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# MY LITTLE PONY



**RISE OF CADANCE**



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# MY LITTLE PONY

## RISE OF CADANCE



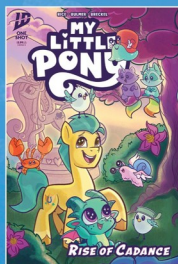
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Art by Natalie Haines



Cover B  
Art by Sophie Scruggs



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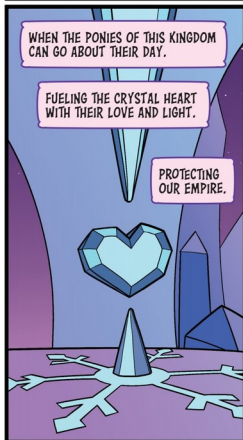
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I LOVE QUIET MORNINGS  
IN THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE.

WHEN THERE'S NO SIGN OF  
DANGER FROM ANCIENT EVILS.

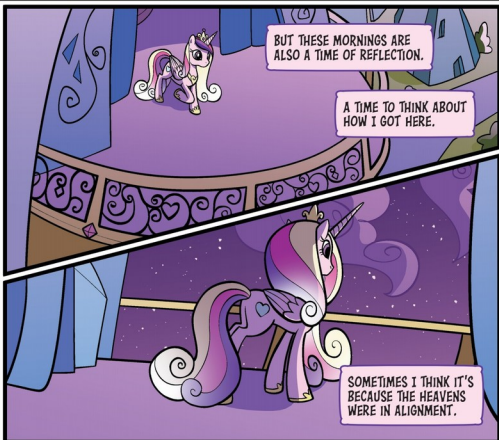
OR CURRENT FOES.



WHEN THE PONIES OF THIS KINGDOM  
CAN GO ABOUT THEIR DAY.

FUELING THE CRYSTAL HEART  
WITH THEIR LOVE AND LIGHT.

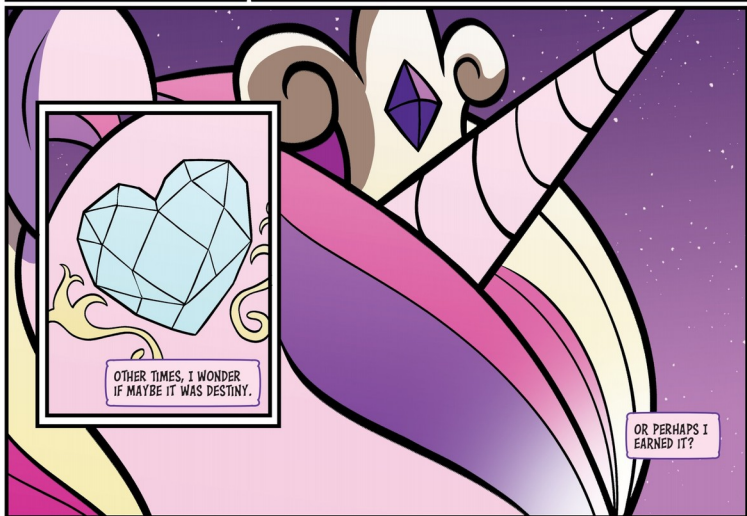
PROTECTING  
OUR EMPIRE.



BUT THESE MORNINGS ARE  
ALSO A TIME OF REFLECTION.

A TIME TO THINK ABOUT  
HOW I GOT HERE.

SOMETIMES I THINK IT'S  
BECAUSE THE HEAVENS  
WERE IN ALIGNMENT.



OTHER TIMES, I WONDER  
IF MAYBE IT WAS DESTINY.

OR PERHAPS I  
EARNED IT?



THERE ARE SO FEW OF US.

THE ALICORNS.



WAS I REALLY MEANT TO BE ONE OF THEM?



WOULD IT SURPRISE YOU TO KNOW THAT SOMETIMES I QUESTION THIS?

THAT I SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE AN IMPOSTER?



I SOMETIMES HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF OF ALL I HAVE BEEN THROUGH TO GET HERE.




ALL THAT I HAVE WORKED FOR.



ALL THAT HAS BEEN GAINED...

...AND LOST.

A colorful illustration of Princess Cadance from My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic. She is a pink unicorn with a purple and yellow mane, a purple horn, and large purple wings. She is wearing a gold crown with a purple gem and a gold necklace with a heart-shaped pendant. She is standing on a balcony with a decorative gold railing, looking towards the right. The background is a bright blue sky with a large yellow sun and stylized white clouds. Several pink speech bubbles are scattered around her, containing text about her achievements and identity.

I AM PRINCESS MI  
AMORE CADENZIA!

PRINCESS CADANCE.

I REPELLED THE QUEEN  
OF THE CHANGELINGS!

DEFEATED AN ANCIENT  
AND EVIL KING SOMBRA!

HELPED REAR THE PRINCESS  
OF FRIENDSHIP!

AM RULER OF THE  
CRYSTAL EMPIRE!

BUT BEFORE ALL THAT...



LIKE ALL PONIES, I CAN'T REMEMBER THE VERY BEGINNING OF MY NATURAL LIFE.

BUT I AM AWARE OF WHEN THIS LIFE BEGAN.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FOAL!

THIS LIFE, ONE THAT STARTED WITH DESERTION...

NEIGH!  
NEIGH!

...AND COULD HAVE BEEN CLOAKED IN BITTERNESS AND DARKNESS...



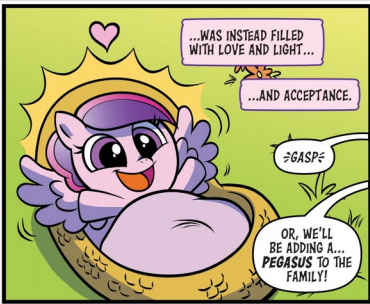
NEEEEEEEEEEINGAAAAH!

FOR THE LOVE OF CELESTIA! IT IS A FOAL.

THERE ARE NO PONY VILLAGES ANYWHERE NEAR HERE!

WHOEVER LEFT HER HERE HAD TO HAVE KNOWN WE WOULD FIND HER.

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ADDING A NEW PONY TO OUR VILLAGE FAMILY!

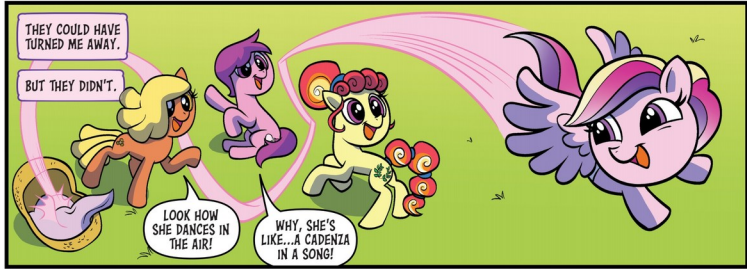


...WAS INSTEAD FILLED WITH LOVE AND LIGHT...

...AND ACCEPTANCE.

=GASP=

OR, WE'LL BE ADDING A... PEGASUS TO THE FAMILY!



THEY COULD HAVE TURNED ME AWAY.

BUT THEY DIDN'T.

LOOK HOW SHE DANCES IN THE AIR!

WHY, SHE'S LIKE...A CADENZA IN A SONG!



MI AMORE!  
MI AMORE CADENZA!

THAT'S WHAT WE'LL CALL HER.

THAT IS WHEN THIS LIFE BEGAN.







SUDDENLY, THE VILLAGE SEEMED...WRONG.

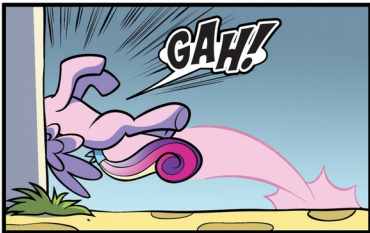


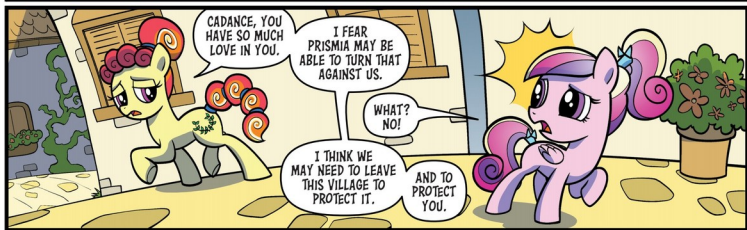
HEY, DON'T YOU WANT TO PLAY BALL?  
MEH.



HOW COULD ALL THE LOVE AND LIGHT THAT HAD FILLED THE VILLAGE MY ENTIRE LIFE JUST BE...

...GONE?







PRISMA! YOU'VE BEEN TOLD TO LEAVE OUR PEACEFUL VILLAGE ALONE.

OH ALLORO LEGARRA, WHEN HAVE I EVER ANSWERED TO YOU SIMPLE PONIES?

SIMPLE?! HOW DARE SHE!



SOMETHING IN THIS VILLAGE THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS FUELED MY AMULET.

AND GIVEN ME THE POWER TO OVERCOME ALL YOUR LOVE!



AND ALL OF YOU!

ALLORO, NO!



WHAT IS THIS?  
A PEGASUS FOAL?!

WHAT DO YOU HAVE AGAINST THESE PONIES WHO HAVE SHOWN EQUESTRIA NOTHING BUT LOVE?

SHOWN EVERYPONY LOVE?

MEH. AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...  
...THEY BORE ME.



RELEASE ALL OF THEM AND LEAVE US BE!

OR...I CAN BECOME EVEN MORE POWERFUL!

NO YOU WON'T!



OH, YES I WILL!

I SAID--



NOOOOOOOOOO!!!





YOUR HIGHNESS.

WELL, PRISMIA, I SEE YOU COULD NOT LEAVE THE VILLAGE ALONE.

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE WARNED.

=WHIMPER=



MAYBE A STAY IN TARTARUS WILL CURE YOU.

NO!



FORTUNATELY, THIS BRAVE PONY WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO REPEL YOUR EVIL.



BUT I DIDN'T FEEL BRAVE.

MY OVERWHELMING LOVE FOR THE PONIES WHO HAD RAISED ME REPELLED PRISMIA.

NOT BRAVERY. NOT RAGE.



AND WHEN I LOOKED AT HER, WHAT I FELT WAS LONELINESS, AND LONGING.

FOR ALL THEIR LOVE, THE PONIES OF THIS VILLAGE MISUNDERSTOOD HER.

SO THEY FEARED AND REPELLED HER A LONG TIME AGO AND CONTINUED TO DO SO.

AND SO, FOR YEARS, SHE WAS AFRAID TO SHOW HER LOVE.

INSTEAD, SHE TOOK IT FROM OTHERS.

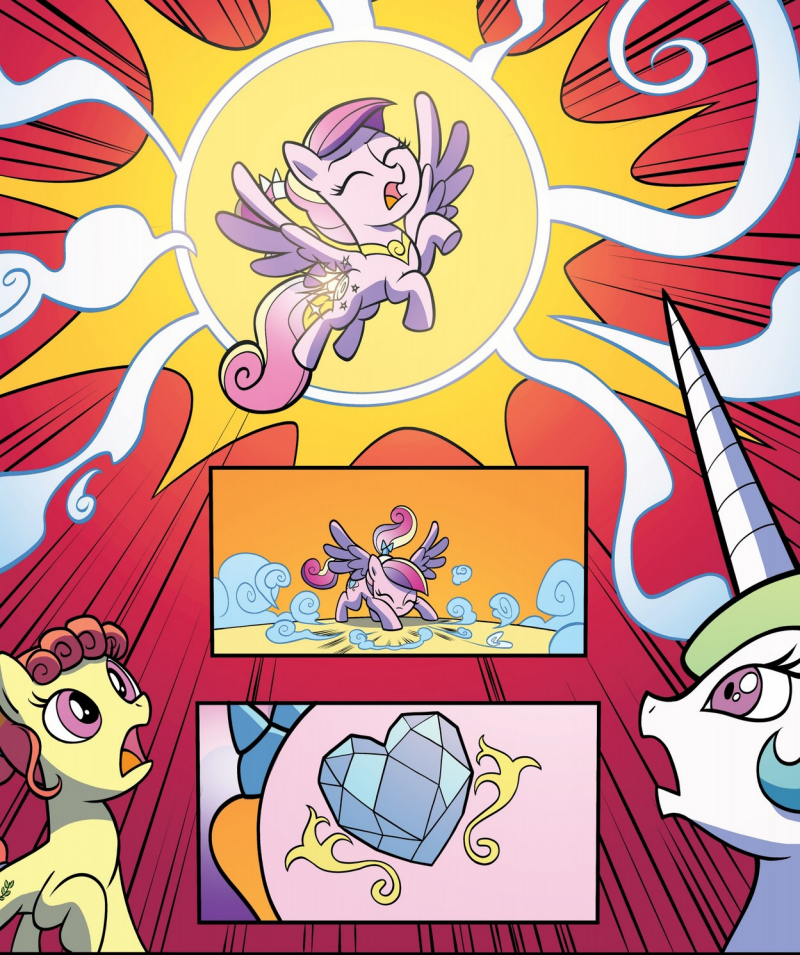
I DON'T KNOW HOW I KNEW THIS.

I JUST...DID.

AND SUDDENLY, I FELT LOVE FOR THIS SAD, LONELY PONY.











IT LOOKS LIKE A...CRYSTAL HEART.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

ALLORO, I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

IMMEDIATELY. IN PRIVATE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON?

I'M NOT SURE, BUT THE PRINCESS LOOKS VERY RATTLED.



I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY SAID THAT DAY, BUT I THINK I MIGHT HAVE HEARD THE WORD "DESTINY."



CADANCE, I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

BUT YOU NEED TO COME WITH ME AND LIVE IN CANTERLOT.

WHAT? WHY? NO!



MI AMORE CADENZA.

YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG AND HAVE MUCH TO LEARN.

BUT OUR VILLAGE IS TOO SMALL FOR YOU.

I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME AND GO WITH THE PRINCESS.

I--I DON'T WANT TO...



...BUT I WILL DO AS YOU WISH.

MY SIMPLE LIFE WITH THE PONIES I LOVED SO MUCH HAD SUDDENLY BEEN SHATTERED.

AND JUST AS QUICKLY... IT WAS OVER.

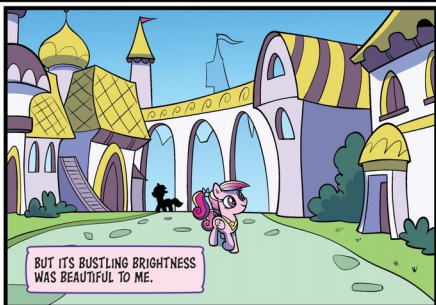


AND A NEW MORE COMPLICATED LIFE WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

AND SO, I FOUND MYSELF WHAT SEEMED LIKE A WORLD AND LIFETIME AWAY IN CANTERLOT.



IT WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM MY LITTLE VILLAGE.



BUT ITS BUSTLING BRIGHTNESS WAS BEAUTIFUL TO ME.



AND I DID QUICKLY FEEL AT HOME IN THIS CITY FULL OF EARTH PONIES AND UNICORNS.

AND PEGASI, LIKE ME!

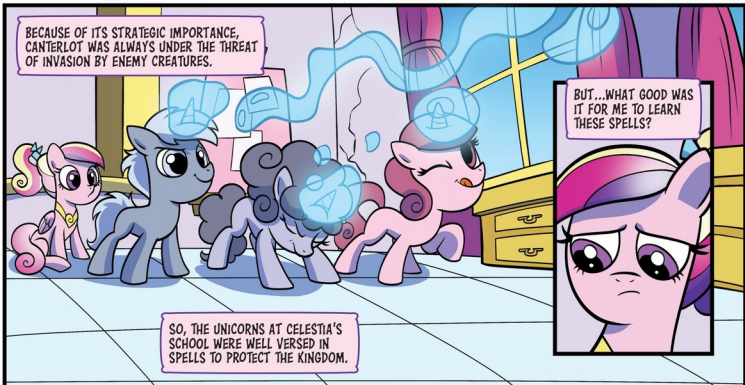
MORNING, CADANCE!  
DON'T TO START YOUR SCHOOL DAY?

YET SO MUCH OF MY TIME IN CANTERLOT MADE NO SENSE.

WHY WAS I TAKING MAGIC CLASSES AT THE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED UNICORNS WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE A HORN?



BECAUSE OF ITS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE, CANTERLOT WAS ALWAYS UNDER THE THREAT OF INVASION BY ENEMY CREATURES.



BUT...WHAT GOOD WAS IT FOR ME TO LEARN THESE SPELLS?


SO, THE UNICORNS AT CELESTIA'S SCHOOL WERE WELL VERSED IN SPELLS TO PROTECT THE KINGDOM.

AND WHILE MY CLASSMATES WERE ALWAYS VERY NICE TO ME...




...I KNOW THEY WONDERED THE SAME THING.







MY TIME WITH THE ROYAL PEGASUS GUARDS MADE MUCH MORE SENSE.



BECAUSE OF THEM, I HARNESSSED THE FULL POWER OF MY WINGS.



LEARNED SPEED AND ENDURANCE.



AND MASTERED MANEUVERS THAT MADE ME FEEL CONFIDENT AND USEFUL.



YAY CADANCE!

BUT THERE WAS ONE ASPECT OF MY TIME AT THE UNICORN SCHOOL THAT I ABSOLUTELY LOVED.



THERE WAS A PRESCHOOL ROOM FOR CANTERLOT UNICORNS CELESTIA THOUGHT HAD POTENTIAL.

THEY CERTAINLY WERE BETTER AT MAGIC THAN ME!



CELESTIA LET ME SPEND TIME WITH THEM, AND WE HAD FUN WHILE I OBSERVED WHO MIGHT MAKE GOOD STUDENTS FOR THE SCHOOL.



AND WE HAD SO MUCH FUN!

MOONBEAMS, MOONBEAMS, CREATURES GO TO SLEEP.

SPIN AROUND, FALL, AND DO NOT MAKE PEEP!



I TRULY LOVED ALL OF THEM AND STARTED TO BECOME CONVINCED THAT SCHOOLTEACHER WAS MY TRUE CALLING AND TALENT.



BUT THERE WAS THE ONE THING THAT CONFUSED ME ABOVE ALL ELSE.



WHY WAS I THE ONLY STUDENT WHO LIVED IN CANTERLOT CASTLE?



AND WHY DID CELESTIA OFTEN HAVE ME JOIN HER ON ROYAL BUSINESS??



LEARNING ROYAL PROTOCOL AND ETIQUETTE?

YOUR HIGHNESS. I PRESENT OUR ROYAL GUARDS IN TRAINING.



AS MUCH AS I LOVED AND VALUED HAVING SUCH PERSONAL TIME WITH PRINCESS CELESTIA...

...IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME.

SHE SEEMED TO HAVE EXPECTATIONS OF ME I WASN'T SURE I COULD LIVE UP TO.

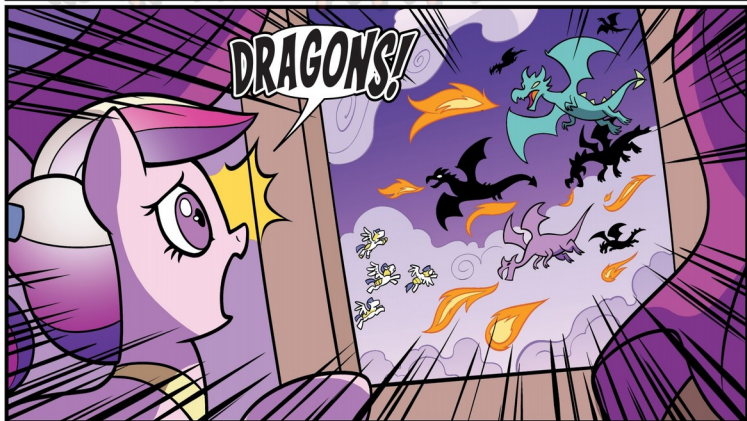
WHEN THE PONY ACROSS HAS BEEN SERVED, YOU MAY BEGIN.

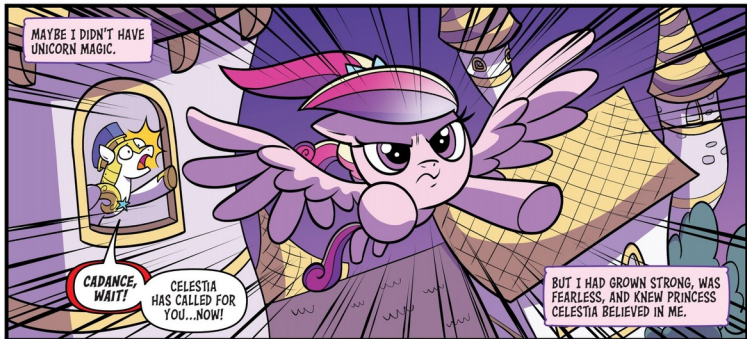


IF I QUESTIONED ANY OF THIS, THE ANSWER WAS USUALLY THE SAME.

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW THESE THINGS.

"WHY" WILL BE REVEALED WHEN YOU ARE READY.





MAYBE I DIDN'T HAVE UNICORN MAGIC.

CADANCE, WAIT!

CELESTIA HAS CALLED FOR YOU...NOW!

BUT I HAD GROWN STRONG, WAS FEARLESS, AND KNEW PRINCESS CELESTIA BELIEVED IN ME.



LOOK AT THIS PATHETIC FILLY!

WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE'S UP TO?

WHO CARES?

LET'S CRUSH HER!



OOOF!

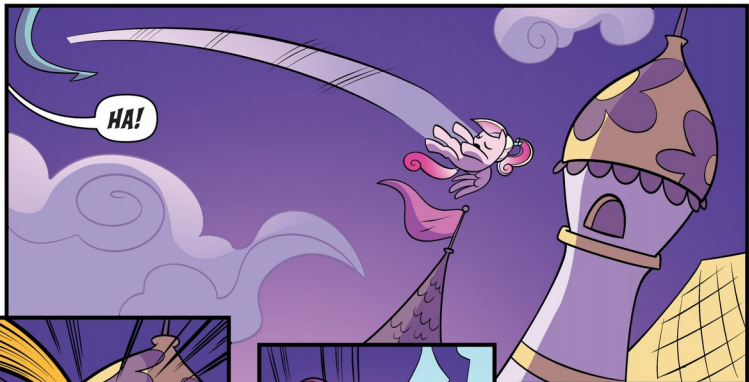


HA!

OOOF!

SWISHH!





HA!



CELESTIA?  
LEAD ME INTO  
THIS FIGHT!

CADANCE! THE  
YOUNGLINGS HAVE  
BEEN GATHERED.

YOU MUST  
LEAD THEM OUT  
OF THE CITY.



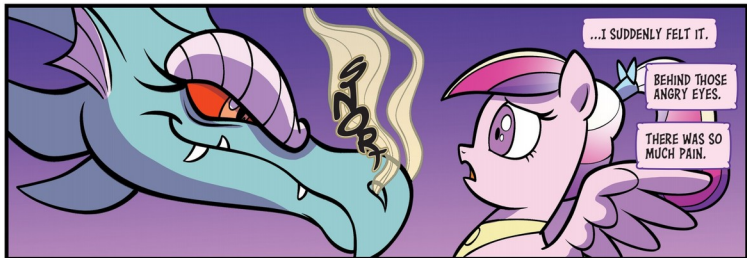


I AM LIEBE,  
THE LEADER OF  
THIS DRAGON  
SWARM.

AND AT LONG  
LAST, THE TIME  
FOR MY REVENGE  
HAS COME!

AND IN THAT MOMENT, I  
INDEED THOUGHT THE END  
WAS UPON US.

BUT...



...I SUDDENLY FELT IT.

BEHIND THOSE ANGRY EYES.

THERE WAS SO MUCH PAIN.



TOUGH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I HADN'T EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE THIS SINCE MY CONFRONTATION WITH PRISMA.

BUT I SENSED LOST LOVE IN THIS DRAGON SO ACUTELY THAT IT HURT ME.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE PONIES OF THIS LAND DID TO YOU SO LONG AGO.

BUT I SUSPECT IT INVOLVED YOUNGLINGS.

WAS IT SOMETHING TERRIBLE?

IT WAS...



I CAN'T CHANGE WHAT THE PONIES BEFORE ME HAVE DONE.

BUT WHAT I CAN SAY IS...

...I'M SO VERY SORRY.

I... THANK YOU.



I KNOW YOU WANT VENGEANCE.

BUT IT WON'T TAKE AWAY THE HURT.

PLEASE, FIND THE LOVE IN YOUR HEART AND SPARE THESE YOUNGLINGS.



DO YOU REALIZE HOW LONG I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS DAY?

HOW LONG IT HAS TAKEN ME TO BUILD A DRAGON ARMY STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE ON CANTERLOT?



PLEASE. PERPETUATING THIS HATE WILL SOLVE NOTHING.

AND I WILL CONVINCE CELESTIA TO LET YOU ALL LEAVE IN PEACE.



LET GO OF THE HATE AND FILL YOURSELF WITH LOVE. EVEN IF IT IS THE LOVE OF A MEMORY.

FOR I TOO KNOW HOW POWERFUL MEMORY CAN BE.

SOB... OKAY... I WILL CALL OFF THE ATTACK.



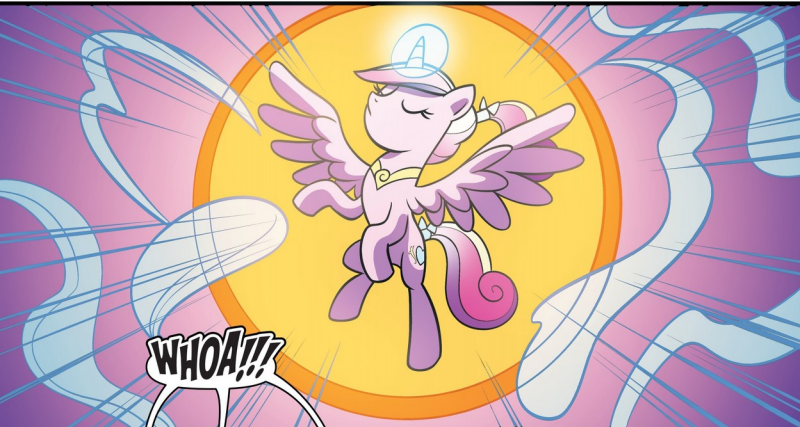
THANK YOU FOR DOING SOMETHING NOPONY BEFORE YOU HAS DONE.

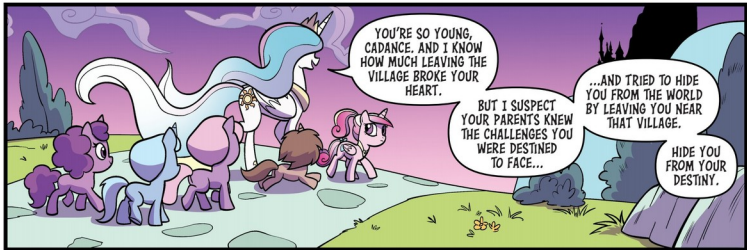
UNDERSTAND THE PAIN OF MY LOSS.

LIEBE! BACK AWAY FROM THEM!

IMMEDIATELY!











GOODBYE,  
CADANCE!



OH CELESTIA, DO I  
REALLY NEED TO STOP  
WORKING WITH THE  
YOUNGER UNICORNS  
EVERY DAY?

I'M AFRAID  
SO.

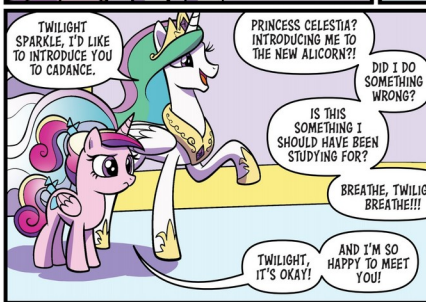


NOW THAT YOU'RE  
AN ALICORN, YOU NEED  
TO CONCENTRATE ON  
HARNESSING THE POWER  
OF YOUR HORN.

ALONG WITH A  
LOT OF OTHER  
THINGS.



BUT I DO  
KNOW OF A  
YOUNG UNICORN  
WHO MIGHT  
OCCASIONALLY  
NEED A  
FOAL-SITTER.



TWILIGHT  
SPARKLE, I'D LIKE  
TO INTRODUCE YOU  
TO CADANCE.

PRINCESS CELESTIA?  
INTRODUCING ME TO  
THE NEW ALICORN!

DID I DO  
SOMETHING  
WRONG?

IS THIS  
SOMETHING I  
SHOULD HAVE BEEN  
STUDYING FOR?

BREATHE, TWILIGHT,  
BREATHE!!!

TWILIGHT,  
IT'S OKAY!

AND I'M SO  
HAPPY TO MEET  
YOU!



THE FOALS I  
USED TO TEACH HAVE A  
SPECIAL CHANT TO CALM  
THEM DOWN.

WE CAN  
HAVE ONE  
TOO!

LET'S START IT  
WITH "SUNSHINE,  
SUNSHINE..."

**THE END!**



COMING UP NEXT MONTH



art by **Natalie Haines**



art by **Sophie Scruggs**



**MY LITTLE PONY JUST WENT MARINE!  
JOIN THE ALL-NEW SEAPONIES FOR  
A HIGH-SEAS ADVENTURE!**

MEGAN BROWN • CASEY GILLY • AMY MEBBERSON

# MY LITTLE PONY



**SET YOUR SAIL**

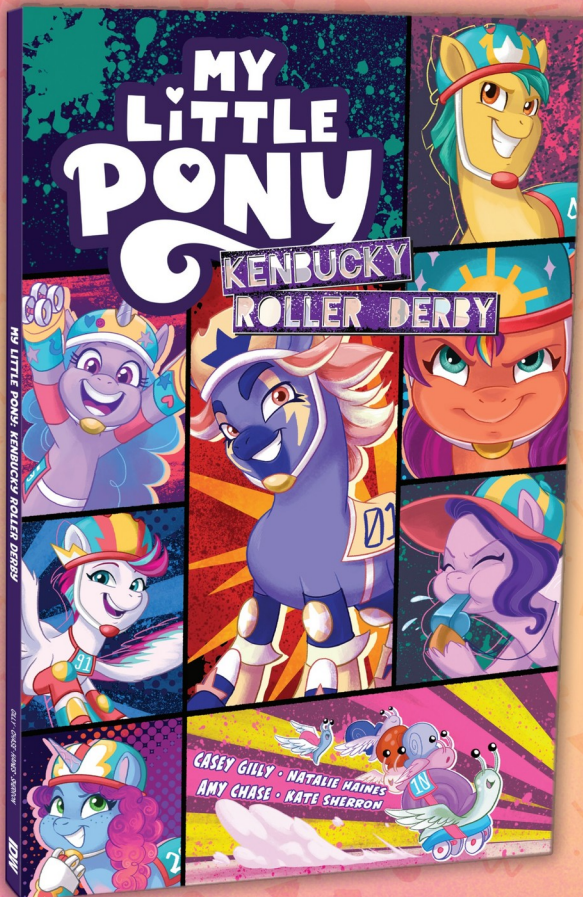


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LACE UP YOUR SKATES, EVERYPONY!



Sunny is out to recruit her own team to compete in the toughest championship in Equestria...the Kenbucky Roller Derby! Join the fun with your favorite ponies! Story by **Casey Gilly & Amy Chase** and art by **Natalie Haines & Kate Sherron!**



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# VIEW FROM THE BACK PAGE

**HAPPY NEW YEAR,  
IDW FAITHFUL,**

Hold on to your hot takes, because it's official—we're shaking things up! This isn't your run-of-the-mill slapdash logo; we're ushering in a whole new era with a logo so bold it practically leaps off the page and into your imagination.

We're not just sprucing up a color scheme; we're revamping, reinvigorating, and hitting the refresh button so hard it might just break. This isn't a change of clothes—it's our battle armor as we gear up for the next 25 years. Why? Because at IDW—short for "Idea and Design Works," remember?—we're all about big swings and even bigger ideas.

Our new logo isn't just a fancy set of letters in a font type; it's a unique symbol calling out to every reader to try something different. It declares that IDW isn't only present in the comics industry; we're leading the charge. We're surfing the rogue wave—backward, in sunglasses. Because we can.

So, what's this mean for you, dear reader? Only the most thrilling, genre-bending adventures in comic book storytelling that you've come to expect from us, now branded with a logo that's as forward-thinking as the tales we tell. It's the new face of IDW, but with the same old promise: to keep delivering awe-inspiring stories that defy expectations.

Catch this on all our releases going forward—it's going to be everywhere. Literally. And it's just the start. What's in store? Only the massive year ahead—from Godzilla to TMNT to a brand-new horror imprint and more. We're not just promising big things; we're crafting them. From the drawing boards to the press, everything we create is a step towards something epic.

Still here? Good. It will be a wild ride, and we wouldn't want to journey into the future without you.

Keep turning those pages,  
**Aub Driver | VP, Marketing**



**ON SALE JANUARY 29th**

