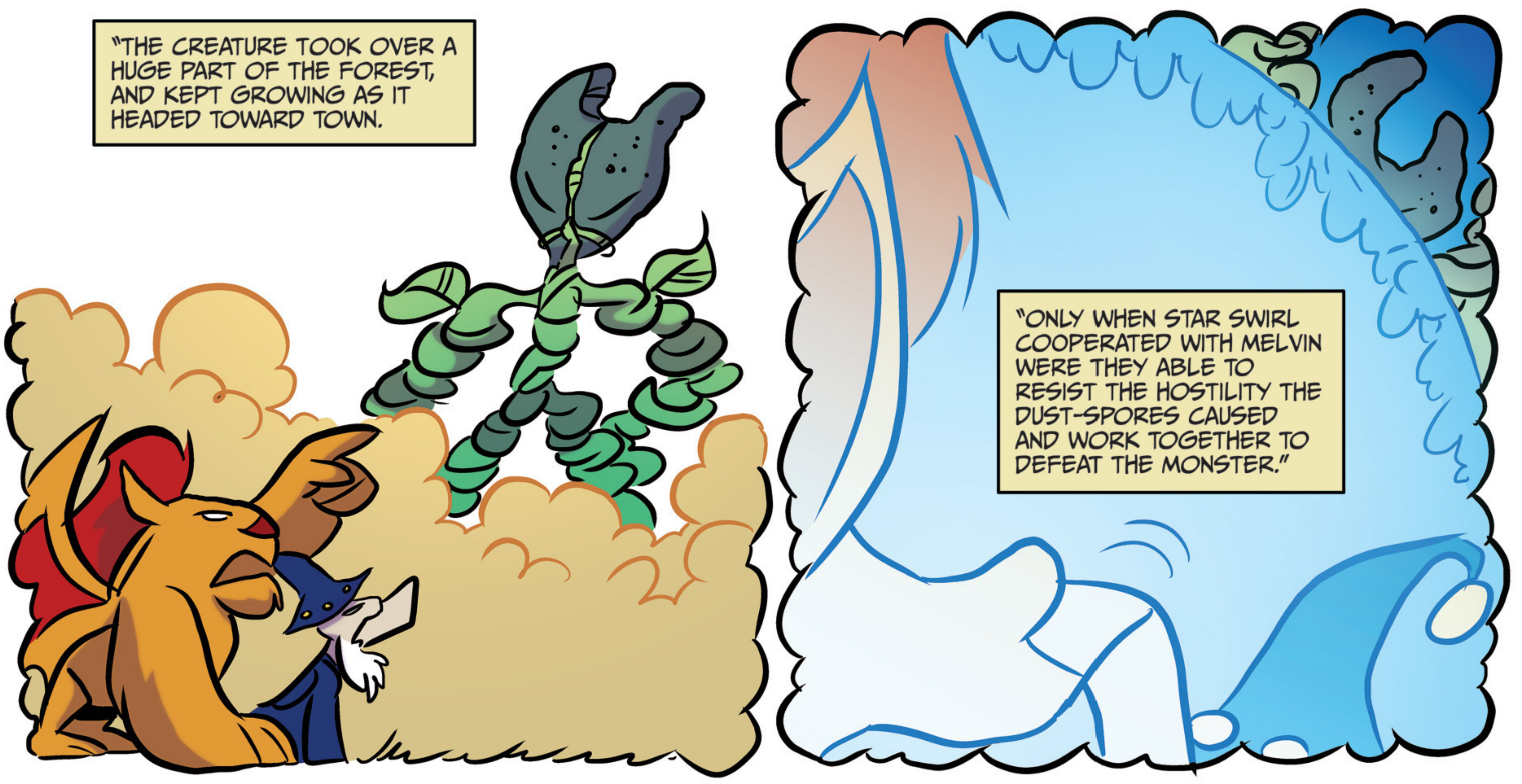


WE'RE LUCKY WE CONTAINED IT BEFORE IT ANIMATED THE WHOLE CASTLE...

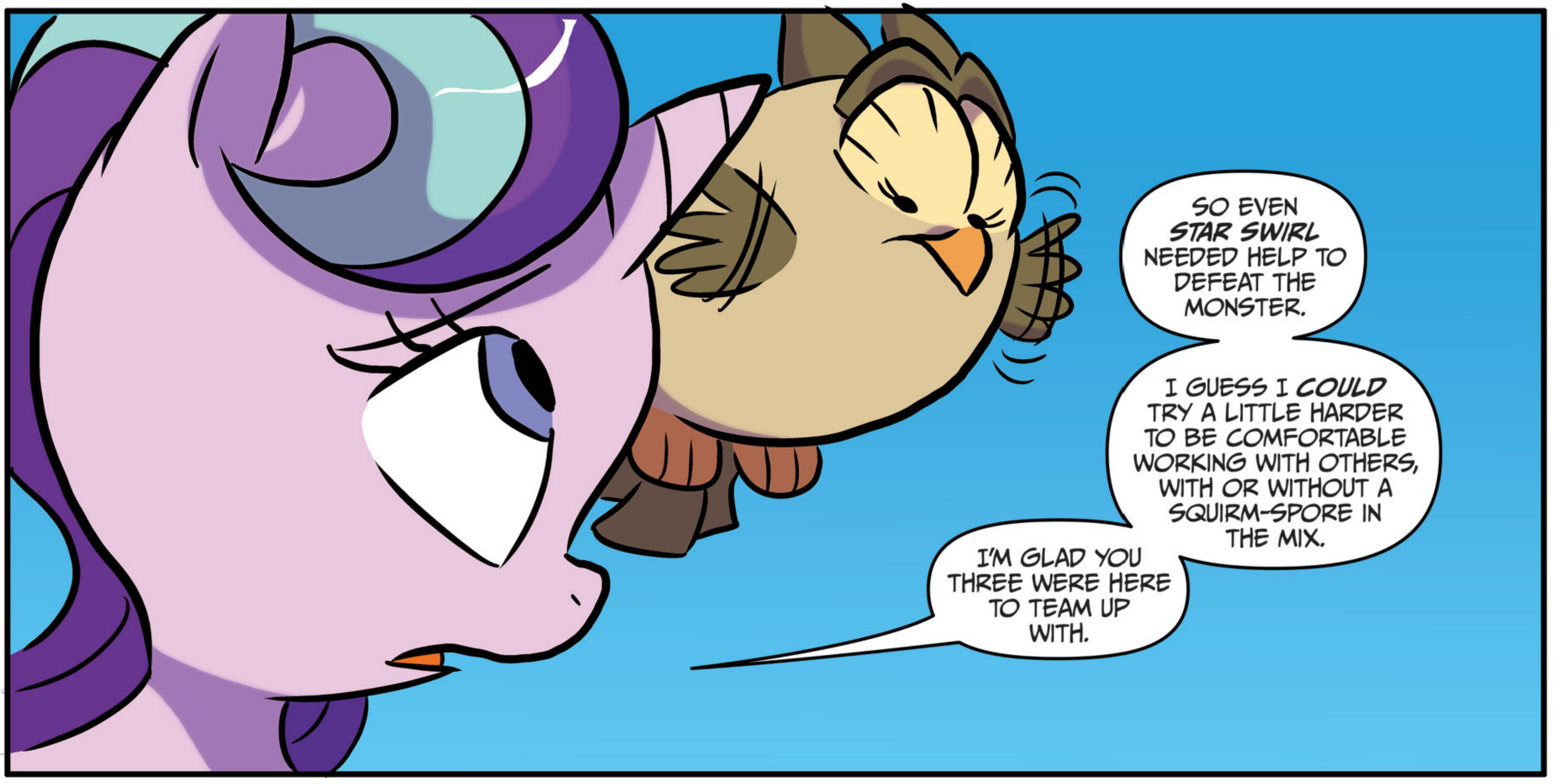
...AND IT SOUNDS LIKE IT WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED THERE.

"THAT HOSTILITY-FEEDING EFFECT ONCE FED OFF AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN STAR SWIRL THE BEARDED AND MELVIN THE MANTICORE WHEN THEY WERE DEEP IN THE EVERFREE FOREST.

"THE CREATURE TOOK OVER A HUGE PART OF THE FOREST, AND KEPT GROWING AS IT HEADED TOWARD TOWN.



"ONLY WHEN STAR SWIRL COOPERATED WITH MELVIN WERE THEY ABLE TO RESIST THE HOSTILITY THE DUST-SPORES CAUSED AND WORK TOGETHER TO DEFEAT THE MONSTER."



SO EVEN *STAR SWIRL* NEEDED HELP TO DEFEAT THE MONSTER.

I GUESS I *COULD* TRY A LITTLE HARDER TO BE COMFORTABLE WORKING WITH OTHERS, WITH OR WITHOUT A SQUIRM-SPORE IN THE MIX.

I'M GLAD YOU THREE WERE HERE TO TEAM UP WITH.



I'M GLAD YOU WERE HERE, TOO! YOUR MAGIC SKILLS ARE AMAZING...

...AND WITHOUT THAT CRAZY "GIANT" SPELL YOU CAME UP WITH, I NEVER WOULD'VE HAD TIME TO STUDY THE BOOK!

DID I MENTION "GIANT" EQUALS AWESOME?



I GUESS I'VE BEEN PUTTING A LOT OF PRESSURE ON MYSELF—ON BOTH OF US—TRYING TO HAVE ALL THE RIGHT CHECKLISTS AND ANSWERS TO BE THE BEST FRIENDSHIP TEACHER EVER.

BUT EVEN STAR SWIRL DIDN'T ALWAYS KNOW EVERYTHING.



YOU ARE A GREAT TEACHER! MAYBE WE CAN STILL LEARN FROM EACH OTHER IN SOME AREAS—LIKE MAGIC—BUT I WANT TO KEEP LEARNING FROM YOU WHEN IT COMES TO FRIENDSHIP... MAYBE WITH A BREAK ONCE IN WHILE...

AND I'M THINKING THAT FLORA BOOK NEEDS TO GO INTO THE BUNDLE FOR CELESTIA, SO IT CAN END UP ON THE SECURE STAR SWIRL SHELF IN THE CANTERLOT LIBRARY!

I FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE "THOUGHTFUL GIFT-GIVING" FIGURED OUT, STARLIGHT. WE CAN CROSS THAT ONE OFF THE CHECKLIST!



SO MAYBE WE CAN GET BACK TO SORTING THE BOOKS—BY AGE. SOME OF THESE OLD SPELLS ARE POWERFUL!



AND WITHOUT ALL THOSE VINES AND OTHER DISTRACTIONS...

...WE CAN WORK MUCH FASTER NOW, TOGETHER!

THE END.

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

by Ted Adams

To celebrate the return of *Locke & Key* with this month's "Small World," I'm devoting this month's column to a conversation with the book's creators—**Joe Hill** and **Gabriel Rodriguez**.

TA: Joe, as the comic book adapter of Richard Matheson's *The Shrinking Man*, I have to ask if his novel influenced "Small World."

JH: Probably 80% of everything I've ever written has been influenced by Richard Matheson—"Locke & Key: Small World" being no exception. He is, to horror fiction, what Chuck Berry is to rock and roll. Foundational. People won't have to look hard to see the connection between *The Shrinking Man* and "Small World." It's in almost every panel of the last dozen pages.

TA: Gabe, we just saw each other at New York Comic Con where you told me you were very happy with the work you're doing on "Small World." You've literally never done a piece of art that I haven't loved and I'm curious about what makes this feel different for you?

GR: Ah, well, thanks for the support as I try hard, 'cause I'm sure there's still A LOT for me to learn about drawing comics yet... But yes, as we talked about in New York, I feel more in control of what I'm doing than ever before. Applying all I've learned in the projects we did after finishing *Locke & Key* (*Onyx*, *Little Nemo*, and *Tales From The Darkside*) in this new book.

I'm very proud about what we achieved in the original series with the designs, worldbuilding and storytelling, but I always felt that the drawings themselves were hit or miss from what I had in my head. I have to admit, in "Small World," I'm feeling more comfortable and inspired than ever in the process of bringing the story to flesh. Hopefully the experience is paying off after drawing comics almost non-stop for about 15 years... And beyond that, I think most of it comes from the joy that it is returning to this amazing world and lovely characters in the company of my amazing teammates: Joe, the best there is at writing comics, Jay and his magic color touch, and the great editorial team from IDW!

TA: Joe, it's no secret you're writing the pilot script for a *Locke & Key* TV show that will be produced by IDW Entertainment. What's it like adapting your own work from one medium to another?

JH: It's been so, so much fun. Some of the fun is going back home to Keyhouse and these characters that I love so much. Some of the fun is in recharging and refreshing the narrative. The story is often very faithful to the original material; but at key moments I've broken off in new directions; tossed out old ideas, characters, and

moments; and invented new ones. The spirit of the comic is there in every scene, but I've also made some important changes, to keep fans of the books off balance.

TA: I want a cookie jar that's modeled after Bode's open head from *Locke & Key: Head Games* and a Lego version of Key House. What's your dream *Locke & Key* merchandise?

JH: Oh, man, a Head Games cookie jar... that would be great! We gotta get Skelton Crew Studios on that.

I've been spoiled by all the great Skelton Crew merchandise for *Locke & Key*. I'd be ashamed to want anymore... if I could feel shame, that is! But since I can't, I'll say I'd love a working Music Box that I could activate with a music key.

And, obviously, a Lego Keyhouse is the dream.

TA: Any future plans for *L&K* comics?

GR: OH, YES. We've been discussing—since the original *Locke & Key* run—several ideas and characters we want to explore. We're already working in a set of short stories around the family of Chamberlin Locke that will complete a seventh *L&K* volume, but it will not stop there. We feel that Keyhouse is still asking us for more revisits, and the Locke family has grown in several branches that offer us chances for amazing stories.

And that's the **Key** point (pun!) in this situation: as long as we feel we're not 'exploiting a brand', as we think there are still worthy, fun stories to tell, we'll find a way to return to Lovecraft, Massachusetts. So we have already plotted the backbone of a new saga that hopefully will be as entertaining and meaningful for us as the previous one, so now it's just about finding the right time for all of us to do it. And hopefully it'll be sooner than later.

JH: I'll add to what Gabe said with a couple tentative thoughts. So, yeah, we've mapped out a plan for a new six book cycle, called *World War Key*... a whole new 37 issue epic. But it's one thing to imagine it, and plan it, and another to actually do it. Even now, I'm not sure if it'll ever happen, or if it'll remain hypothetical.

But as Gabe said, there will be another *Locke & Key* book... *Locke & Key: The Golden Age*. "Small World" is a Golden Age story. So is "Grindhouse" and "Open the Moon." And there'll be three or four more, eventually. Golden Age would be a kind of interlude, not part of *Locke & Key: The Phantom Menace* and not part of *World War Key*.

Oh did I ever mention this? The original series, that began with *Welcome to Lovecraft* and ended with *Alpha & Omega*? That series title is actually *Locke & Key: The Phantom Menace*. Ted, when are we going to get around to reprinting the books to reflect that?

Ted? Ted? Why are you crying, Ted?

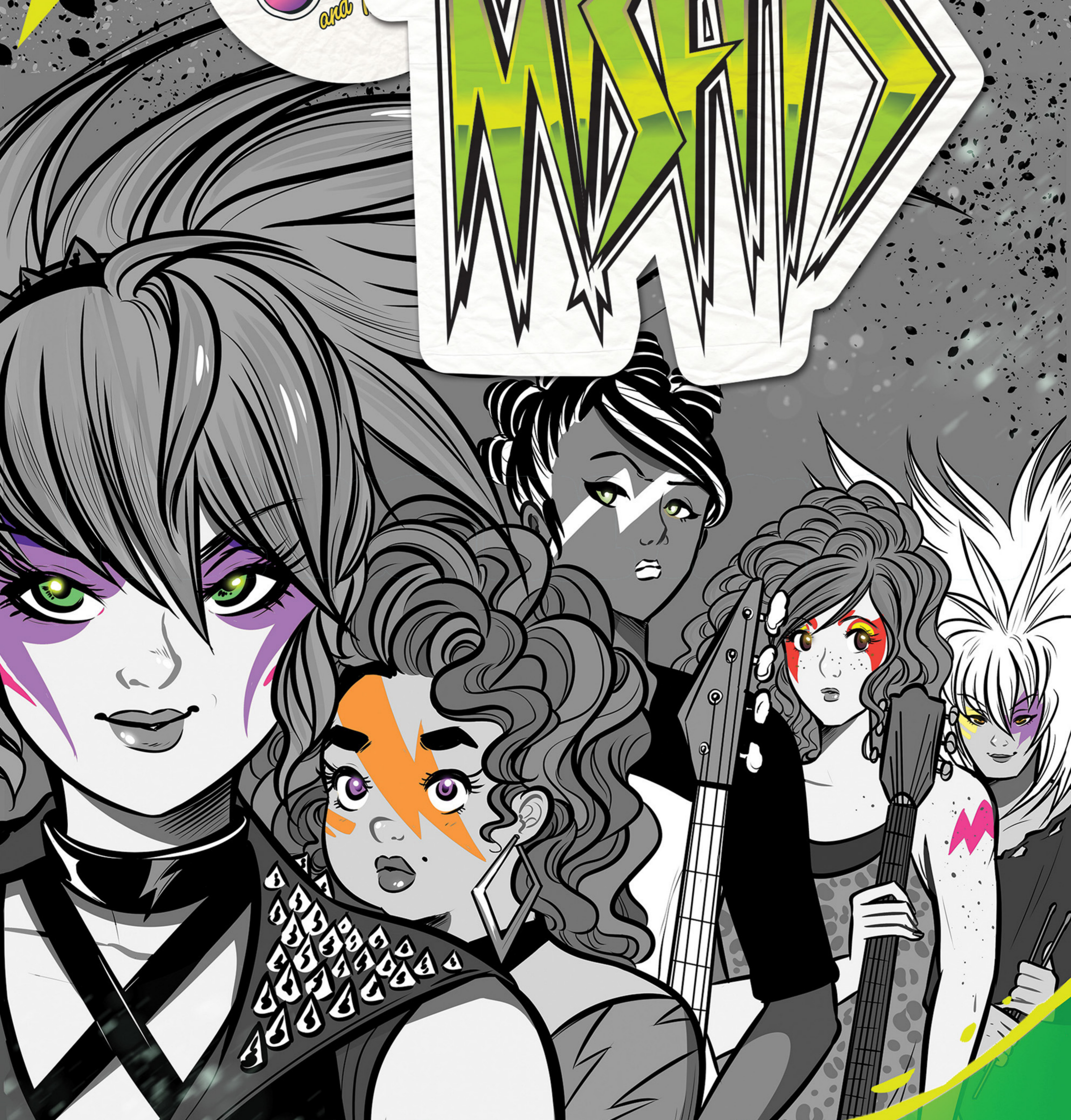
TA: Tears of joy, Joe! Wait a minute, I didn't hear anything after "a whole new 37 issue epic". Did I miss something...?

Thanks, guys. *Locke & Key: A Small World* is available this December with great covers by Gabe, C.P. Wilson III, and David Petersen. See you in 2017!



IDW
ISSUE

1



FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

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

Shoupe

THOMPSON ★ ST-ONGE ★ ROBADO



WRITTEN BY KELLY THOMPSON
ART BY JENN ST-ONGE
COLORS BY M. VICTORIA ROBADO

LETTERS BY SHAWN LEE
EDITORIAL ASSISTS BY CHRIS CERASI
EDITS BY SARAH GAYDOS
PUBLISHER TED ADAMS

Special thanks to John Barber; Hasbro's Andrea Hopelain, Elizabeth Malkin, Ed Lane, Beth Artale, and Michael Kelly for their invaluable assistance.

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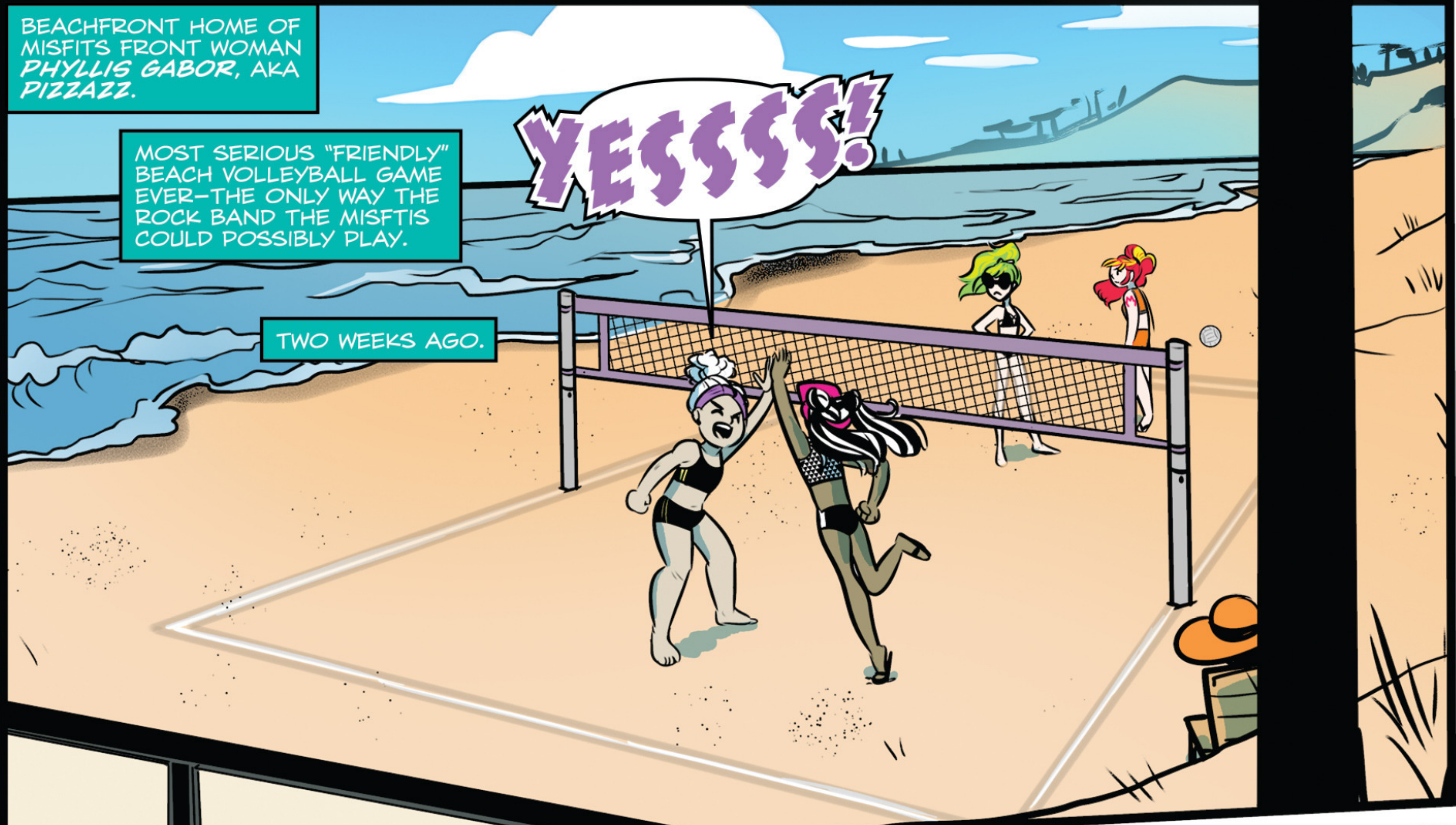
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BEACHFRONT HOME OF MISFITS FRONT WOMAN PHYLLIS GABOR, AKA PIZZAZZ.

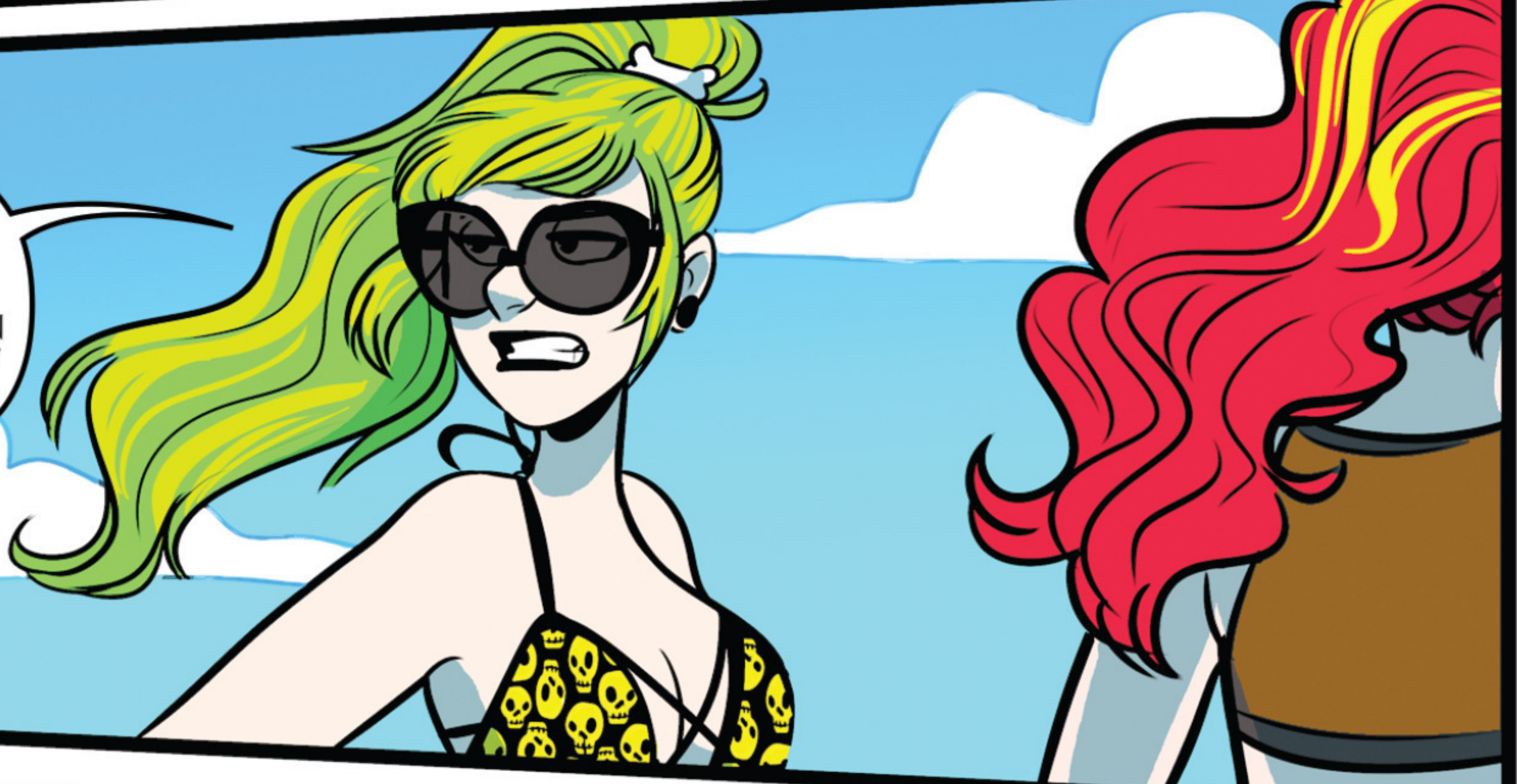
MOST SERIOUS "FRIENDLY" BEACH VOLLEYBALL GAME EVER—THE ONLY WAY THE ROCK BAND THE MISFTIS COULD POSSIBLY PLAY.

TWO WEEKS AGO.

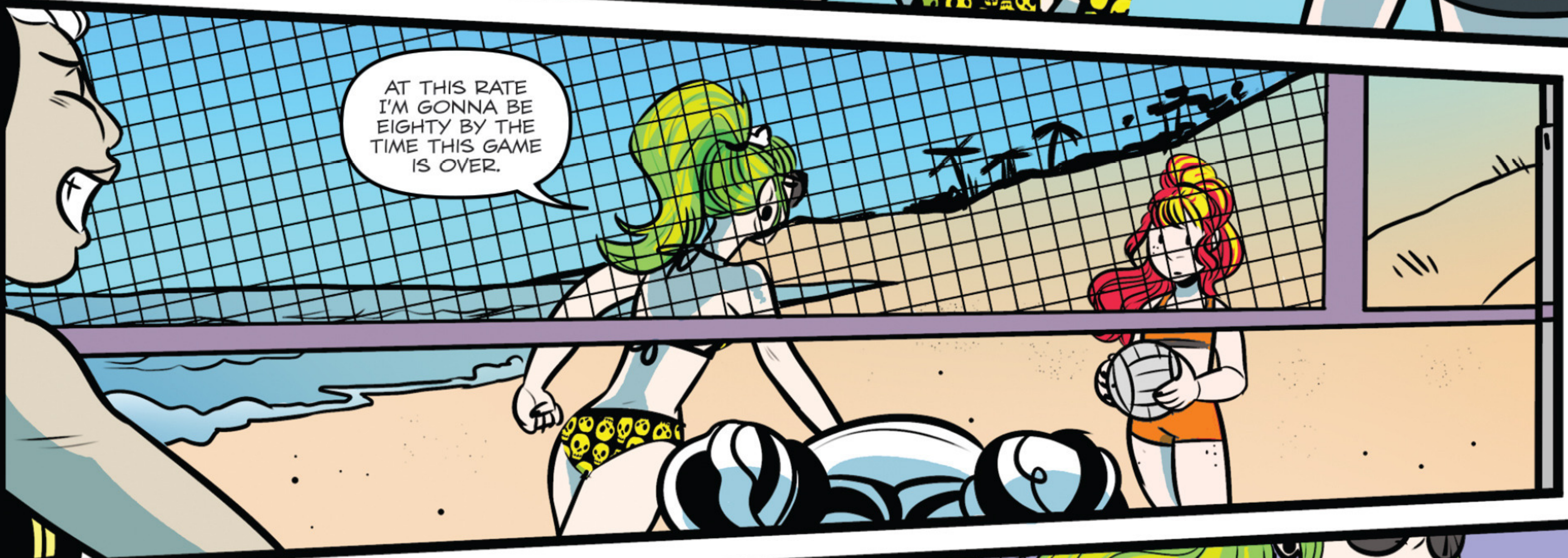
YESSSS!



IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU GUYS COULD CUT THE CELEBRATING BACK TO LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES EVERY TIME YOU SCORE A POINT.

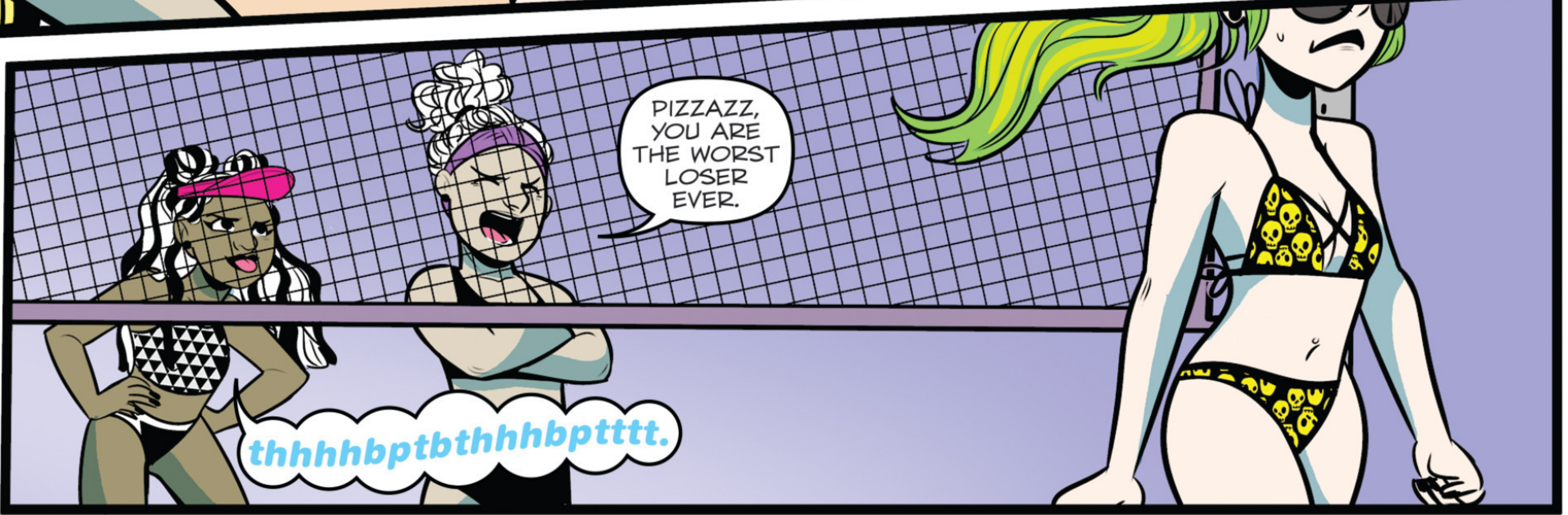


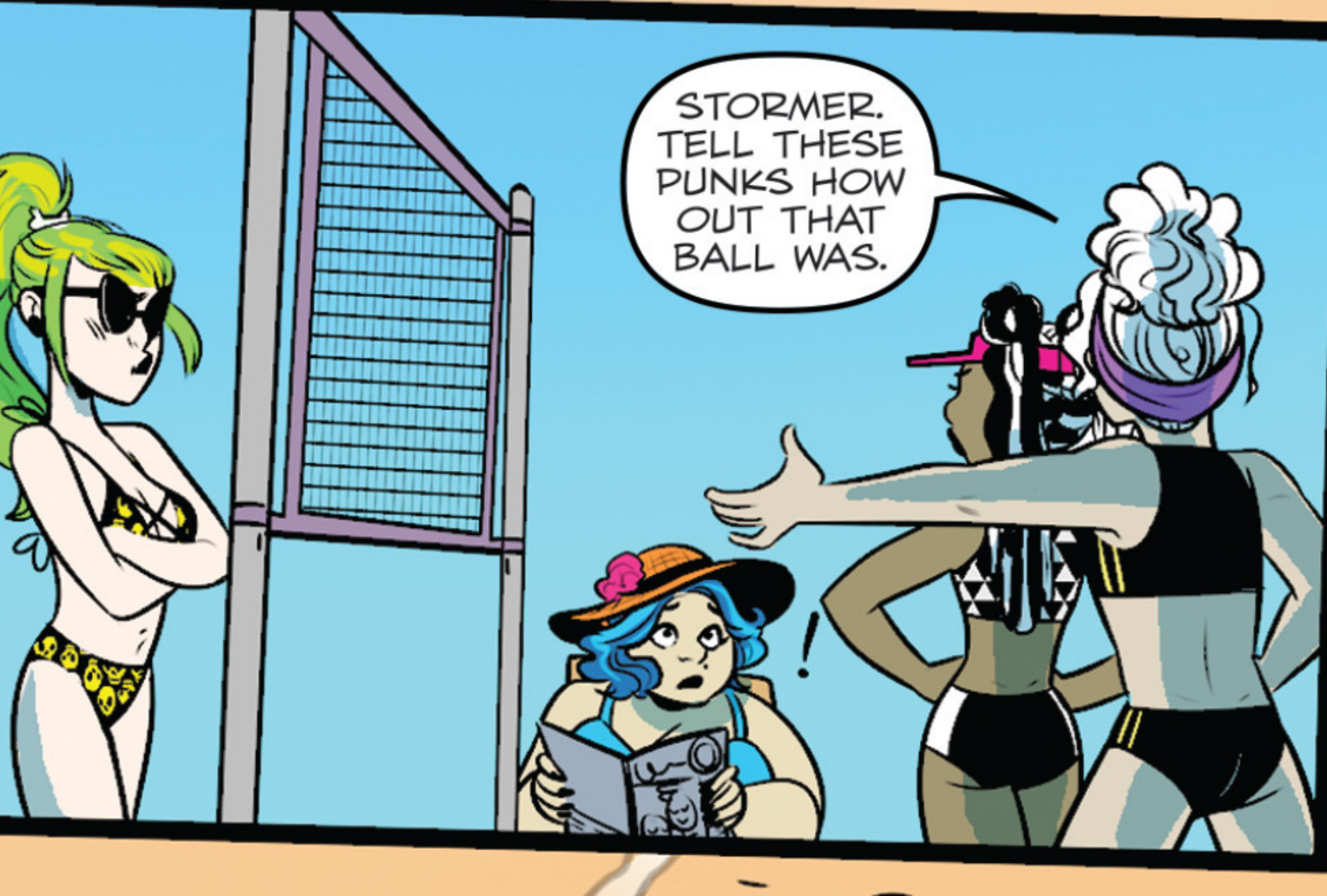
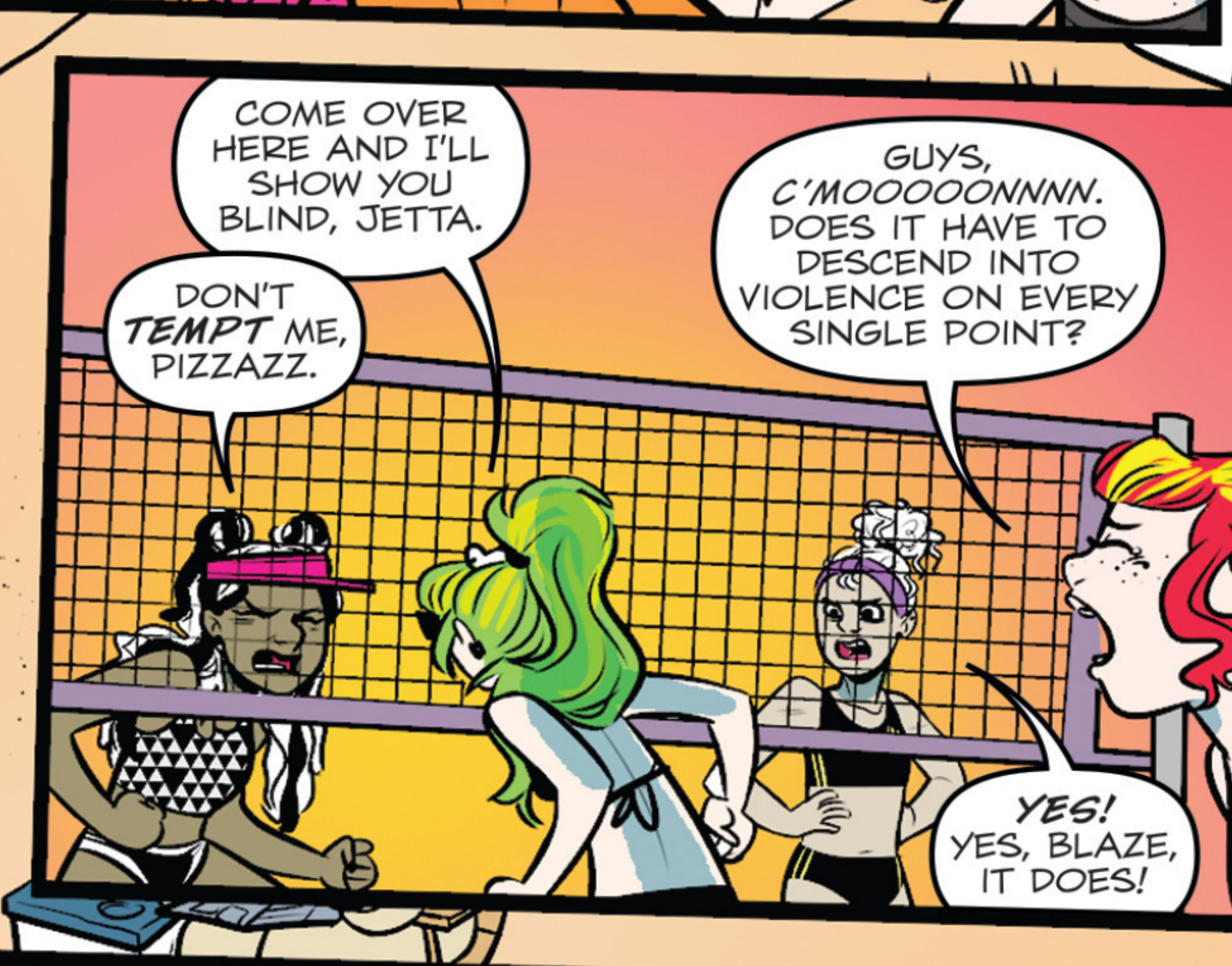
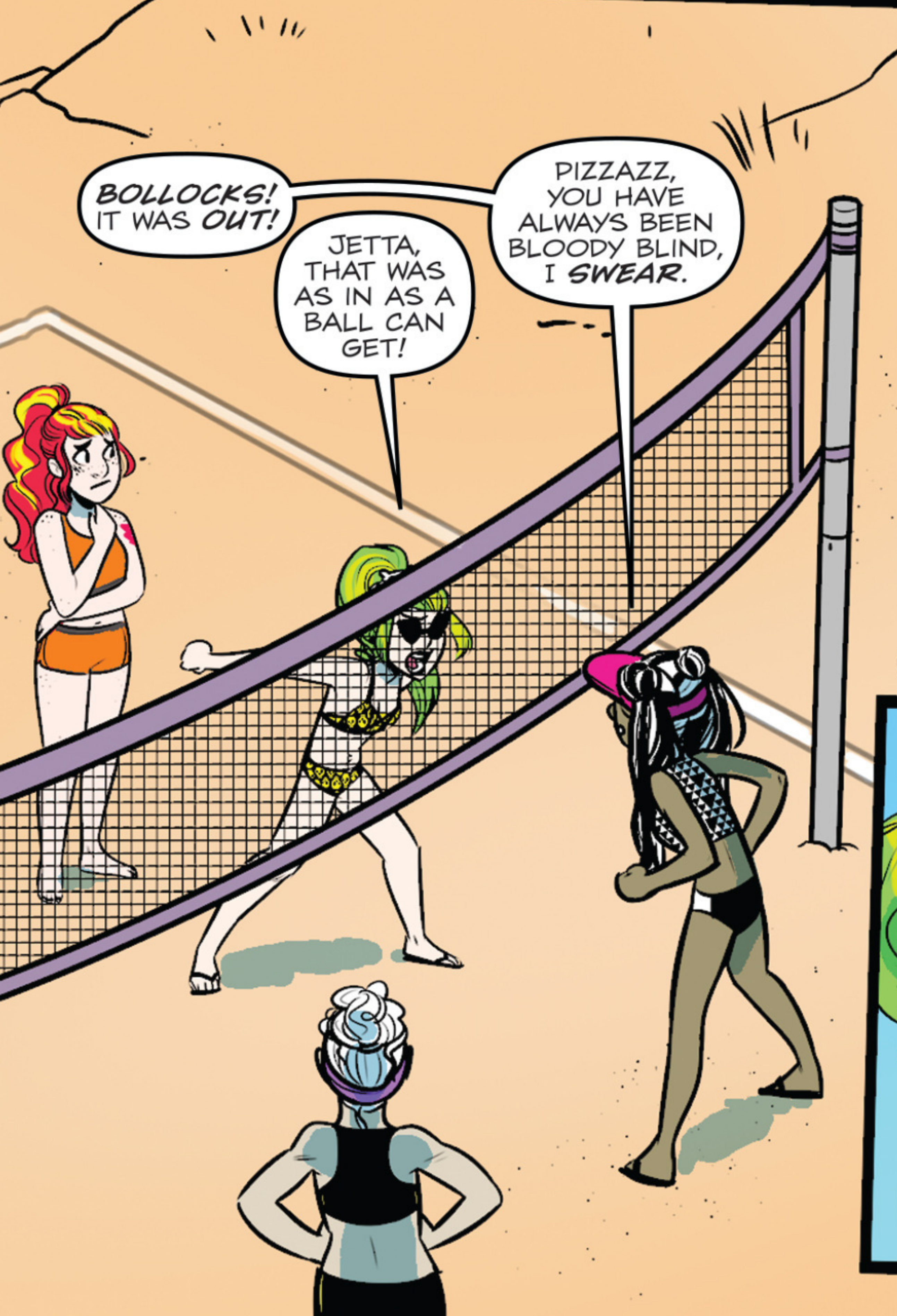
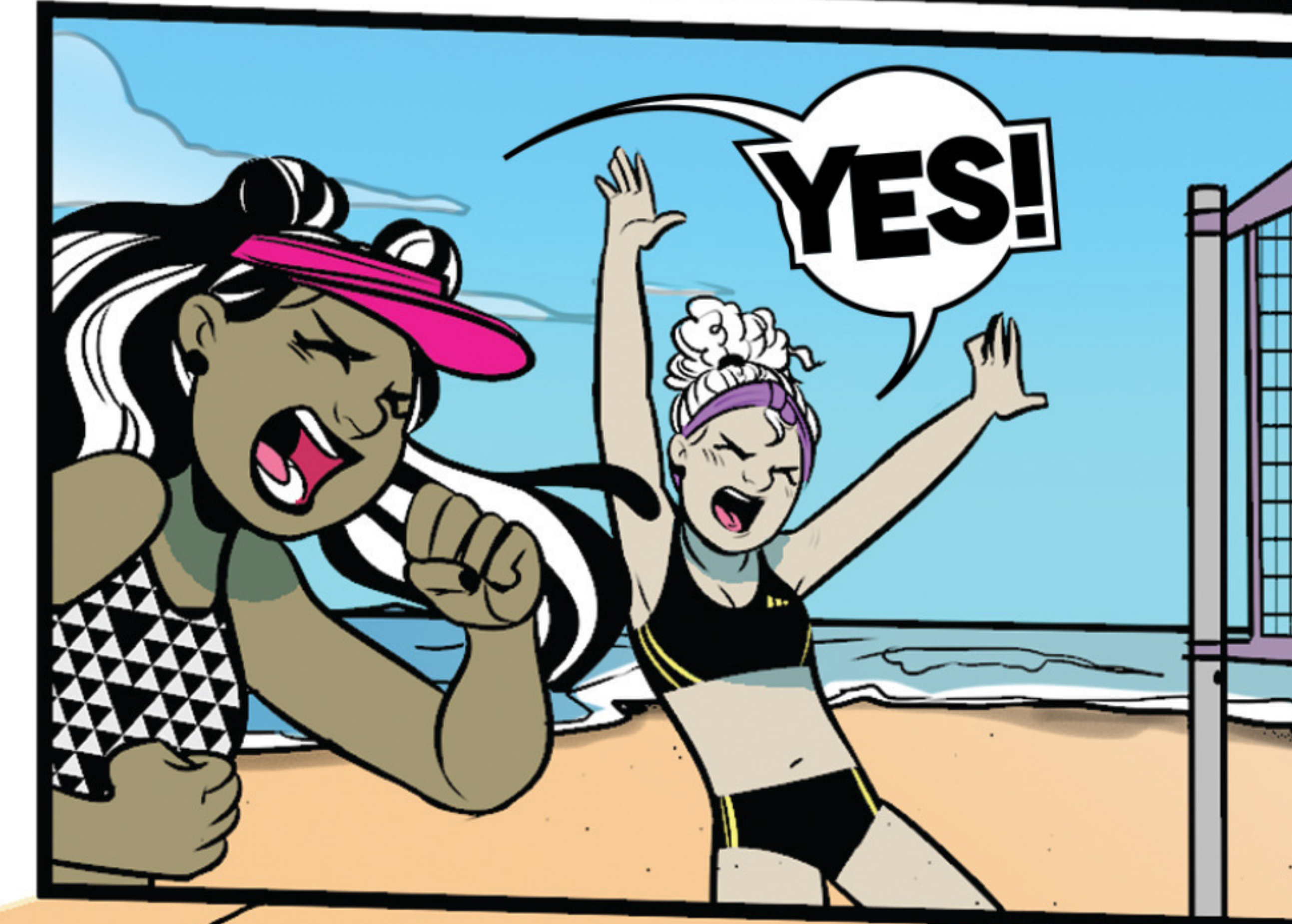
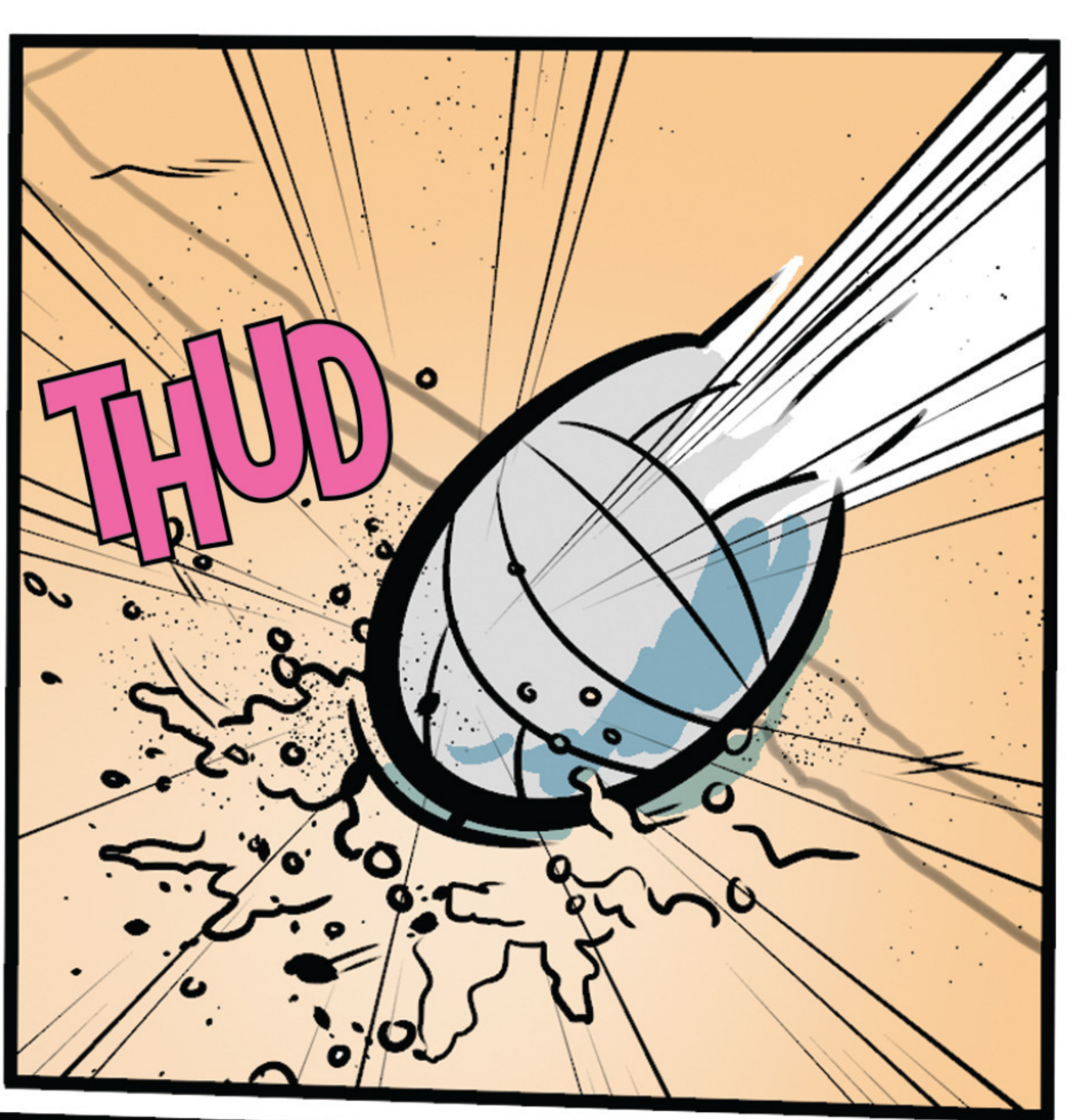
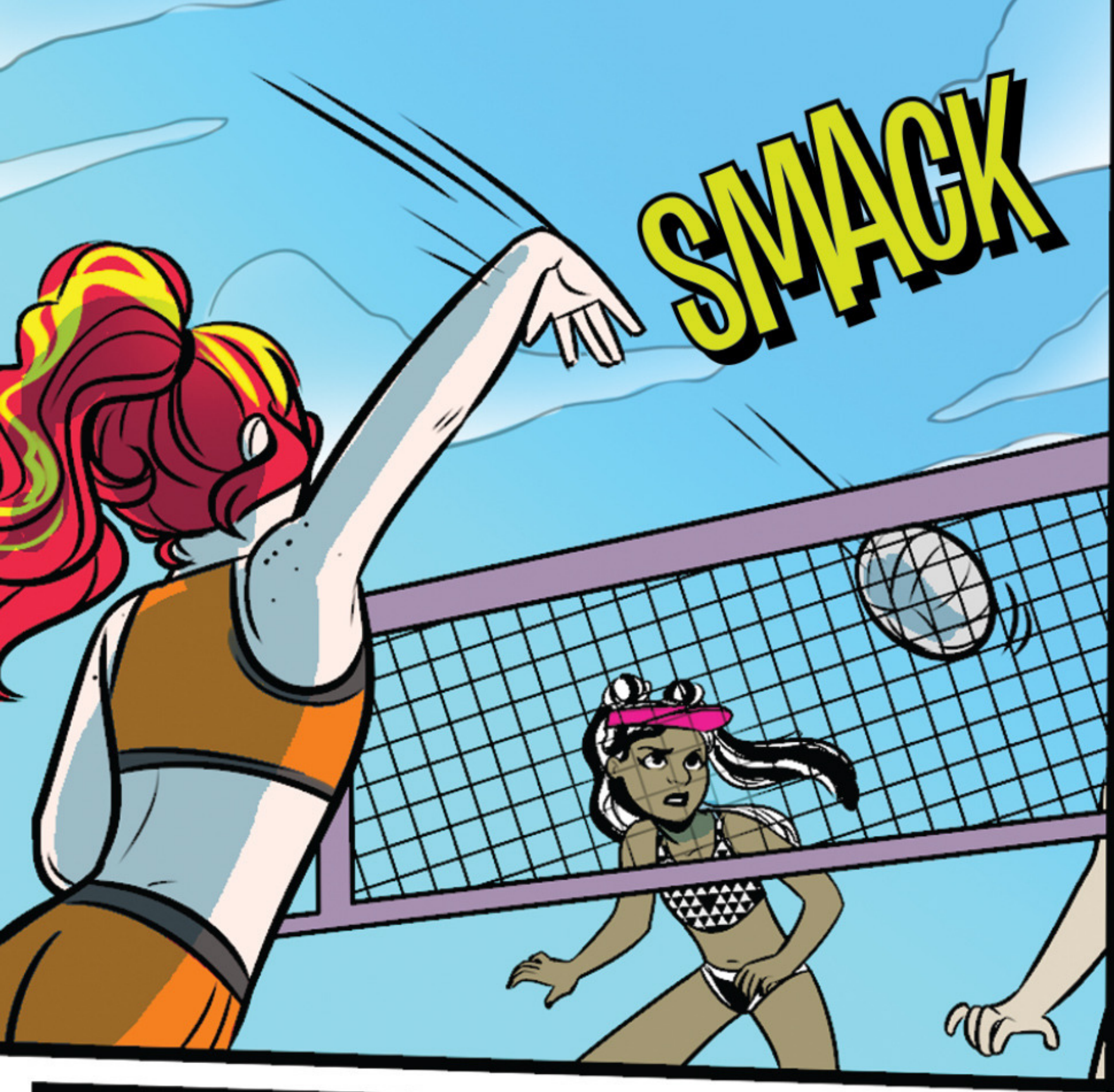
AT THIS RATE I'M GONNA BE EIGHTY BY THE TIME THIS GAME IS OVER.



PIZZAZZ, YOU ARE THE WORST LOSER EVER.

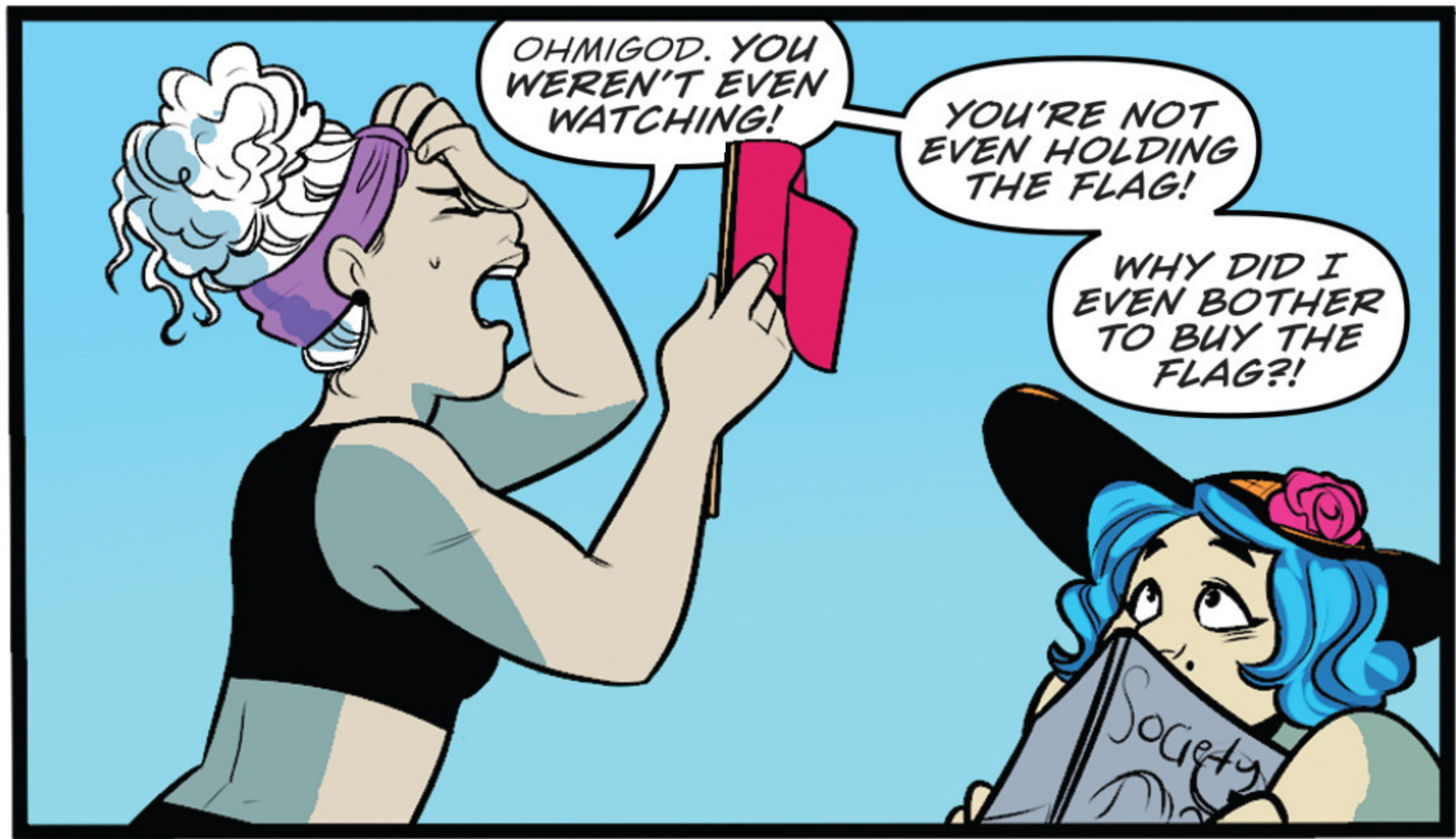
thhhhbptbthhhbpttt.







UM...



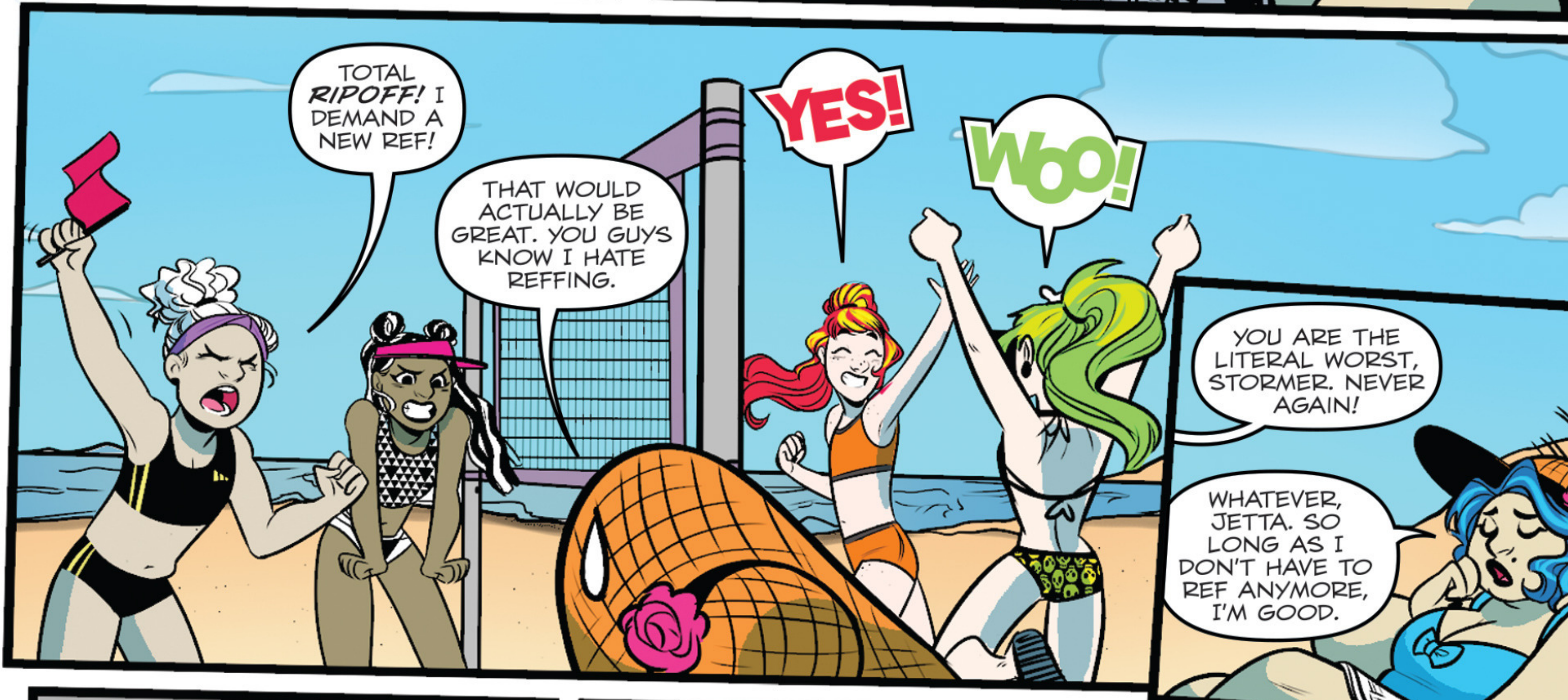
OHMIGOD. YOU WEREN'T EVEN WATCHING!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN HOLDING THE FLAG!

WHY DID I EVEN BOTHER TO BUY THE FLAG?!



I WAS. I DEFINITELY WAS WATCHING. IT WAS... IN?



TOTAL RIPOFF! I DEMAND A NEW REF!

THAT WOULD ACTUALLY BE GREAT. YOU GUYS KNOW I HATE REFFING.

YES!

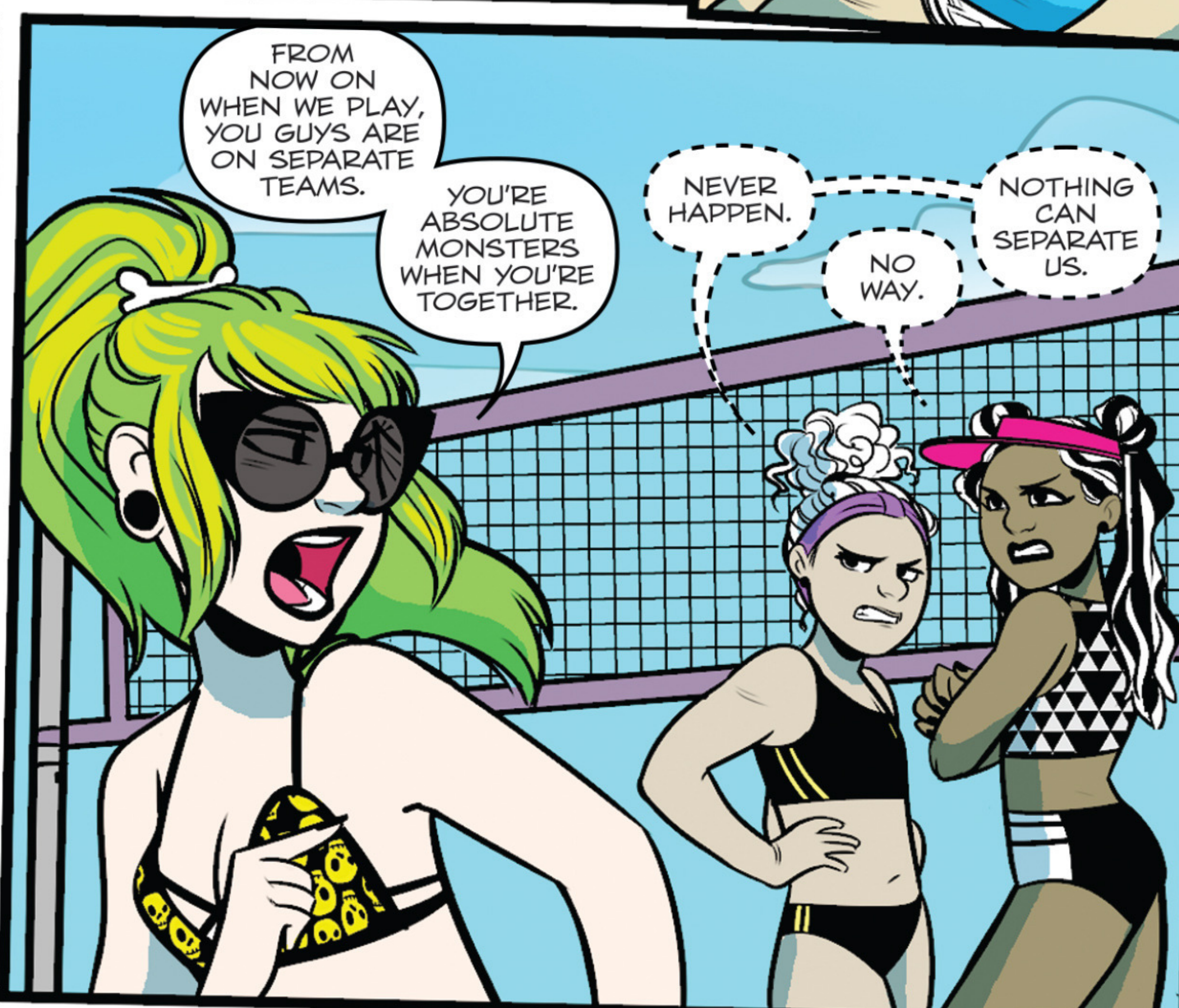
Woo!

YOU ARE THE LITERAL WORST, STORMER. NEVER AGAIN!

WHATEVER, JETTA. SO LONG AS I DON'T HAVE TO REF ANYMORE, I'M GOOD.



PIZZAZZ! ERIC'S HERE!



FROM NOW ON WHEN WE PLAY, YOU GUYS ARE ON SEPARATE TEAMS.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTE MONSTERS WHEN YOU'RE TOGETHER.

NEVER HAPPEN.

NO WAY.

NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US.



THANKS, CLASH.

YOU SHOULD GO DOWN AND SUB FOR ME.

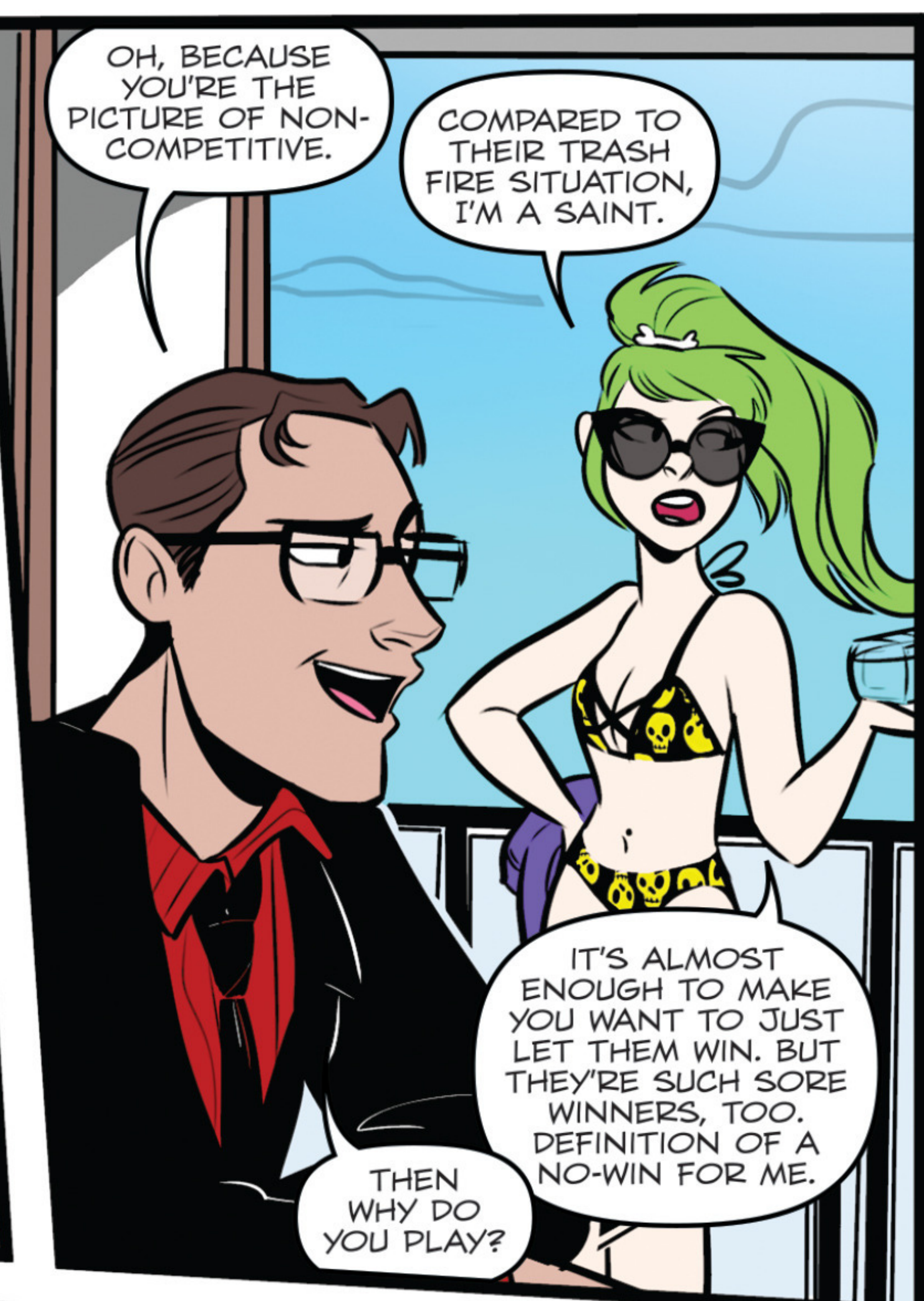
REALLY?

YEAH, KNOCK YOURSELF OUT.



GOOD GAME?

UGH. ROXY AND JETTA ARE A NIGHTMARE TO PLAY SPORTS WITH. SO COMPETITIVE.

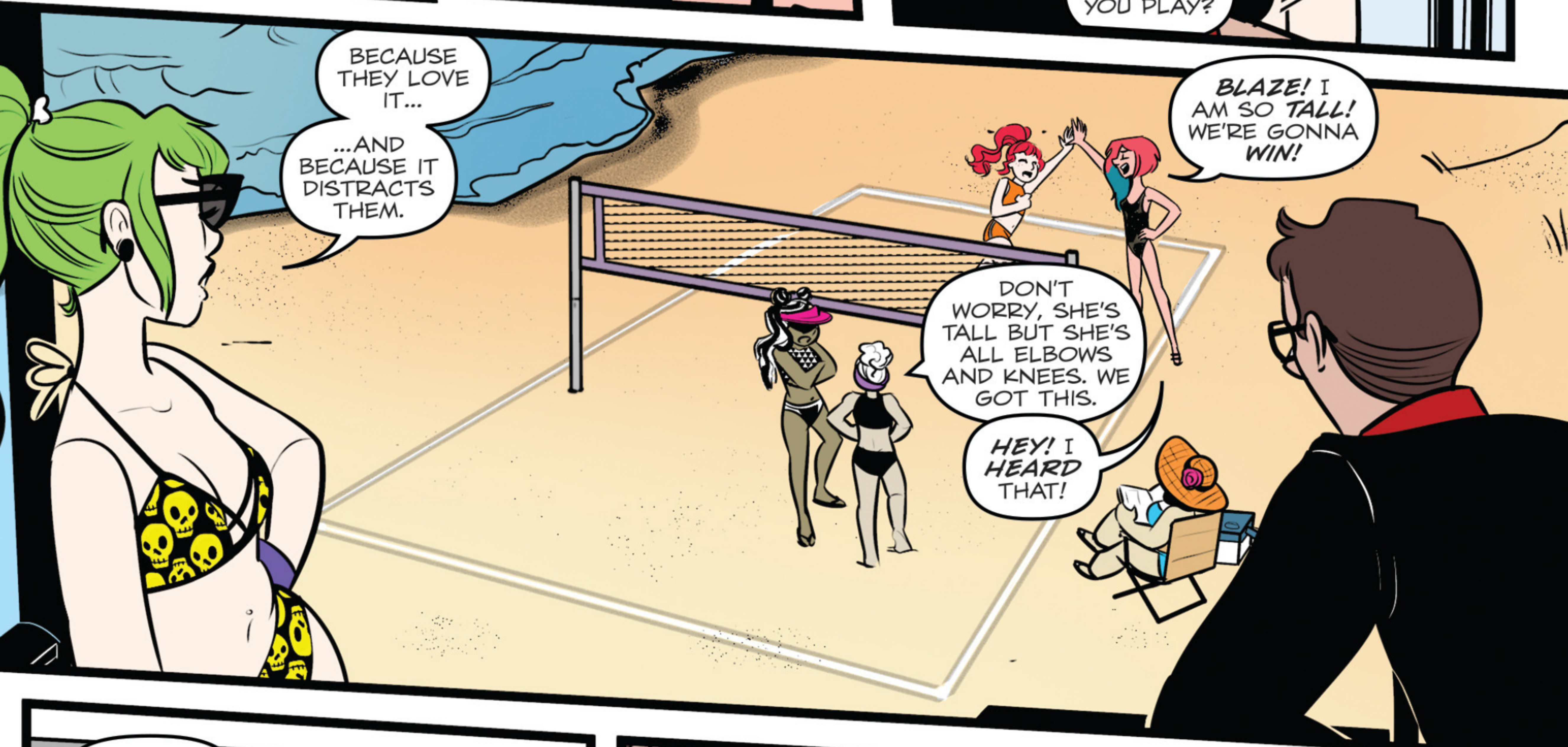


OH, BECAUSE YOU'RE THE PICTURE OF NON-COMPETITIVE.

COMPARED TO THEIR TRASH FIRE SITUATION, I'M A SAINT.

IT'S ALMOST ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU WANT TO JUST LET THEM WIN. BUT THEY'RE SUCH SORE WINNERS, TOO. DEFINITION OF A NO-WIN FOR ME.

THEN WHY DO YOU PLAY?



BECAUSE THEY LOVE IT...

...AND BECAUSE IT DISTRACTS THEM.

BLAZE! I AM SO TALL! WE'RE GONNA WIN!

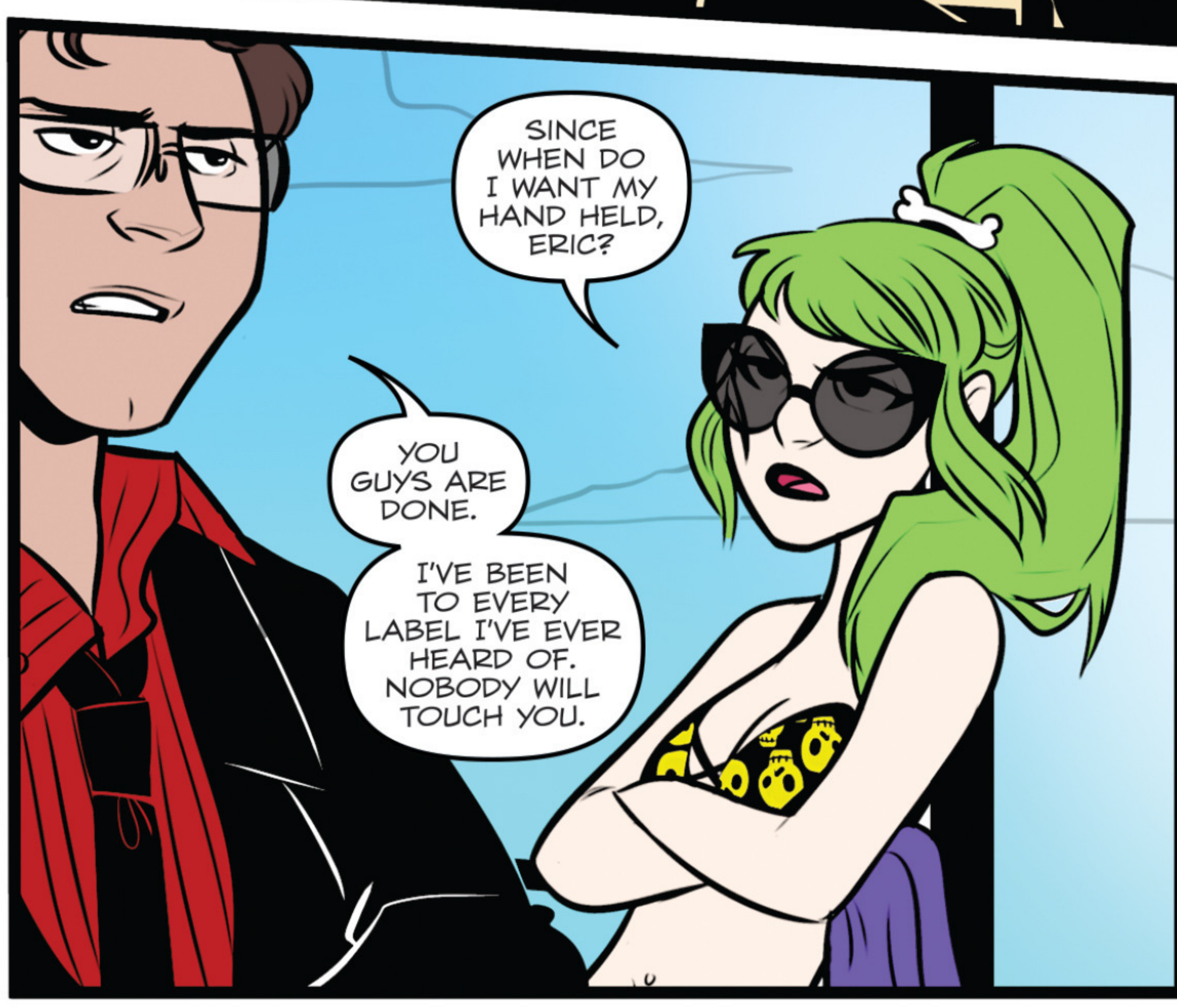
DON'T WORRY, SHE'S TALL BUT SHE'S ALL ELBOWS AND KNEES. WE GOT THIS.

HEY! I HEARD THAT!



SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?

YOU WANT ME TO SOFTEN IT, OR GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT?



SINCE WHEN DO I WANT MY HAND HELD, ERIC?

YOU GUYS ARE DONE.

I'VE BEEN TO EVERY LABEL I'VE EVER HEARD OF. NOBODY WILL TOUCH YOU.

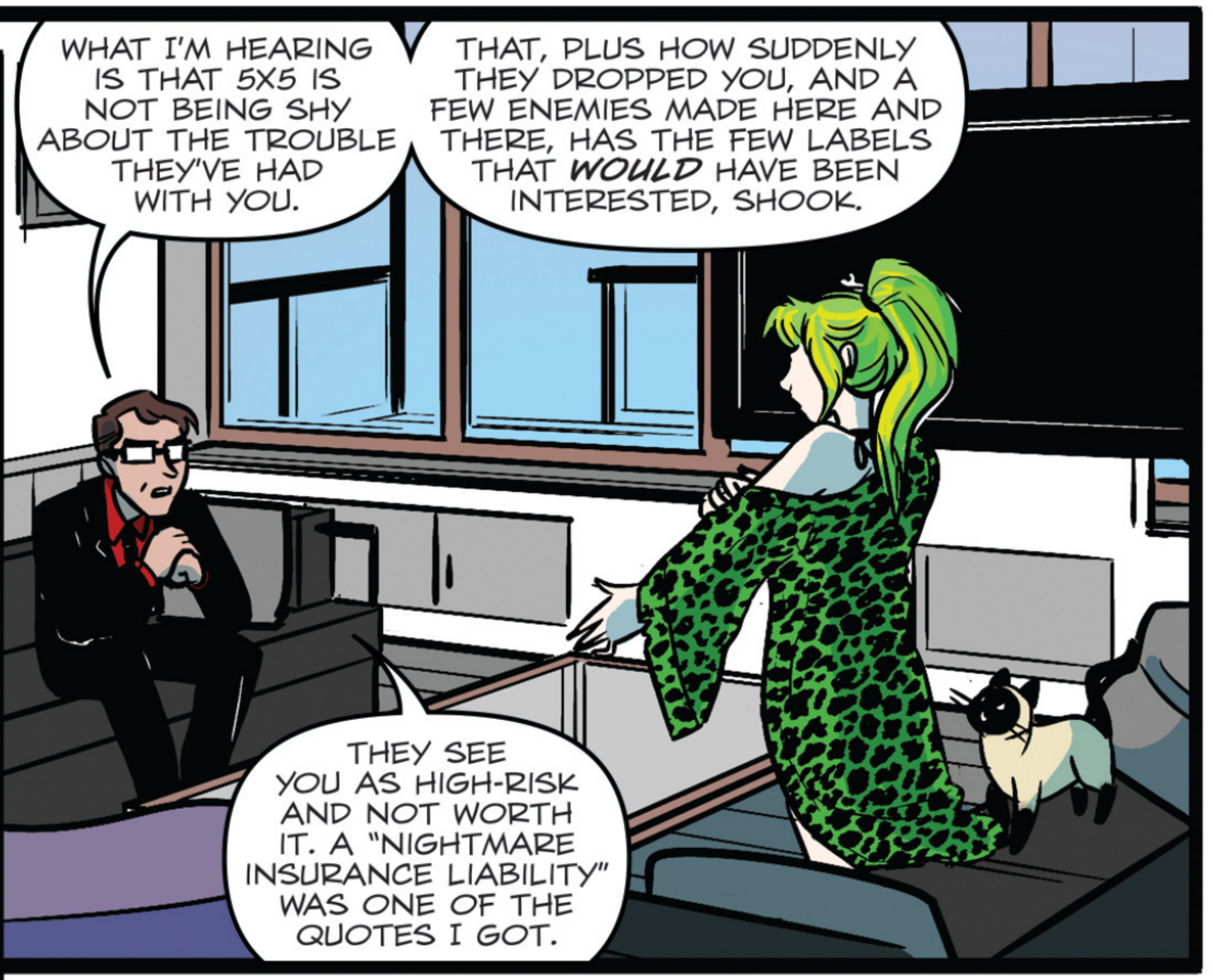


I TAKE IT BACK. I WANT YOU TO SOFTEN IT.

SORRY.

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? LABELS DROP BANDS ALL THE TIME. BANDS LEAVE LABELS ALL THE TIME.

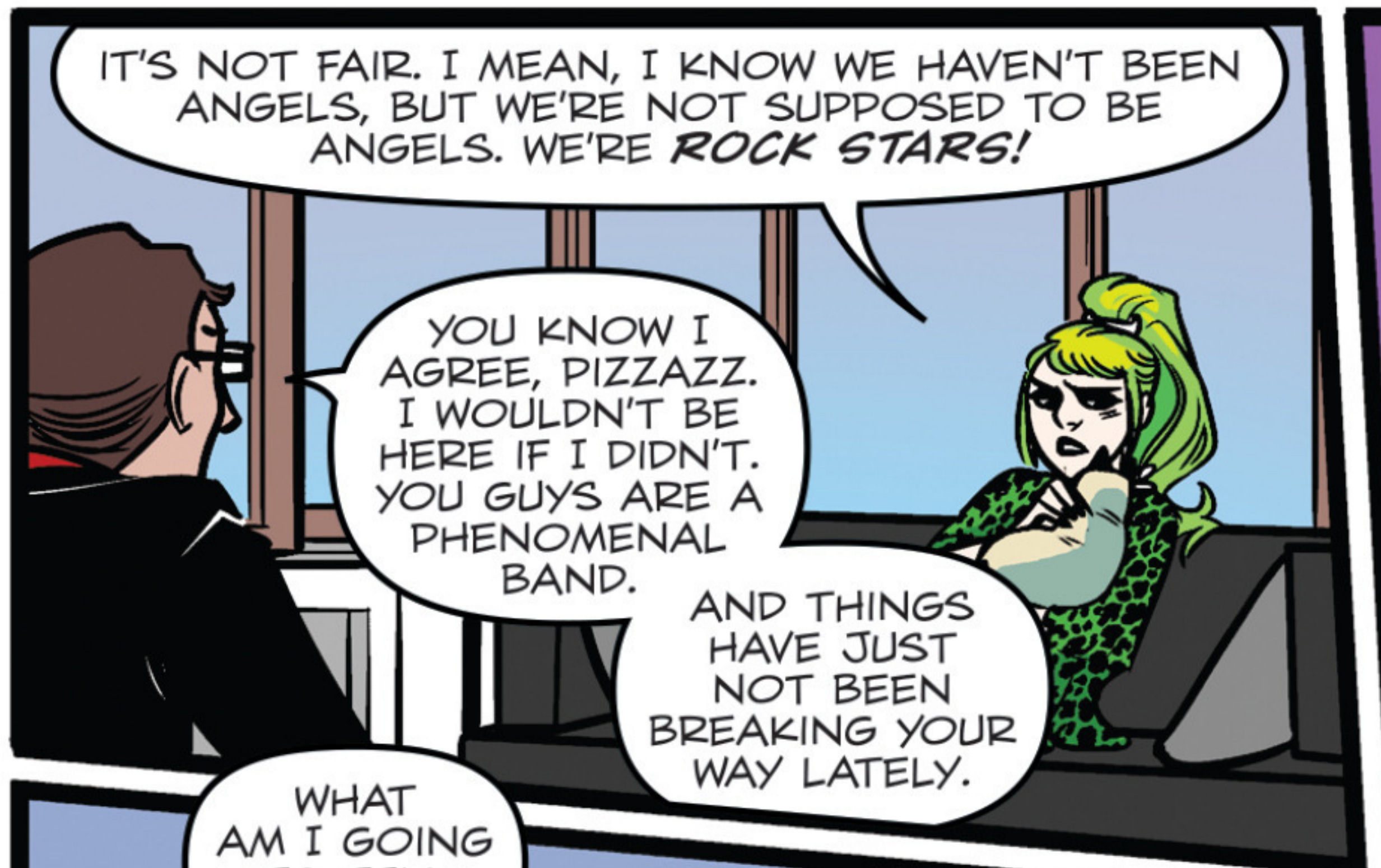
WE'RE NOT, LIKE... RE-INVENTING THE WHEEL HERE.



WHAT I'M HEARING IS THAT 5X5 IS NOT BEING SHY ABOUT THE TROUBLE THEY'VE HAD WITH YOU.

THAT, PLUS HOW SUDDENLY THEY DROPPED YOU, AND A FEW ENEMIES MADE HERE AND THERE, HAS THE FEW LABELS THAT *WOULD* HAVE BEEN INTERESTED, SHOOK.

THEY SEE YOU AS HIGH-RISK AND NOT WORTH IT. A "NIGHTMARE INSURANCE LIABILITY" WAS ONE OF THE QUOTES I GOT.



IT'S NOT FAIR. I MEAN, I KNOW WE HAVEN'T BEEN ANGELS, BUT WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ANGELS. WE'RE *ROCK STARS!*

YOU KNOW I AGREE, PIZZAZZ. I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF I DIDN'T. YOU GUYS ARE A PHENOMENAL BAND.

AND THINGS HAVE JUST NOT BEEN BREAKING YOUR WAY LATELY.

WHAT AM I GOING TO TELL THEM?

THIS IS *MY* FAULT, YOU REALIZE.



I MAY HAVE BROUGHT US TOGETHER, BUT I'M ALSO THE ONE THAT'S RUINED US!

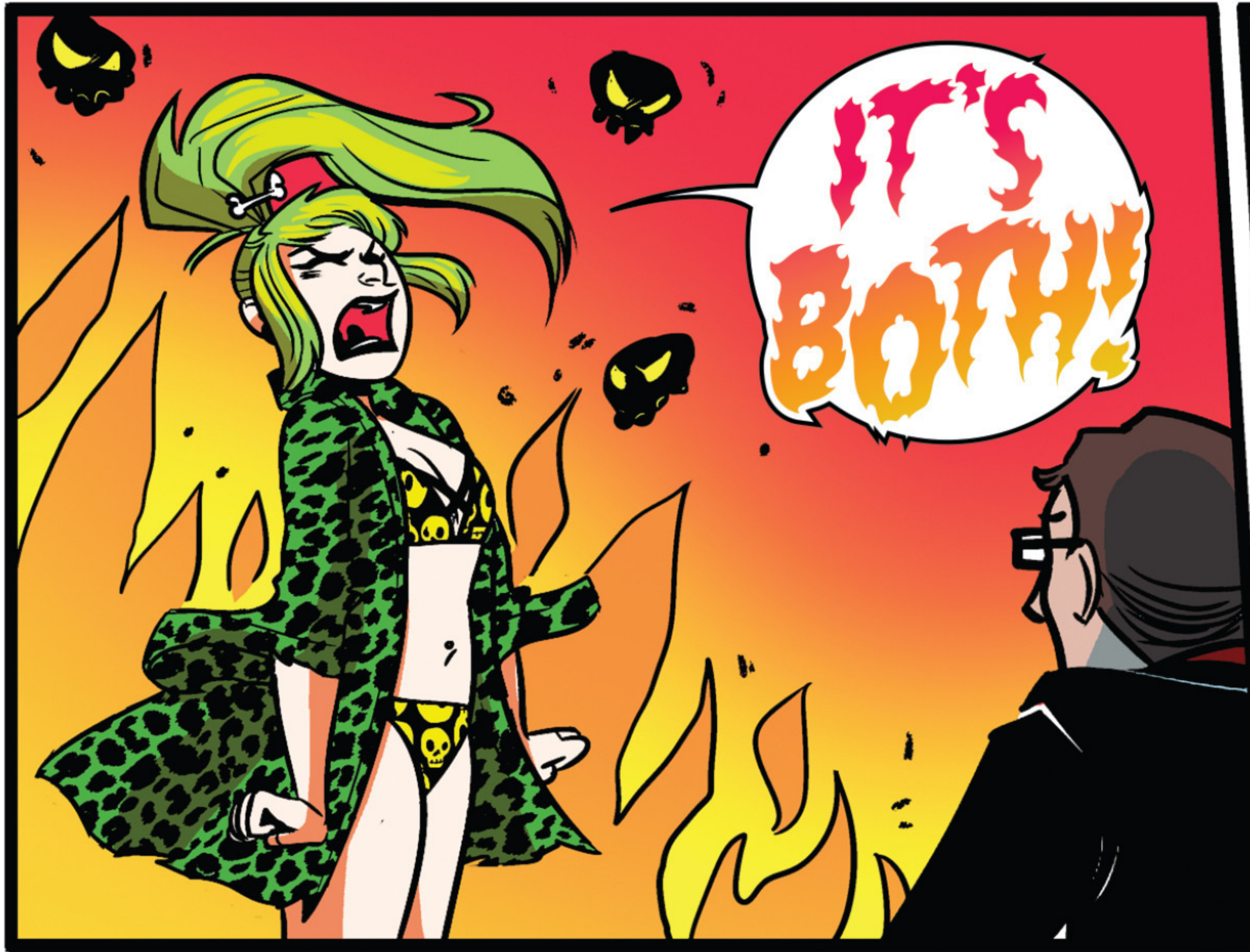
I MEAN, I'M THE ONE THAT SCREAMS AT DUMB RICK TANNENBAUM ON LIVE TELEVISION, THAT BREAKS MY GUITAR IN FRONT OF THE VIDEO CREW, THAT TURNS OUR CONTEST INTO A DISASTER BY LETTING KIMBER BENTON-OF ALL PEOPLE-BAIT ME!

AND I'M THE ONE THAT PUSHED JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS AS OUR ENEMIES IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I MEAN, SURE, NONE OF US LIKES THEM, EXCEPT STORMER, BUT EVERYONE EXCEPT ME WOULD HAVE LET IT GO.

AND NOW, BECAUSE OF JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS AND THE STINGERS, WE'RE A BAND WITHOUT A HOME!

WAIT, SO NOW IT'S JEM AND THE STINGERS' FAULTS? I THOUGHT IT WAS *YOURS*.



BOYS



I DO HAVE A WAY TO GET YOU BACK IN, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE IT.

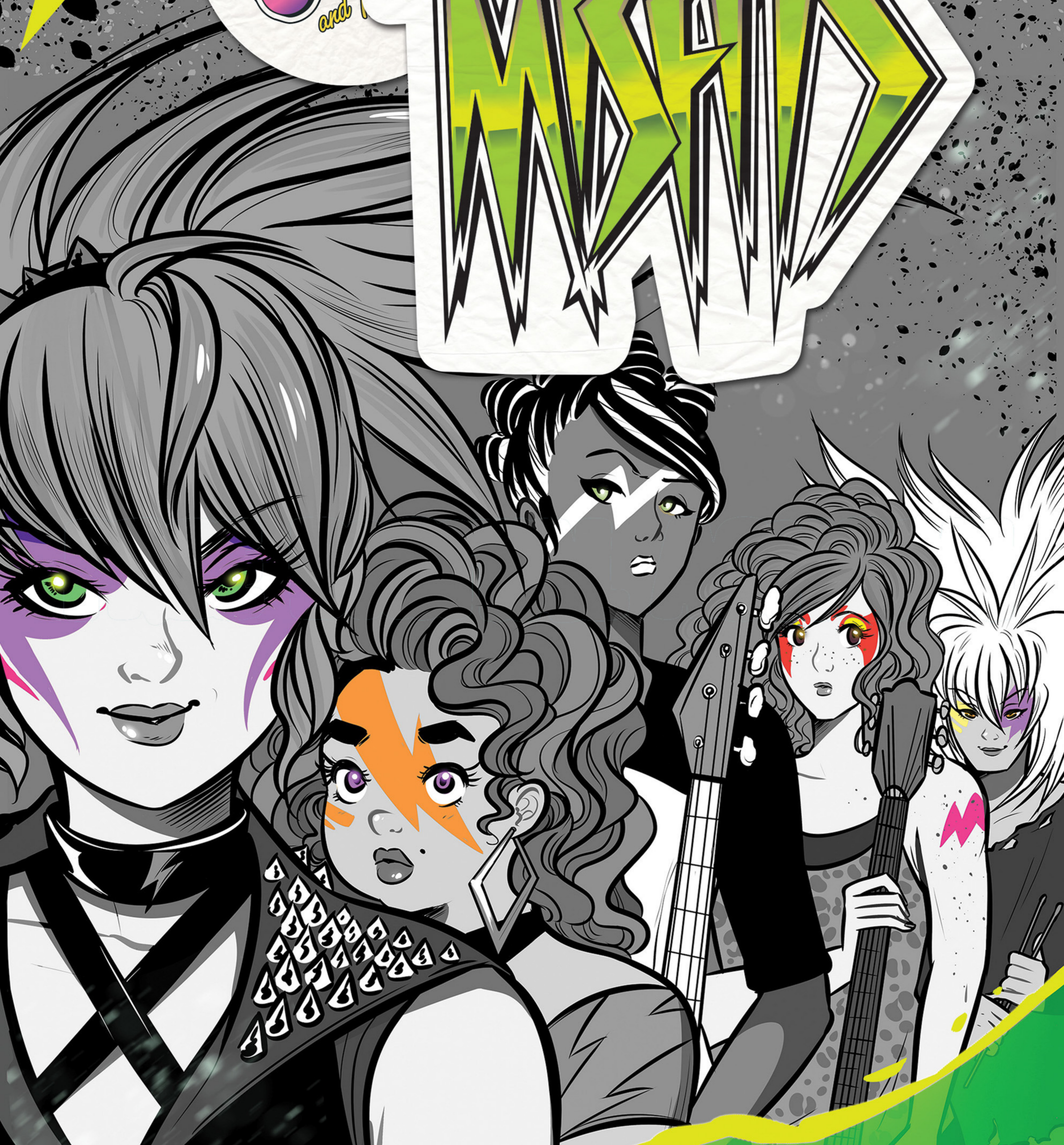
IDW

ISSUE

1

JEM
and THE

THE
MISFITS



TO BE CONTINUED IN...

ISSUE #1 OF JEM AND THE MISFITS

THOMPSON ★ ST-ONGE ★ ROBADO