

IDW
ISSUE
1

my LITTLE PONY The MOVIE Prequel



ANDERSON • PRICE • BRECKEL

Price 17



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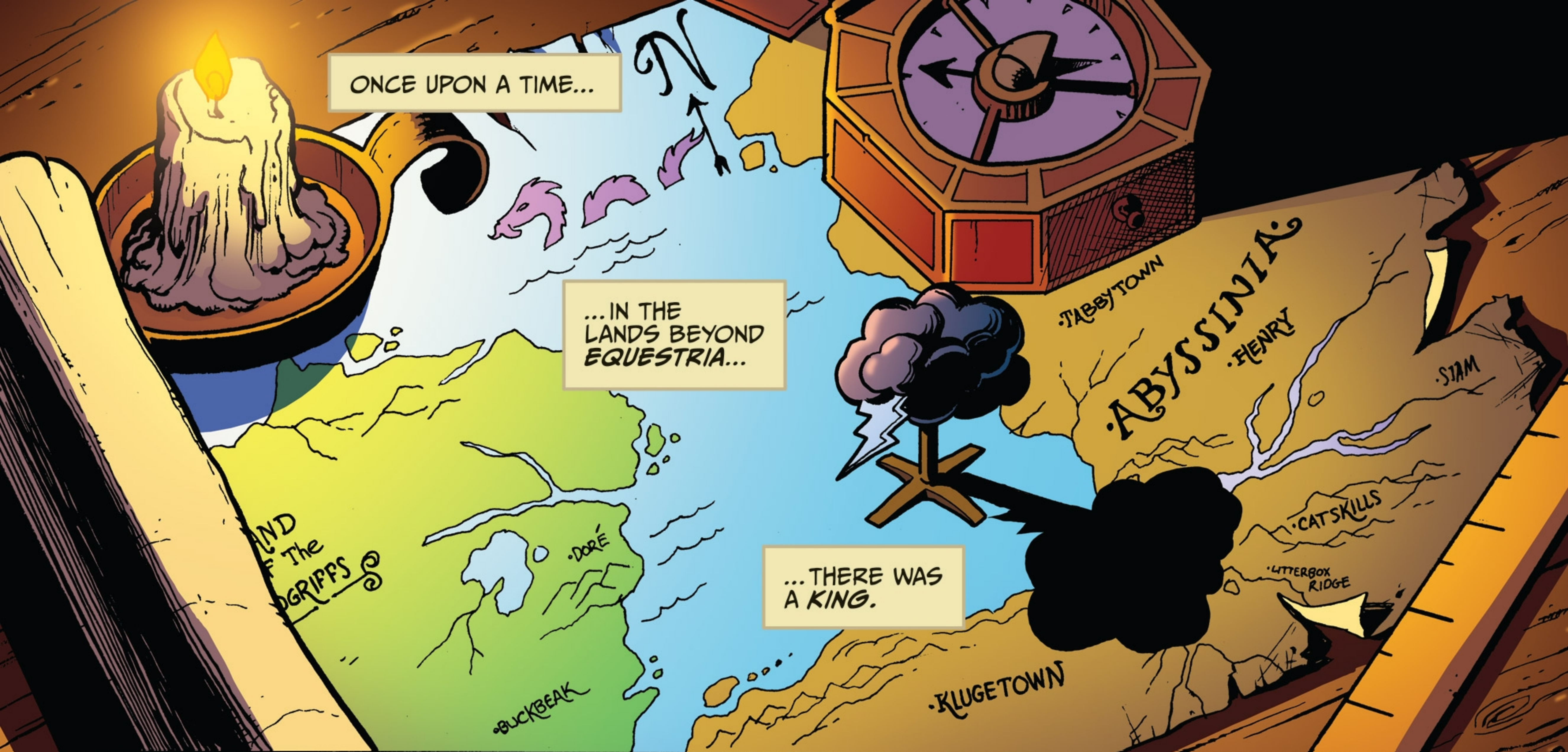
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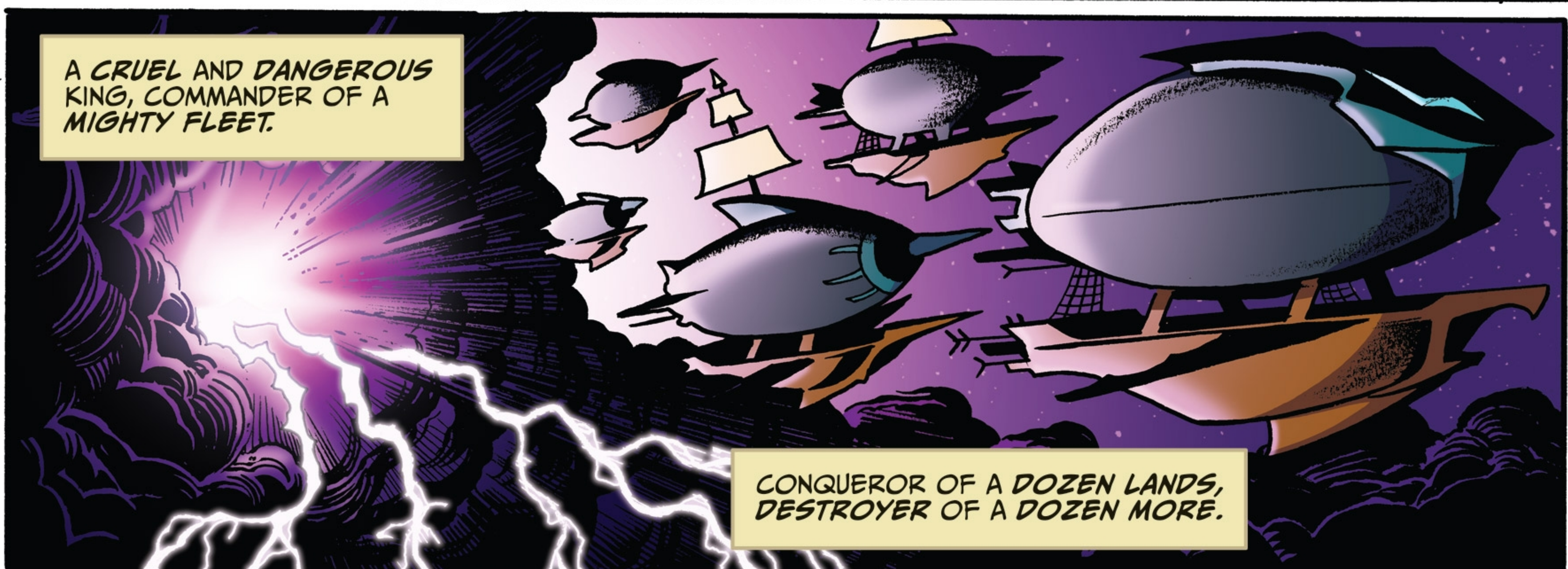
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ONCE UPON A TIME...

...IN THE LANDS BEYOND EQUESTRIA...

...THERE WAS A KING.



A CRUEL AND DANGEROUS KING, COMMANDER OF A MIGHTY FLEET.

CONQUEROR OF A DOZEN LANDS, DESTROYER OF A DOZEN MORE.



THE NAME OF THIS INVINCIBLE, IMPLACABLE FORCE OF NATURE...

...WAS THE STORM KING.

WHOA! HEY!



SEEMS KINDA UNFAIR TO HAVE SOMEBODY ELSE TELLING MY STORY!

IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A WHOLE ISSUE ABOUT ME, THEN I'M GONNA TELL IT!

SO PLEASE, JOIN ME ON THE NEXT PAGE, WON'T YOU?

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT—



STORM KING

STRIFE.

MY LORD?

IS EVERYTHING
READY FOR THE
INVASION?





OH YES,
MY LORD.

YOUR ARMADA HAS
ALREADY CONQUERED
THE REST OF
ABYSSINIA.



ONLY
THE CAPITAL,
PANTHERA, STILL
STANDS...

...AND YOUR
FORCES ONLY
AWAIT YOUR
COMMAND.

GOOD,
GOOD.



AFTER
THE INVASION,
I SHOULD DO
SOMETHING FOR
THE SOLDIERS.

YOU KNOW,
LIKE A PIZZA
PARTY! OR A
FUNNY HAT
DAY!

SOMETHING
TO SHOW I
APPRECIATE ALL
THEIR HARD WORK
PILLAGING AND
LOOTING!





AS YOU SAY, MY LORD.

SHALL WE BEGIN THE INVASION?

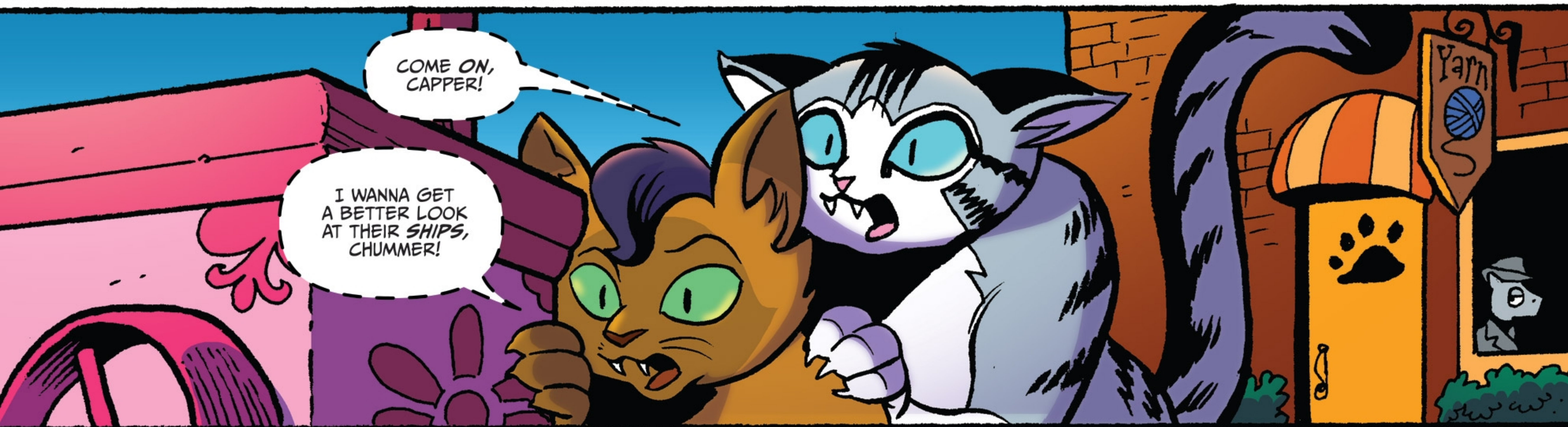
OH! RIGHT!

YEAH, LET'S HIT IT!



ONWARD, MY MINIONS!

AND MAKE ANOTHER EMPIRE FALL.



BOOM!

BOOM!

SMASH!

Helloooo??

ANYBODY HOME?

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME LETTING MYSELF IN.

BUT I PRACTICALLY OWN THE PLACE ALREADY, DON'T I?

YOUR MAJESTIES.

KING AND QUEEN OF ABYSSINIA.

YOU SHOULD SURRENDER NOW.



...STORM KING.

YOU HAVE CONQUERED THIS NATION.

ABYSSINIA IS YOURS.



THANKS FOR THE OFFER, BUT I'M NOT REALLY INTO THE WHOLE "RULING" THING.

YOU FOLKS CAN KEEP ABYSSINIA.

KRINK "CRUNCH"



W-WHAT?

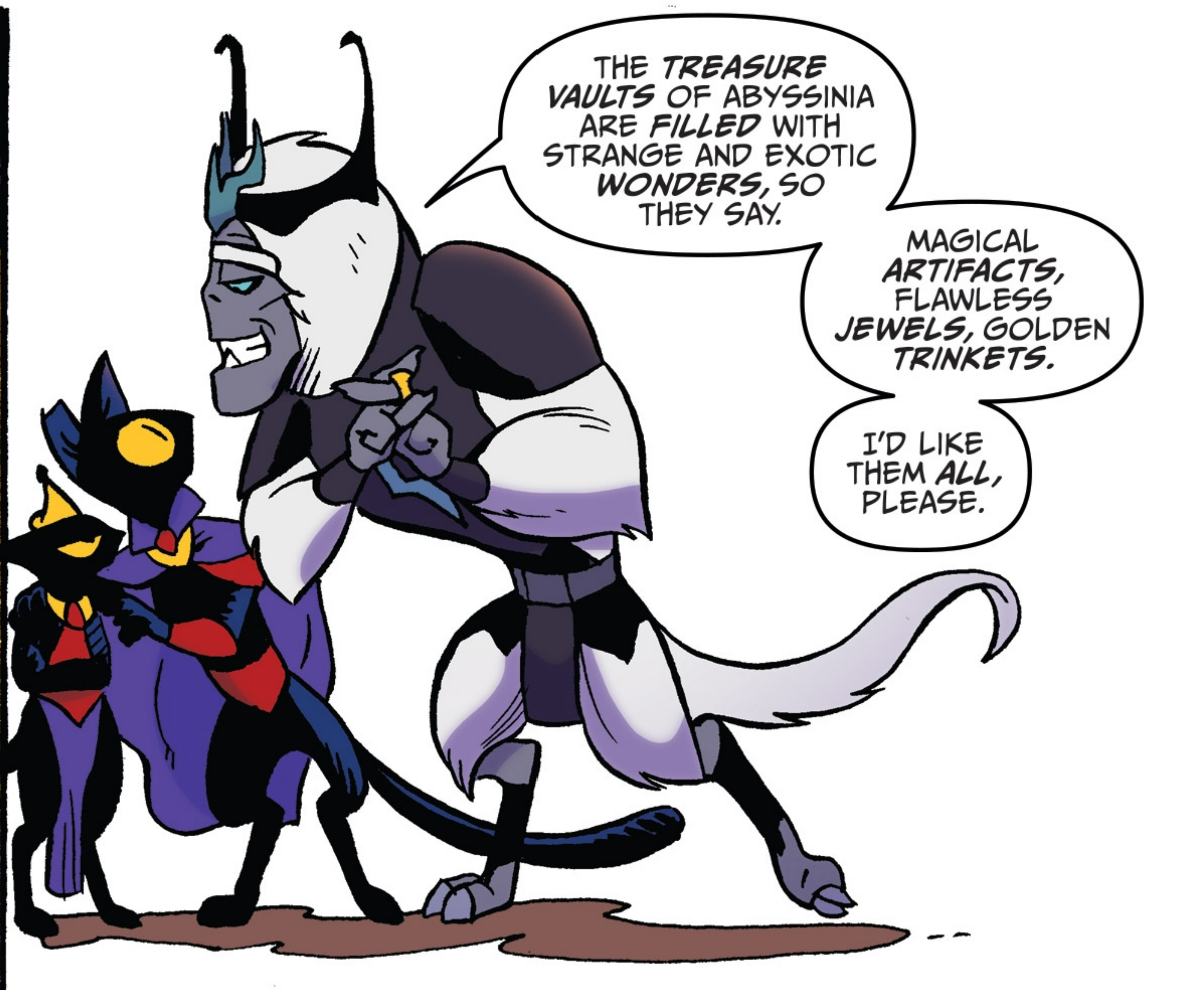
I KNOW I CALL MYSELF A "KING," BUT FRANKLY, MONARCHY JUST ISN'T MY THING.

YOU TAKE OVER ONE COUNTRY, NEXT THING YOU'RE DEALING WITH TAXES AND COMMITTEES AND RETIREMENT PACKAGES!



NO, I DON'T WANT ABYSSINIA—

—JUST ITS RICHES.

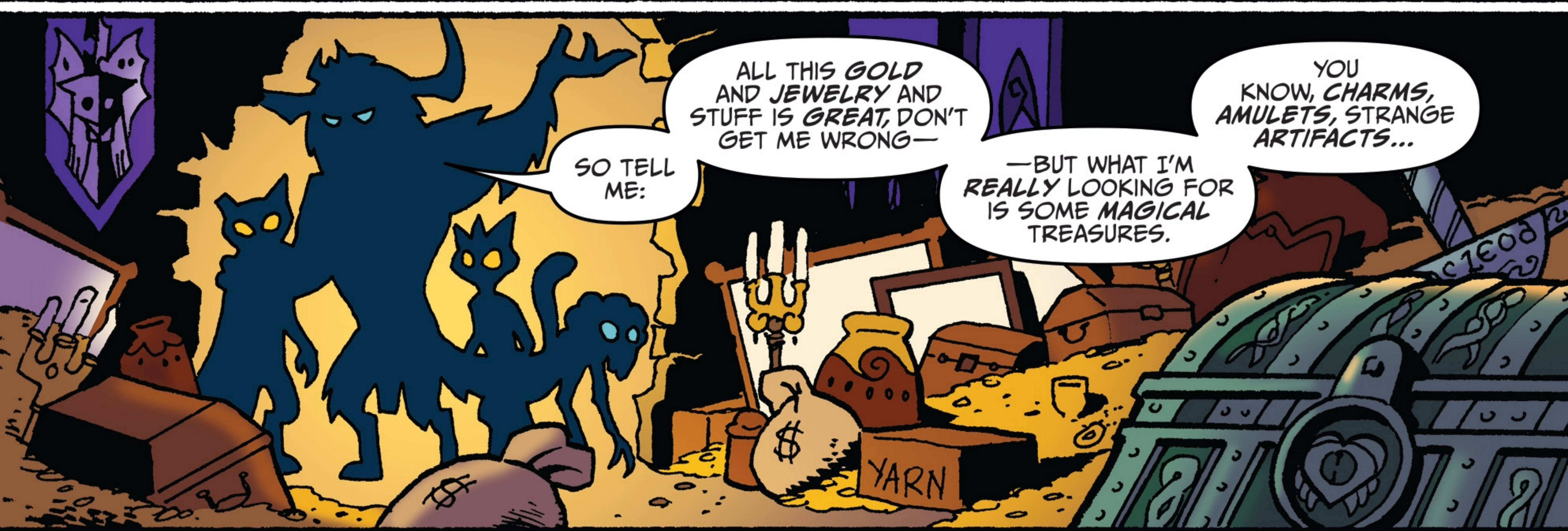


THE TREASURE VAULTS OF ABYSSINIA ARE FILLED WITH STRANGE AND EXOTIC WONDERS, SO THEY SAY.

MAGICAL ARTIFACTS, FLAWLESS JEWELS, GOLDEN TRINKETS.

I'D LIKE THEM ALL, PLEASE.







OOH, AN OMINOUS GLOW!

THAT'S PROMISING.

NO! NOT THAT!

THAT WILL ONLY BRING RUIN!



THAT'S THE MISFORTUNE MALACHITE!

NO ONE SHOULD USE ITS POWER!



WHAT... IS IT?

I CAN SENSE... INCREDIBLE MAGIC IN IT...

INDEED, IT IS POWERFUL...

...BUT ALSO CURSED.



THE MALACHITE BRINGS BAD LUCK AND WOE TO ANY WHO POSSESSES IT.

WHOEVER HOLDS IT FOR TOO LONG, OR WHO USES ITS POWER, WILL COME TO RUIN!



REALLY?

WELL, THEN, LUCKY FOR YOU I'M TAKING IT OFF YOUR HANDS!



I APPRECIATE THE DONATIONS, FOLKS!

YOU'LL KEEP ME CONQUERING FOR YEARS TO COME!



MAKE SURE IT'S STOWED AWAY TIGHT, GUYS!

WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING SHIFTING IN TRANSIT.

COME ON, CAPPER! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!



WAIT! YOU CAN'T!

WE HAVE NOTHING LEFT!

WHY HAVE YOU DESTROYED ABYSSINIA?



BECAUSE IT WAS NEXT ON MY LIST.





ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL INVASION, STRIFE.

YES, MY LORD.

A MASTERPIECE OF STRATEGY, IF I MAY SAY.



ANOTHER COUNTRY PLUNDERED OF ITS RICHES.

THEY'RE BARELY EVEN A CHALLENGE ANYMORE.

AND DO YOU YOU KNOW WHY?



BECAUSE I HAVE NO FRIENDS.

FRIENDSHIP IS A WEAKNESS.

A LIABILITY.



FRIENDS DISTRACT YOU. MAKE YOU WEAK.

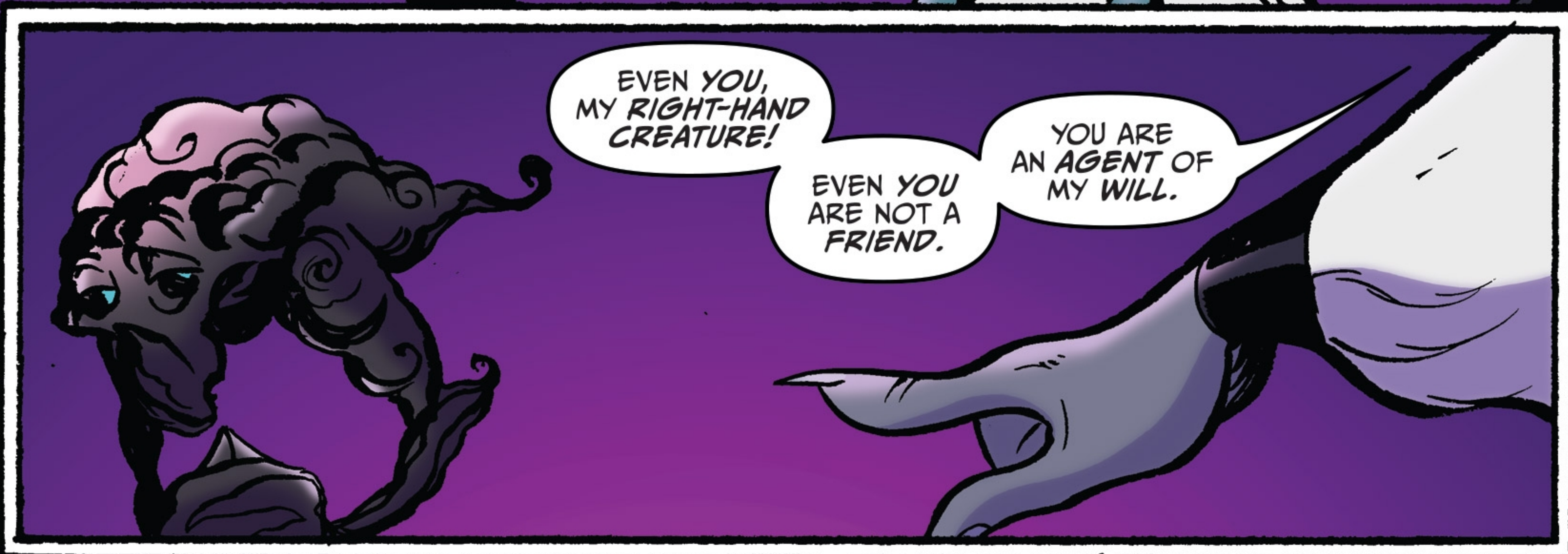
FRIENDS CAN BETRAY YOU, MAKE YOU FORGET YOUR GOALS.

I HAVE SOLDIERS, COMMANDERS, WORKERS—

BUT NO FRIENDS.

WHICH MEANS NOBODY WILL ASK ME TO SACRIFICE MY AMBITIONS.

MY GOALS ARE MY OWN.



EVEN YOU,
MY RIGHT-HAND
CREATURE!

EVEN YOU
ARE NOT A
FRIEND.

YOU ARE
AN AGENT OF
MY WILL.

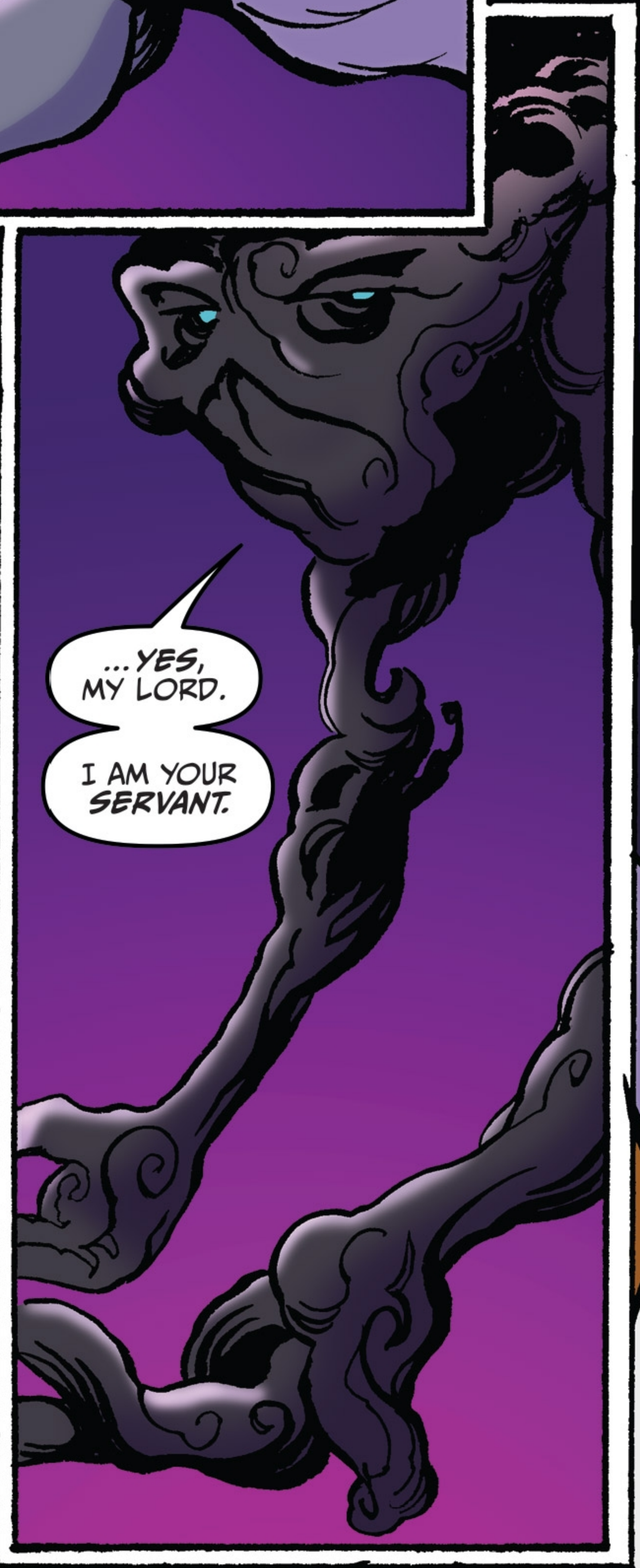


YOU SERVE ME NOT
OUT OF SOME MISGUIDED
SENTIMENTALITY OR IMAGINED
CAMARADERIE...

...BUT BECAUSE
YOU KNOW I WILL WIN,
IN THE END.

I WILL BE THE
MOST POWERFUL
CREATURE IN THE
WORLD.

AND YOU
WANT TO BE AT
MY SIDE.



...YES,
MY LORD.

I AM YOUR
SERVANT.



WELL!

I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT YOU,
BUT I AM QUITE
EXHAUSTED!

I'M
HEADING TO MY
STATEROOM.

WAKE ME
IF ANYTHING
HAPPENS, WON'T
YOU?

OF
COURSE,
MY LORD.

SLEEP
WELL.



SO THERE YOU GO, GENTLE READERS.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF THE GREAT STORM KING.



A SMALL INVASION, A LITTLE PLUNDERING...

...AND A VALUABLE MAGICAL ARTIFACT IN THE BAG.

NOT A BAD DAY.



THAT MISFORTUNE MALACHITE...

THAT GEM HAS REMARKABLE MAGIC.

PERHAPS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ACHIEVE MY ULTIMATE GOAL:

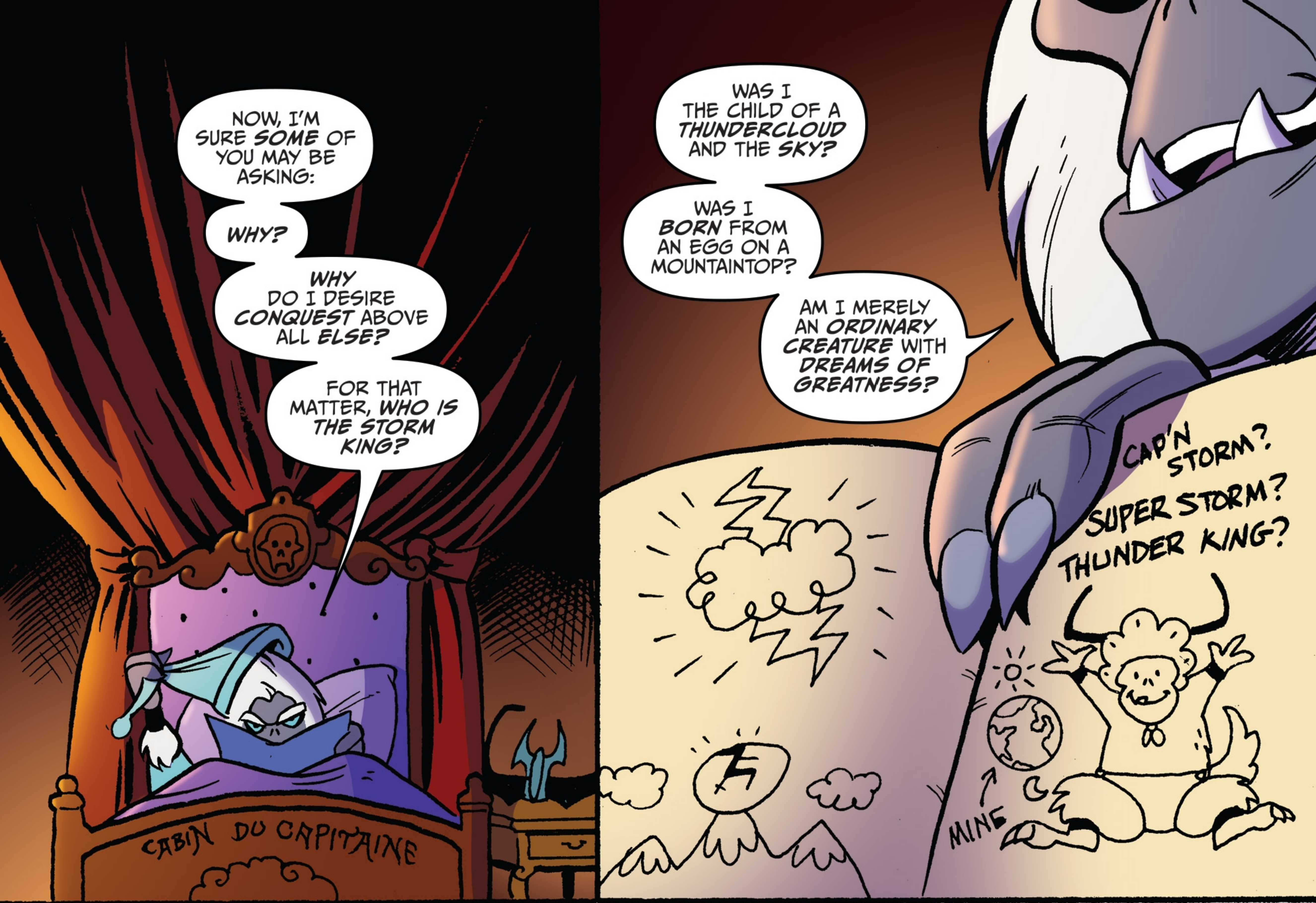
CONTROL.



ENOUGH MAGIC TO CONQUER THE WHOLE WORLD.

THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER WANTED, AND NOW...

...NOW IT'S ALMOST WITHIN MY GRASP.



NOW, I'M SURE SOME OF YOU MAY BE ASKING:

WHY?

WHY DO I DESIRE CONQUEST ABOVE ALL ELSE?

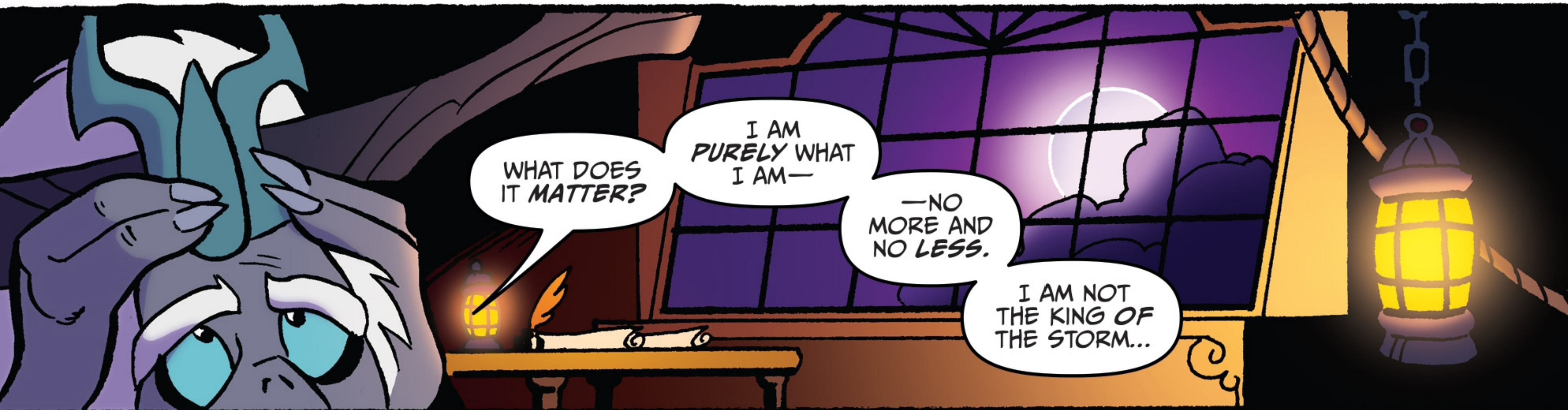
FOR THAT MATTER, WHO IS THE STORM KING?

WAS I THE CHILD OF A THUNDERCLOUD AND THE SKY?

WAS I BORN FROM AN EGG ON A MOUNTAINTOP?

AM I MERELY AN ORDINARY CREATURE WITH DREAMS OF GREATNESS?

CAP'N STORM?
SUPER STORM?
THUNDER KING?



WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

I AM PURELY WHAT I AM—

—NO MORE AND NO LESS.

I AM NOT THE KING OF THE STORM...



...I AM A KING WHO IS A STORM.

I AM A FORCE OF NATURE.

I AM GREATER THAN ANY ONE CREATURE, AND I WILL PROVE IT BY—



RUMBLE!

WHAT THE—?!



WHAT IS HAPPENING OUT HERE?



PIRATES!

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!



YARRR!

AVAST, YE SCALLYWAGS!



TAKE THE WHEEL, BOYO!

AYE-AYE!

POW



Spire 17



I TOLD THE PIRATES WHERE OUR FLEET WOULD BE FLYING, AND WHEN.

I THEN TOOK OUR SENTRIES OFF-DUTY, LEAVING THE ARMADA UNPROTECTED.

THESE PIRATES ARE GOING TO STEAL ALL YOUR TREASURE SHIPS...

...AT MY SUGGESTION.



STRIFE?
YOU... BETRAYED ME?

NO, STORM KING.

AS YOU SAID, FRIENDS CAN BETRAY YOU.

I MERELY HAVE MY OWN GOALS.

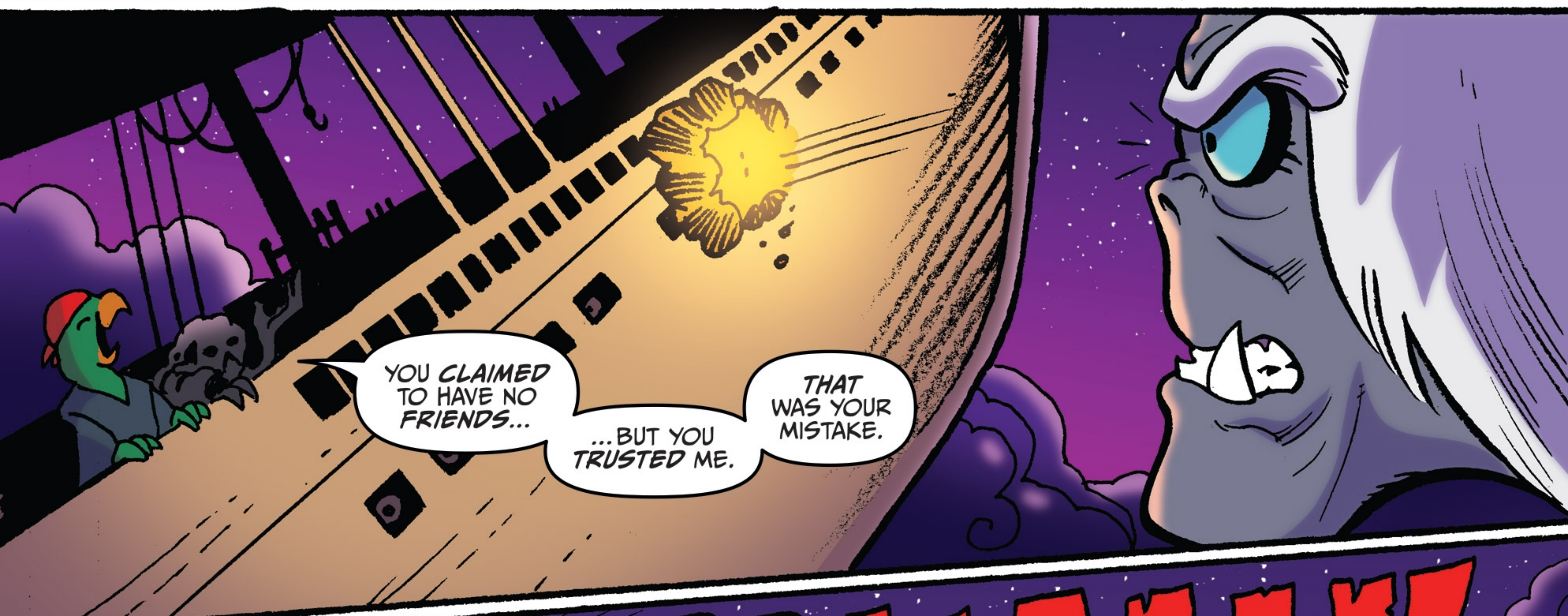


AND THEY DO NOT INCLUDE YOU.



YOU—YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

I ALREADY HAVE, KING.



YOU CLAIMED TO HAVE NO FRIENDS...

... BUT YOU TRUSTED ME.

THAT WAS YOUR MISTAKE.



RRRAAAAH!



YOU! FOLLOW THEM!

I—I CAN'T, SIR!

SHE'S NOT TURNING RIGHT—

STRIFE MUST'VE SABOTAGED THE SHIP!



GRRR...



GAK!



YOU.
SMALL,
WEAK, USELESS
CREATURE.

T-THAT'S
ME!



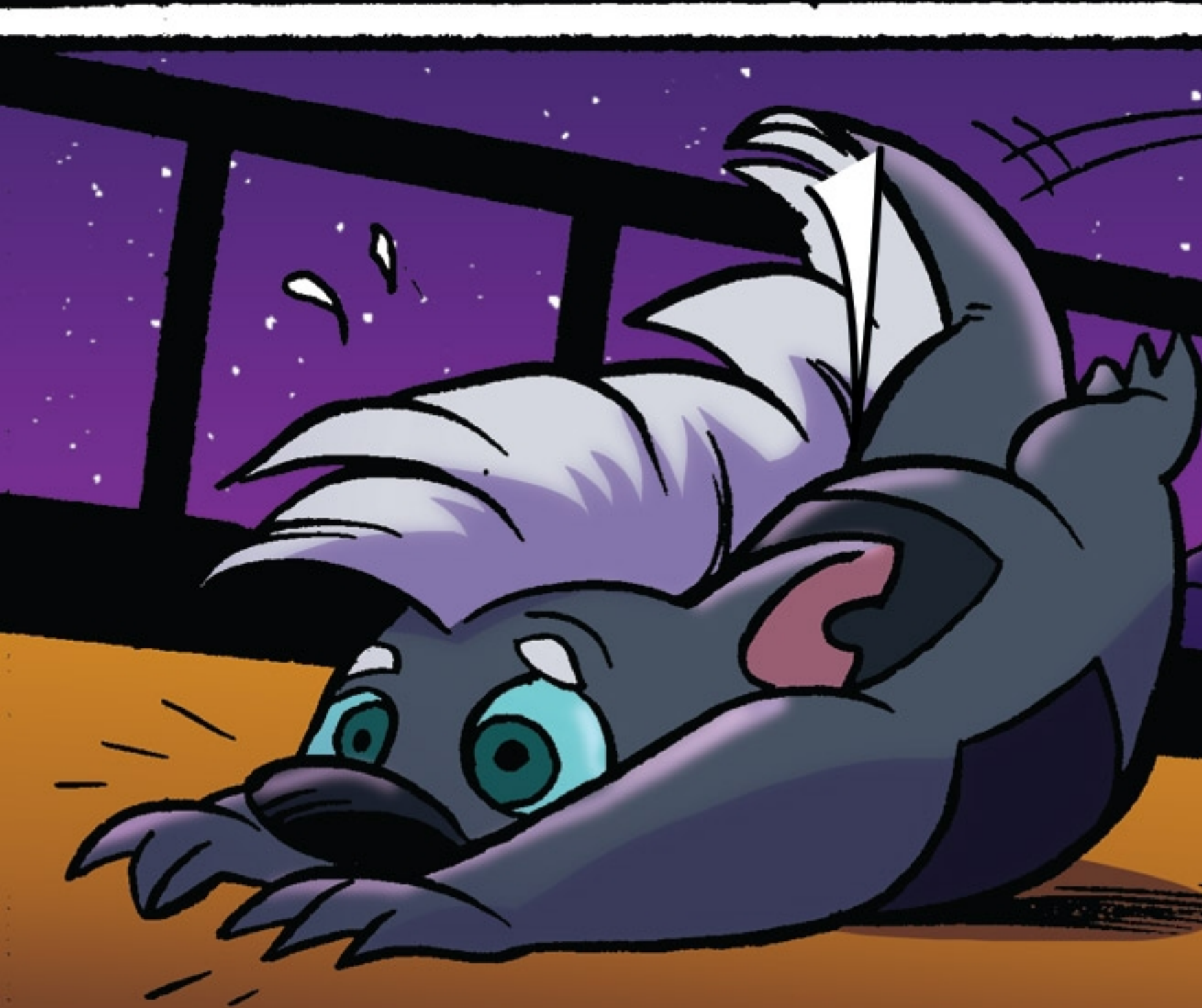
YOU ARE TOO
COWARDLY TO
EVER ATTEMPT TO
BETRAY ME, ARE
YOU NOT?



TOO
SPINELESS TO
CONSIDER YOUR
OWN WANTS.

AREN'T
YOU?

Y-Y-Y-YOU GOT
ME PEGGED,
BOSS.



GOOD.

YOU'RE MY
NEW SECOND-IN-
COMMAND.



GET MY SHIP
REPAIRED AND
FOLLOW THOSE
PIRATES.



WE HAVE A
TRAITOR TO
CATCH.



TO BE
CONTINUED

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

by Ted Adams

In June, Top Shelf brings us **Campbell Whyte's HOME TIME: UNDER THE RIVER**, the story of six kids who are about to start their summer vacation when they fall in a river that transports them to a village of fantastic creatures. Australian cartoonist Whyte's first graphic novel combines the imagination of *Dungeons & Dragons* with charming characters and a bit of a video-game sensibility.

I asked **Chris Staros**, Top's Shelf's Editor-in-Chief, and some of his friends to tell us more about the book:

"When people ask what kind of books we publish at Top Shelf, I often respond with 'comics with unique art styles, filled with subtext and heart'—so, once you read them, you can see the artist's unique hand, and feel their humanity as well.



In the case of our upcoming graphic novel, HOME TIME, young Australian cartoonist Campbell Whyte has taken this idea to a whole new level. Over the course of six chapters, he transforms himself into six different artists, in order to give a distinct mood and



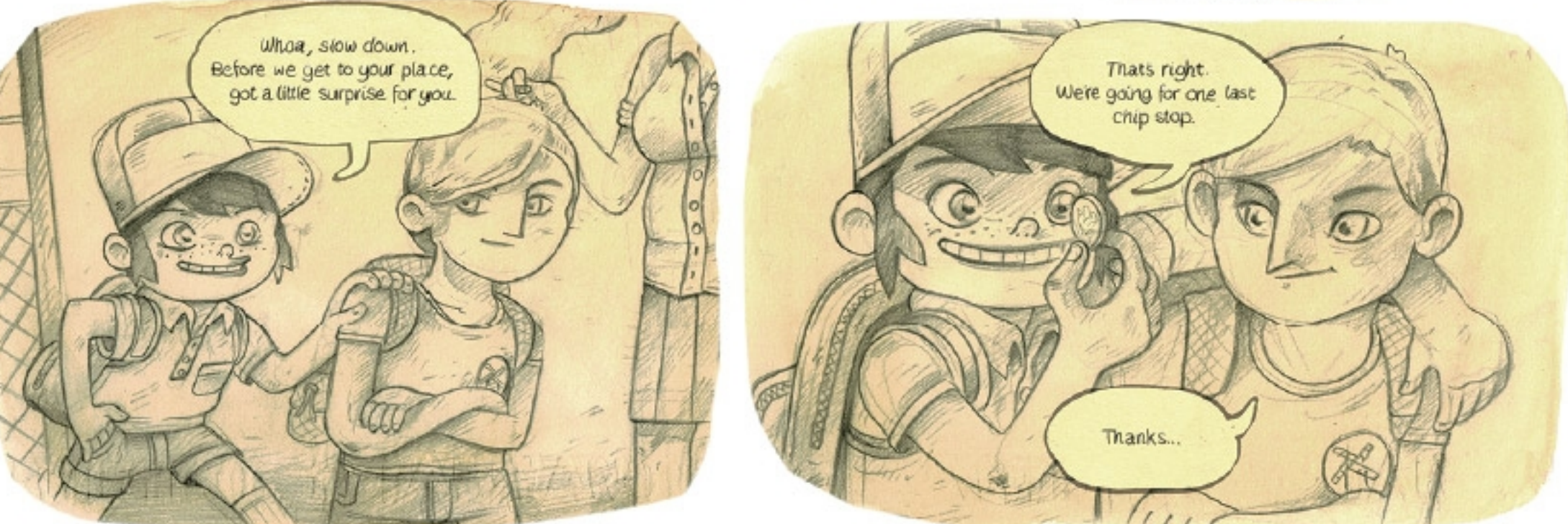
visual flavor to each of his main characters as they take turns exploring a fantastical world. But every bit of this amazing book—writing, artwork, coloring, lettering—is the product of a single creative mind, tying it all together in Campbell's unique and unified vision. After reading, you'll get a real feel for Campbell, and the connections between his fantasy worlds and those of your own heartfelt childhood... and you'll be hungry for more. The adventure begins in June! — **Chris Staros**



"Campbell Whyte's debut graphic novel is cute, funny, scary, exciting, and cleverly constructed. The drawings are always a pleasure, each new art style blending seamlessly into the whole. I'm looking forward to the thrilling conclusion!"— **Bryan Lee O'Malley** (*Scott Pilgrim*, *Snotgirl*)

"Beautifully realized, funny, smart, weird and surprisingly epic in scope, HOME TIME is also just plain brilliant."— **Shaun Tan** (*The Lost Thing*, *Tales from Outer Suburbia*)

Thanks, Guys! I'll be back next month to tell you about a crossover we're doing with our friends at Dark Horse—*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles/Usagi Yojimbo* by Stan Sakai. — **Ted**



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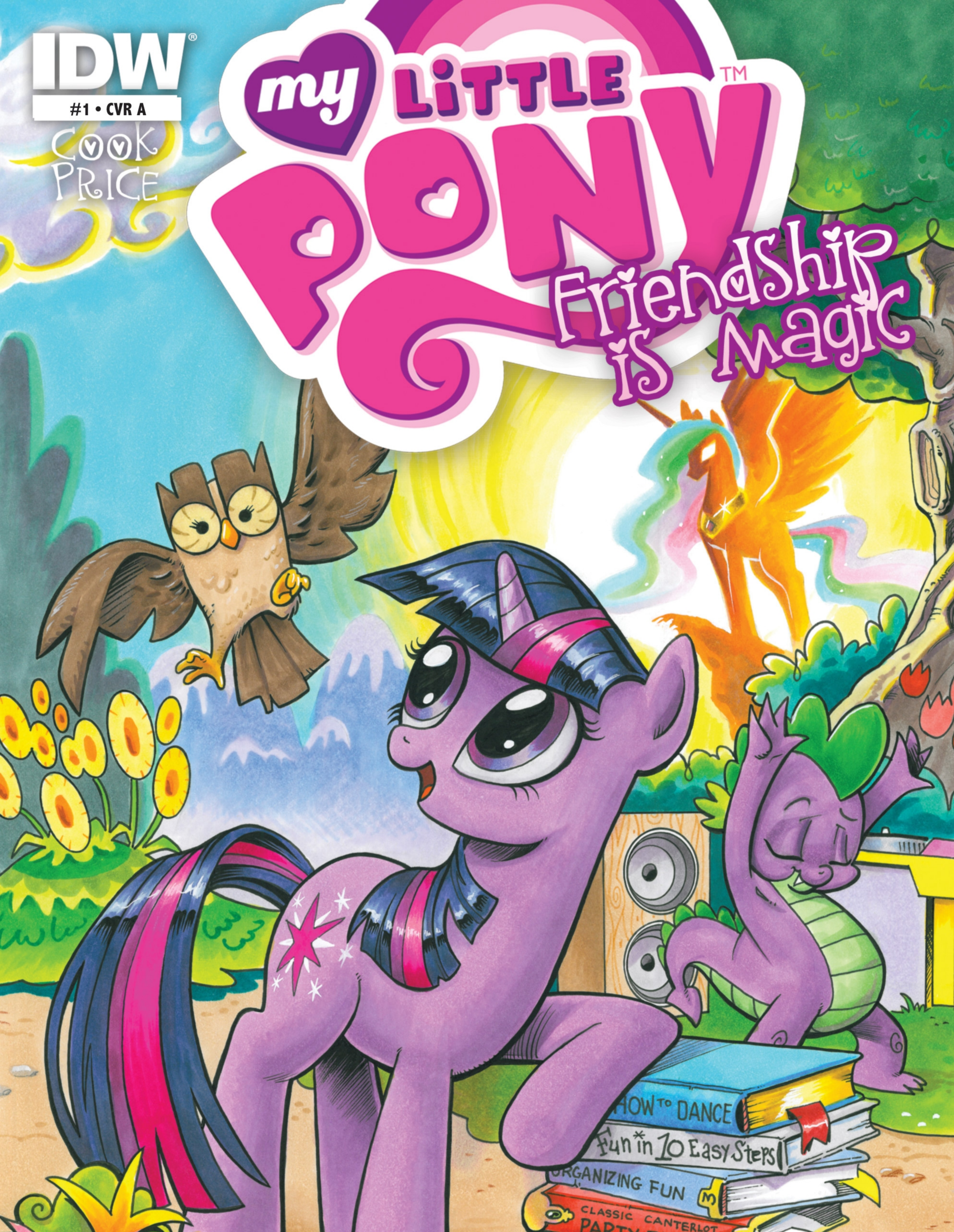
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my LITTLE[™]

PONY

Friendship
is
Magic



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ART BY
Andy Price

COLORS BY
Heather Breckel

LETTERS BY
Robbie Robbins

EDITED BY
Bobby Curnow

Special thanks to Erin Comella, Robert Fewkes, Heather Hopkins, Valerie Jurries, Ed Lane, Brian Lenard, Marissa Mansolillo, Donna Tobin, Michael Vogel, Mark Wiesenhahn, and Michael Kelly for their invaluable assistance.

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THIS WAS A GREAT IDEA, WE CAN GET OUR CUTIE MARKS AS ZOOLOGISTS!

ZOO-WHAT? NO, WE'RE GETTING THEM IN BEING JUNGLE ADVENTURERS!

I DON'T THINK FLUTTERSHY'S BACKYARD CAN BE CONSIDERED "THE JUNGLE."

SNUFF
SNUFF

SNUFF
SNUFF
SNUFF
SNUFF

THIS SIDE UP
Jungle
CROOZ

ANIMALS

Birds
Piglet's
Bunnies

HMM... DID YOU KNOW THAT THE STUDY OF PONIES IS CALLED "HIPPOLOGY"?

HA
HA

HA

BRUNELLA

I DON'T THINK WE LOOK MUCH LIKE HIPPOS...

HEY!

THE RETURN OF QUEEN CHRYSALIS

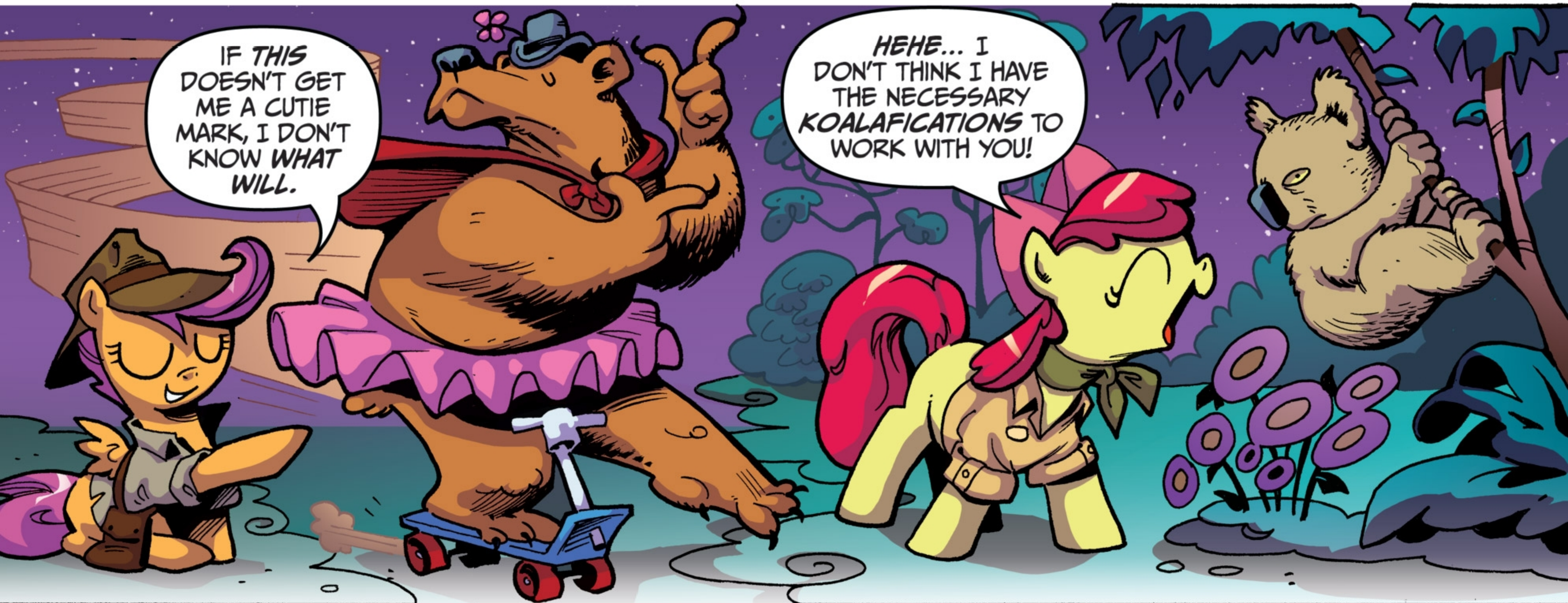


SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO OUT HERE TO TRY AND EARN OUR CUTIE MARKS? LION TAMING? OH! WE COULD TRY BEING PET PSYCHICS!

LET'S SPLIT UP! WE'LL TAKE TURNS WORKING WITH THE DIFFERENT ANIMALS! I'M SURE BY THE END OF THE NIGHT WE'LL HAVE OUR CUTIE MARKS!

ER... NO.

Mr. McBITEY-PANTS



IF THIS DOESN'T GET ME A CUTIE MARK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL.

HEHE... I DON'T THINK I HAVE THE NECESSARY KOALAFICATIONS TO WORK WITH YOU!



HEY... WAIT, WHAT'S THAT GROUP OF ANIMALS WITH GLOWING EYES DOING STARING AT US?



NOOO!

THE NEXT DAY...



EST. 1982

RUN FOR THE ROSES

Re-Elect

OUCH!

100



APPLE BLOOM! IT'S TIME TO GET UP!

Handwritten signature and scribbles at the bottom right of the page.



HEY BUCKAROO!
HOW WAS THE
CRITTER WRANGLING?
GOT YOUR CUTIE
MARK YET?

NO.



ERR... WELL,
MAYBE YOU CAN
TRY SOMETHING
ELSE? TWILIGHT SAYS
THERE'S A FANCY COMET
FLYING OVERHEAD IN A
FEW DAYS, WE COULD
SET UP A TENT IN THE
ORCHARD. YOU CAN
TRY YOUR HOOVES
AT ASTRONOMY!

...NOT
INTERESTED.



WELL...
WHAT'S GOT
HER SO
ADDLED?



OH! SWEETIE
BELLE! YOU'RE
LOOKING... UM,
STOIC THIS
MORNING?

FINE.
BYE.



WAS I THAT
ODD WHEN I
WAS HER AGE?
I DON'T THINK
I WAS...

...OH! THAT
HAT OVER THERE
NEEDS MORE
FEATHERS!



HEY, SCOOT! WANNA' HELP ME WORK ON THAT TRICK I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT? I NEED SOMEONE TO HOLD THE STOPWATCH!

NO.



WO'? WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO HANG OUT WITH ME? ME?! BUT... I'M AWESOME...



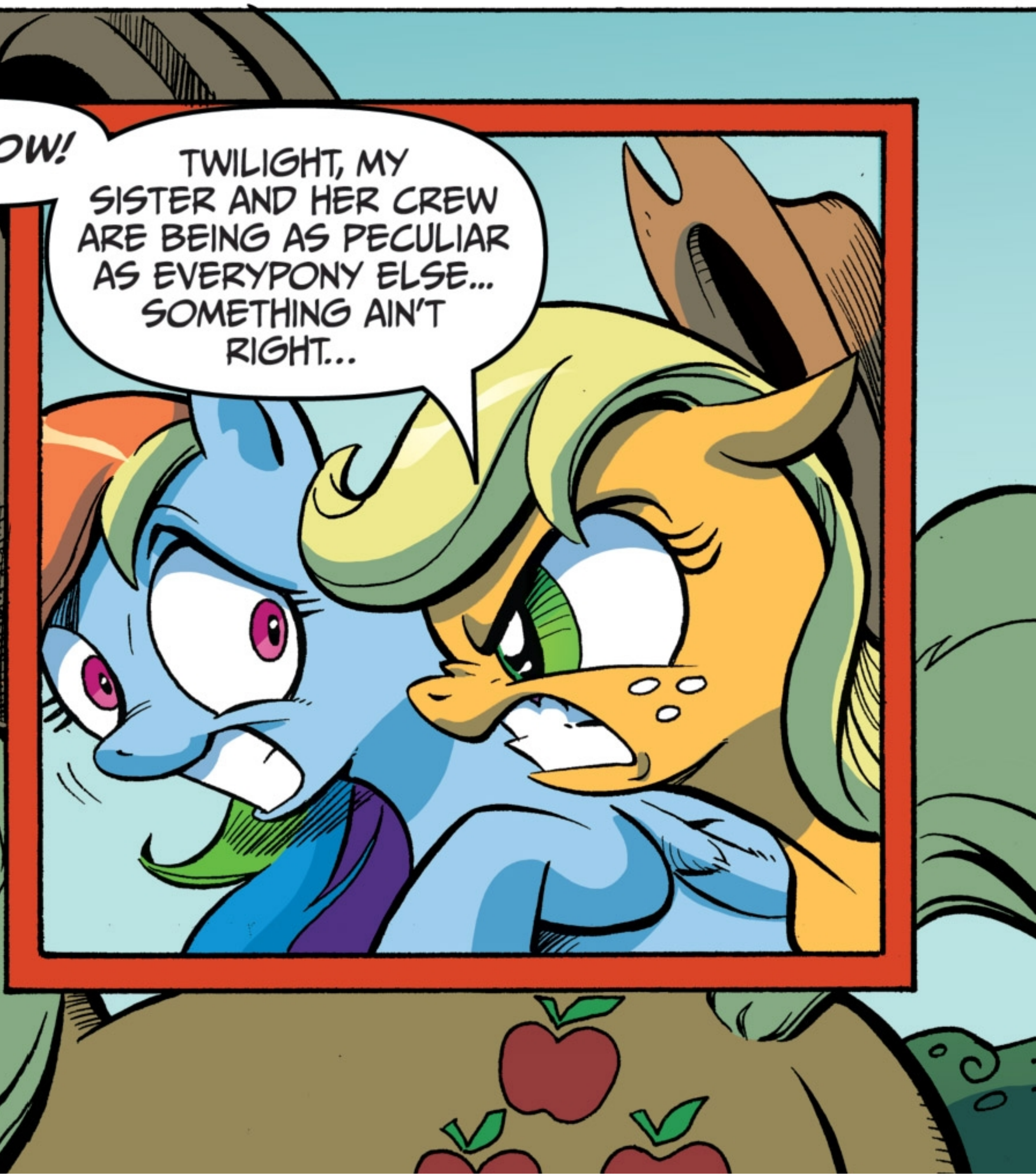
...AND THEN SHE JUST LEFT! LEFT ME!

HRM... THOSE THREE FILLIES ARE SURE ACTIN' FUNNY. THERE'S TWILIGHT... SHE'LL HAVE SOME IDEA WHAT'S GOIN' ON.



EVERYPONY IS ACTING SO STRANGE TODAY! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PLAN A VIEWING CELEBRATION FOR THE SECRETARIAT COMET THIS WEEK AND I CAN'T GET ANYONE TO LISTEN TO ME AT ALL...

WHAT WAS THAT? I WASN'T LISTENING.



RAINBOW!

TWILIGHT, MY SISTER AND HER CREW ARE BEING AS PECULIAR AS EVERYPONY ELSE... SOMETHING AIN'T RIGHT...

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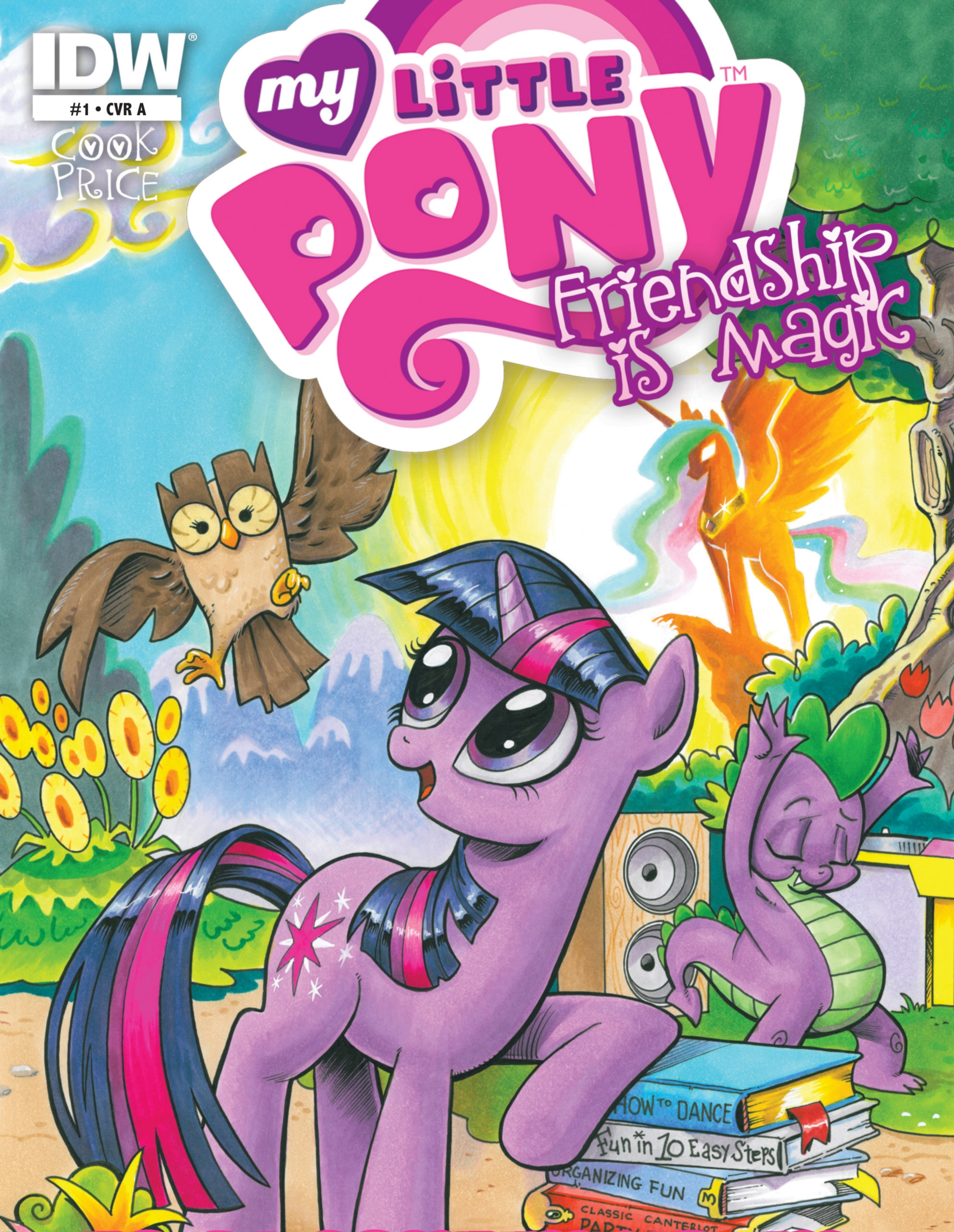
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Friendship
is Magic



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