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my **LITTLE**

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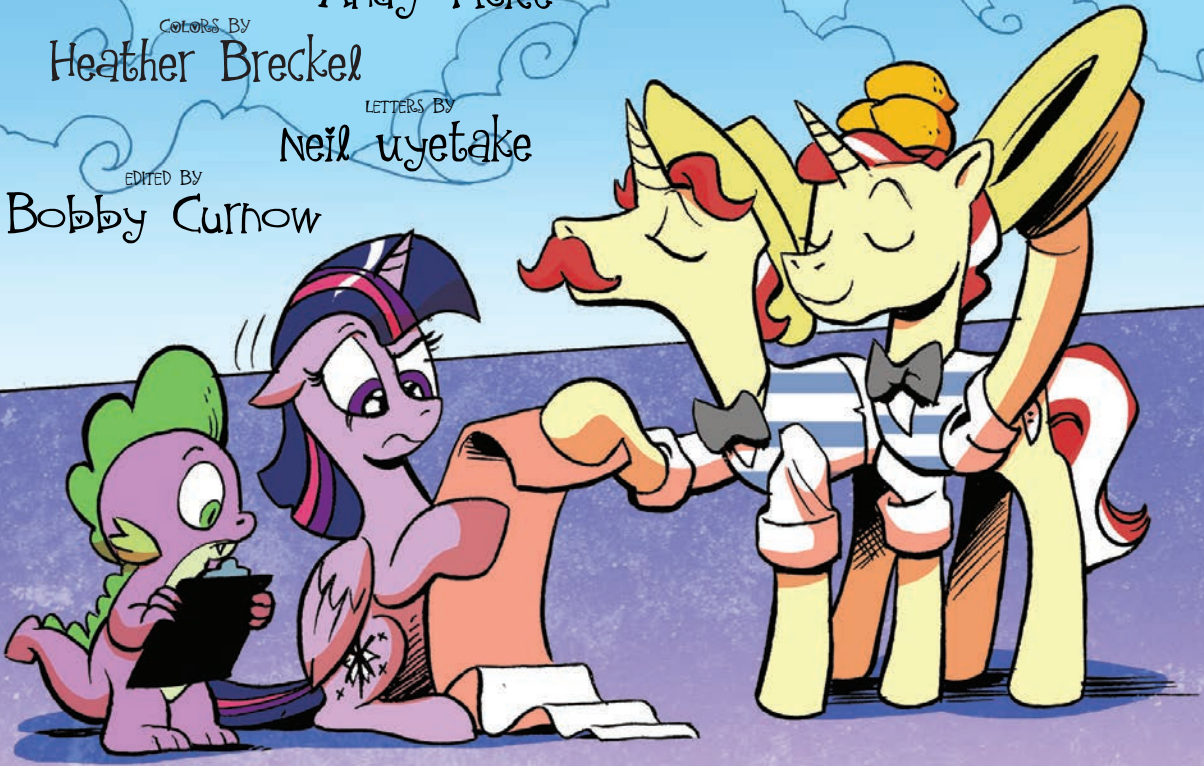
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THE ARCTIC WASTES BEYOND THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE.

FOR GENERATIONS THEY WERE USED AS A PRISON FOR THE WORST OF MONSTERS.

ABSENT THE TERRIFYING CHARM OF TARTARUS.

ALSO ABSENT ITS REVOLVING DOOR.

THE REALITY IS THAT IT ENDED UP BEING THE PLACE THE TWO SISTERS PUT MONSTERS THEY HAD NO CONCEPT OF HOW TO HOLD.

PERHAPS THE EVEN WORSE REALITY IS THAT THERE ARE OLDER MONSTERS LOCKED UP HERE THAN EVEN THE TWO SISTERS KNOW.

THIS WAS THE PRISON FOR THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE IN ITS EARLIEST DAYS.

THE RULERS OF THE CRYSTAL PONIES WERE RENOWNED FOR PUTTING MONSTERS ON ICE.

AND AFTER THE FALL OF THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE, RECORDS WERE LOST.

AND WITH PRINCESS AMORE'S DEFEAT, THE SECRET KNOWLEDGE OF THE ROYALS WAS LOST.

AND THE CONTENTS OF THE ARCTIC WASTES WERE FORGOTTEN.

BUT FORGOTTEN IS NOT GONE.

AND THINGS YOU LOCK AWAY HAVE THE WORST WAY OF COMING BACK.





WELL, BROTHER, THAT'S ANOTHER SCHEME FOILED.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER BAD APPLE IN THE BUNCH.

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN. IS THERE ANYWHERE IN EQUESTRIA TWO HONEST CONMEN CAN SET UP A SCAM WITHOUT A MEMBER OF THE APPLE FAMILY SHOWING UP AND RUINING IT?



WHY DO THESE APPLES CARE SO MUCH? WHO ASKED THEM TO BE HALL MONITORS OF ALL EQUESTRIA?

IT'S A BUM RAP, IT IS. EVERY TIME WE SET UP IT'S LIKE APPLES FALL RIGHT OUT OF THE TREES.

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM, BROTHER.

I CAN HELP WITH THAT.



WHOA!

GAH! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?



WHAT IF I OFFERED YOU THE CHANCE TO GET RID OF THAT PESKY APPLEJACK FOR GOOD? WHAT IF I TOLD YOU I HAD THE POWER TO MAKE YOU WEALTHY BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION?



AND YOU CAN LEARN ALL OF IRON WILL'S SECRETS TO BEING THE NEW ASSERTIVE YOU FOR JUST FOUR EASY PAYMENTS OF—

WHINNYAPOLIS MOTEL
- CONFERENCE ROOM -
9 AM - WELL-TO-DO INVESTMENT
CANCELED
2 PM
IRON WILL ASSERTIVENESS CLASS
5-8 PM
COLTBERG BAH MITZVAH



WAIT! STOP! IF YOU ACT NOW IRON WILL WILL THROW IN THIS EASY POCKET HORSESHOE CLEANER!



4!
EASY PAYMENTS

IRON WILL DOESN'T KNOW, BERTHA. IT'S LIKE IRON WILL HAS LOST ALL HIS CHARISMA. EVEN THE OTHER GOATS HAVE LEFT ME.

BAAA!

YOU'RE RIGHT! I DID SAY ME! NOW I SAID I! IRON WILL IS LOSING IT!

BUT I CAN HELP YOU GET IT BACK.



WHY SHOULD IRON WILL LISTEN TO YOU, PONY? YOU DON'T EVEN SPEAK IN THE THIRD PERSON.

BECAUSE YOUR CHARISMA CAME FROM FEAR... EVERYBODY USED TO BE AFRAID OF MINOTAURS. IF YOU FOLLOW ME, THEY CAN BE AGAIN.







ATTENTION, EVERYBODY. ALL FOOD VENDORS ARE DIRECTED TO TAKE THE EAST ROAD TO THE CRYSTAL COMMONS. FLUGELHORN VENDORS, PLEASE FOLLOW BALLOON VENDORS TO THE CRYSTAL COURTYARD.

DO THEY REALLY HAVE TO CALL EVERYTHING "THE CRYSTAL WHATEVER"? WE GET IT, IT'S CRYSTAL.



THEY'RE PROUD OF THEIR HOME, SPIKE. ANYWAY, I THOUGHT YOU LOVED THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE. YOU'RE A HERO HERE.

I DO. I THINK THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CRYSTAL FAIRE ARE JUST STARTING TO WEAR ON ME.

WELL, THE FAIRE IS TOMORROW, SO AFTER THAT NO MORE FAIRE TALK UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

IT'S ABOUT TIME. THIS LAST WEEK HAS TAKEN FOREVER.

HOLD ON.



WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?

JUST SELLING OUR LEGITIMATE WARES, MA'AM. YOU REMEMBER OUR OLD SUPER SPEEDY CIDER SQUEEZY 3000, RIGHT?

DO I? THAT WAS THE WORST CIDER I'VE EVER TASTED!

WELL, WE'VE MADE SOME ADJUSTMENTS. IT MAKES LEMONADE NOW.

DO YOU HAVE A PERMIT?



YES, MA'AM. WE'RE LEGITIMATE BUSINESS PONIES. WE WOULDN'T DO ANY LESS.

OF COURSE, PRINCESS TWILIGHT. LIFE GAVE US LEMONS SO WE MADE THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT LEMONADE MAKER!

HUH, EVERYTHING LOOKS IN ORDER.



I DON'T TRUST THEM, TWILIGHT.

ME NEITHER. BUT THAT'S WHY WE HAVE THE PEGASUS SECURITY AND OUR FRIENDS MONITORING THE OTHER PARTS OF THE FAIRE. I'LL HAVE APPLEJACK KEEP AN EYE ON THEM. SHE'LL HAVE A FOOD STAND TOO.

WAX ALLEY