

<uSeaGM> \*\*\*Group 4 Session 129\*\*\*

<uSeaGM> The party sets off into the garden, heading towards the beeping door. Away from happy picnics and playing in streams. Towards... adventure. And danger. As they walk their steps unconsciously fall in time with the beeping, masking the sounds of twigs and dirt beneath their hooves.

<uSeaGM> The beeping sound soon gets quieter, having already captured attention with its initial loudness it drops down to more of a background noise. Still there but no longer intrusive. With the beeping lower, the party can hear honks and the sound of swan-beasts in the distance. The door's activity seems to have stirred them up, but thankfully the swan-sounds are coming from elsewhere in the garden.

<uSeaGM> Through gaps in the foliage the party is able to catch glimpses of the doors that Watch spoke of. One to the North, which they were getting near, and one far across the garden to the West. The doors are big and metal and would have made Stable-Tec proud. They look large enough for half a dozen carts to pass each other at once and easily tall enough for a train carriage to pass beneath.

\* Artifica softly hums with the beeping.

<uSeaGM> An orange-yellow light flashes above the beeping Northern door. The party is close now but it would still be a few minutes before they arrive.

<uSeaGM> \*Session Begins\*

\* Puppy is now known as Berry

\* Berry "Soundaloud, i need to make a list, please take note!" makes the serious face because this is going to be srs bsnss

<uSeaGM> Roundabout acquires a reporter's notepad from somewhere. As well as full reporter garb complete with camera with oversized telescopic lense. "Ready."

\* Artifica hmms. "hmmm... hmmm... hmmm."

\* Berry "ah-ehm! meet somepony mean, introduce myself, sing random song out of nowhere, become instant best friends"

\* Berry "keer the list ready at claw as we perform the routine with new friends, okay?"

<Berry> \*keep

\* Milia giggles at Artifica's song and provides lyrics. "Beep... beep... beep..." Hey, this was pretty catchy!

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume was sprinting towards the door, staying ahead of the group by a bit, but

stayed far enough behind so that she was visible. Mostly she was jogging in place while waiting for the rest of the group to keep up with her. "Hey, hey heyyy! Cmon! Catch up already! I wanna see whats going on!"

<uSeaGM> Roundabout nods at Berry so quickly that his head starts to float off his body and has to be caught with both hoof/claws before being jammed back into place. "Noted."

\* Milia groans and calls out to Jasmine. "Jas, calm your tits, girl! The door ain't going anywhere. Also, I think we've filled our quota of galloping right into danger for the day. We need to start leisurely trotting into it now. It's important to keep a good balance!"

\* Artifica smiles proudly at Berry. So wise. And he's getting along so well with his spirit friend. She was worried at first. Much less so now. They seemed legitimately good for each other.

<Red\_Mage> "At what point will we have fulfilled that quota, and we can begin carefully entering situations after fully assessing them?"

\* Berry is satisfied with her list, smiles and trots behind jasmine... well, actually, she's trying to surpass her, it's not a race, right? not at all...

\* Milia blinks a few times. She shakes her head at Red Mage. "Oh, oh no no. No, we don't do that. You want a different department for that sort of thing."

<uSeaGM> Lavender sighs wistfully. "Maybe one of these days, Red."

\* Berry has her wings still soaked in water, this probably is the only reason she's not already at the door

<uSeaGM> Mercy is firmly in the exciting-thing-happening-let's-go-look camp.

\* Milia is too. You just keep on dreaming, Lavender.

\* Red\_Mage rolls his eyes. "Right. I suppose me and Lavender will keep on wishing, then."

\* Lucky\_Stars looks at Red and nods. "And me."

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume blinks at Berry as she quickly gains on her. She locks eyes with her, and time slows to a standstill for a brief moment. Whistling, a harmonica and an acoustic guitar could be heard. probably.

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume then suddenly rushes ahead, determined to not be beaten to the door by Berry

<uSeaGM> The dense plants and trees around the group's path thin out and then abruptly stop as they reach a wide road made of compacted earth. The road starts from the large North gate and cuts through the garden like a brown ribbon. The dirt road is marked by the passage of caterpillar tracks that lead away from the metal door. Jasmine and Berry reach it first, but the

others aren't far behind.

\* Berry ohnoe! the silly catbird skillfully uncovered berry's secret plan! and now she's accelerating!... oh no, silly catbird, not this day! IT! IS! ON! the filly erupts in full gallop

<Red\_Mage> "With the technology in this place, perhaps some autonomous gardening machine emerges from the doors?"

<Lucky\_Stars> "Maybe it's my mom and sister, worried sick about me." She mutters, keeping on some hope.

\* Milia hums out thoughtfully, observing the tracks. She was an expert outdoorszebra, after all! "Well it sure wasn't the murder mummy..." A gasp of horror escapes her. "Unless it's somehow combined with a gardening machine, and now has all the powers of a fruit cart /and/ an invincible undead killing machine."

<Jasmine\_Mistplume> "YOUUUU WOOOONT PAAAASS MEEEEEEEEEE!" Jasmine shouts as she runs side by side with Berry. Jasmine can get REALLY competitive. As they make it to the door, Jasmine slides to a halt, causing dirt and dust to be kicked up forming a dirt cloud in the area.

\* Red\_Mage blinks. "'Murder mummy?'"

<uSeaGM> Mercy hides behind Milia's mane. "Oh noes!"

\* Berry it is hard to outrun a cat, but berry is doing her best, when jas decides to abruptly stop. the filly stomps her oofies too, bur small compact donkey has a lot less decelerating capacity, so she keeps rollingand tumbling like a bowling ball "WAAAAAAAAAHG!"

<Berry> \*pone

\* Milia patpats Mercy and purrs softly to her. "There there, sweet sister... I shall protect you from this horrible nightmare..." She then nods at Red Mage. "There is a murder mummy in here somewhere, just sorta sitting in the dark. If you look at it, it kills you. The only way to stop it, is to have someone else kill you /first/."

\* Red\_Mage pales a bit. "I see. That's...quite terrifying, really."

<Lucky\_Stars> "Why the heck do they have something like that lying around."

<Lucky\_Stars> "More importantly. How did they get it here?"

\* Milia smiles sweetly at Lucky. "You are going to be repeating that question /so many times/."

\* Red\_Mage mutters, "I'm still wondering at times what this hellish place /is/."

<Lucky\_Stars> "It's probably existed for a long time, considering they moved us here, Red."

<uSeaGM> Roundabout attempts to slow Berry's roll by turning into a set of bowling pins in front of her. It goes about as well as you'd expect, with just a single wobbling pin left standing...

<Red\_Mage> "That's true. I wonder if maybe it's some ancient construct of chaos, perhaps. That would make a disturbing amount of sense."

<uSeaGM> The last pin topples over. Stiiii-rike!

\* Berry ha best idea! brke with face! in a shower of sparks, the filly finally stops with both her large donkey front teeth well stuck in the ground

<uSeaGM> They have reached the door!

\* Milia shrugs her shoulders. "Eh! Maybe. I'd buy that for a cap. We've been all around in here and still don't know how the hell it do what it do. After seeing Giem's dream machine though, I'm starting to think it's less something that they understood and more something that they 'understood'."

<uSeaGM> Mercy and Lavender provide the air quotes in perfect time.

<Red\_Mage> "As in, they believed they understood it far better than they really did?"

\* Milia nods. "Eeeeexactly."

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume looks over at Berry and Roundabout and blinks. She rushes over towards Berry and puts down the crystal case momentarily to help unearth her toofsies from the ground. "Hold on Berry! On three Im gonna pull you up, ok? "One.... two.... THREE!" Jasmine tugs Berry's head upwards, in an attempt to uproot her.

\* Milia giggles. "Who knows! Maybe the facility itself is one big experiment. And all these other experiments inside are all the momma experiment's babies."

\* Berry is now a longer donkey, and makes accordion sounds while pulled

\* Red\_Mage looks even more perplexed and unnerved by that idea. "Gods, I daren't think how deranged such a 'mother' would need to be to have such offspring."

\* Milia smiles at Red Mage. "Well, maybe it's more like a prison. This place is basically supposed to be able to hold the cream-of-the-batshit." She nods seriously to herself. "The /important/ thing to remember is we still managed to have a picnic and/or tea party inside it. Our record remains sterling."

<uSeaGM> Roundabout provides backing vocals for the Berry-based music. "When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore~"

<Red\_Mage> "Picnics and tea parties are a constant amongst you all?"

\* Milia shoves her muzzle right in Red Mage's face. "Tea parties are life."

\* Godna is now known as Watch

\* Berry nodnods "obviously! tea parties are what we do! and we are the best at it!"

\* Red\_Mage cries out, falling on his rump as he's startled.

\* Watch was keeping his eyes upon the door...and Jasmine as she was still rushing about into potentially dangerous circumstances with the case. He should have expected as much. He sighs and shakes his head and focuses on wondering something more relevant like why the door hadn't opened yet.

\* Milia looks down at Red Mage. Looming over him, like some fiery specter of tea parties and death.

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume finally sets down Berry after freeing her teeth from their earthy prison and patpats her on her head. She smiles and says "..Lets call it a draw."

\* Berry nodnods and smiles, then inspects the door "where are our new friends?"

<uSeaGM> Mercy climbs on Milia's head and also looms like a red party hat.

\* Red\_Mage looks back at Milia and gulps. "I, ah, see. Tea parties are important here."

\* Lucky\_Stars helps Red up.

\* Milia nods. "They're the only thing separating us and the raiders! Tea parties nourish the soul and provide peace of mind in a world gone mad! There's little triangle shaped sandwiches! Sweetie Belle is usually there!"

<Red\_Mage> "Who?"

\* Milia waves a hoof dismissively. "You know, Rarity's sister? Cute little filly with a foofy pink and purple mane? Squeaky voice?"

<Red\_Mage> "Ah, yes! I do vaguely remember her now. But...how has she survived so long?"

\* Milia smiles. "She's a robot now."

<Watch> "Yup...and kind of why I'm here at least." Watch would smile.

\* Red\_Mage blinks. "She's a robot. You can just...do that, in the future."

\* Lucky\_Stars looks at Watch. "What, is she your great great great grandma or something?"

\* Milia corrects Red Mage. "/She/ can. Not everypony gets a robot made of them. Only VIPs. The robo club is like, the most exclusive clique ever."

\* Berry "i'd like to be a robot too! BEEP BOOP! TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADERS! BOOP!"

\* Red\_Mage frowns. "Dare I ask what qualifies one for entrance?"

<Watch> "err...no...or god I hope not because that'd be REALLY REALLY weird." He'd blink. "I meant I think I'm technically the only one here to actually travel time...see I actually met her as a result of trying to escape the spirit realm...and I think I completed a predestination loop...and helped inspire the creation of the rest of the crystals I guess."

\* Milia reassuringly patpats Berry. "Maybe some day, beautiful..." It then occurs to her that there was, in fact, already a Berrybot.

<Watch> "Which...is kind of the only reason I came to this facility...well until Whisper got hurt. I had no idea about the whole skylaser thing until I got here."

<Watch> "...I've had a really bizarre adventure"

\* Artifica beeps and boops with Berry playfully.

\* Artifica looks to Watch with a smile. Haven't they all.

<uSeaGM> Roundabout does The Robot.

<Lucky\_Stars> "To pick up the non-jerkass robo-elements?"

<Red\_Mage> "Well of course. Time travel that actually causes changes is only theoretical and considered rather suspect by many leading thaumatologists."

<Red\_Mage> "So it's only natural you completed a stable time loop."

<Red\_Mage> "Also, gad! Are you all quite sure you're all sane?"

\* Berry plays robot with hornymom some more, then climbs on her nas just sits there. comfy mom is comfy. if you can find soem space in-between the barrels of the linked heavy machineguns she always carryies

\* Lucky\_Stars looks at Red. "I think that we established that they aren't."

<uSeaGM> Mercy-hat nods at both those things.

<Berry> \*carries

<Watch> "Yup. Because It ocured to me while I was in new hope in the spirit world that Rarity would live an incredibly long time and it'd be really tragic that she end up living without her friends...and well from my perspective I changed something...,but on a grander scale I changed nothing...so I guess it was worth it since without the change in context I'd have

<Watch> not known."

\* Milia nods in sync with Mercy. Bastions of sanity.

<uSeaGM> With the sound of complaining metal, the door slowly opens down the middle.

<uSeaGM> As the left half separates from the right half, the group sees a large, tracked, agricultural-looking machine on the other side. A bit like a cross between a combine harvester and a dump truck, although without the frontal spiny-harvesty bit. Instead it has a variety of robotic grabby-arms on the front and along the sides.

<Jasmine\_Mistplume> "Pffft!" Jasmine waves a talon dismissively at Red Mage " Would an insane gryphon want to kill every bad guy to make the world a better place?"

\* Watch 's attention immediately snaps back to the door. "Called it!"

<Lucky\_Stars> "Wait a minute, if you had happened upon the dream room where we were without dreaming --- never mind I don't want to know, that's just frightening to think about."

\* Milia 's attention snaps towards the opening door, her posture and ears perking up.

\* Red\_Mage stares at the nodding Mercy and Milia. "Alright, be honest. How long before I'm as strange as all of you?"

\* Watch would watch the door carefully as well as everypony making sure none of them...specifically a little flying donkey didn't rush off to go make friends before they figured out more. He also kept his attention to where the crystals sit.

\* Berry frowns "doesn't look like friendly ponies to me...." time to investigate! the filly approaches the thing for the routine lick and sniff

\* Milia mutters over to Red Mage. "Well... we've all only known each other for like... a couple weeks or so, not counting Dream Time™. /If/ that. So... at least it happens quick."

<uSeaGM> When the door fully opens the machine trundles forwards on its tracks. Several smaller 'Mr. Handy' style floating robots float out of compartments on top of the machine. They feature similar (although smaller) grabby limbs and garden tools. They quickly disperse heading to different parts of the garden while the Harvester continues slowly down the dirt road.

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume turns back around and watches as the door opens. She picks the case of crystals back up and... backs up a bit as she watches the machine closely

<uSeaGM> From the tunnel behind the harvester comes the sound of honking. A /LOT/ of honking. And scrambling of feets, like a stampede of oversized avians.

\* Red\_Mage gulps and looks towards the open door. "Well, call me unsurprised. I had rather thought gardening automata would be inside."

<Lucky\_Stars> "In a nutshell, me and Red would've probably be traumatized when either you took the heads or when we'd be woken up prematurely to make friends....oh fuck, do I hear swans?"

\* Red\_Mage pales. "Oh no. More of those damnable beasts as well!"

\* Milia 's ears fold back. That was a lot of honking. "Oh, shit."

\* Watch tries tto stop Berry from rushing off to lick the strange machine. "Berry no. We don't want to get you caught between the swarm of swans and a strange machine." He'd reach out and try and grab her to stop her from getting too close.

\* Berry is quite easy to grab. is not really okay with it, but when you are small, it's hard to do what you want, so she pouts and simply puts watch in the ebil tyrants list.

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume suddenly gets a lot more defensive, and backs up even more at the sound of the honking. The last birb got quite rowdy with her. Her first priority were the crystals. She wouldnt let their rowdiness harm them.

<Watch> "your mothers would be VERY cross if you got hurt." Watch would say as he brought Berry to the safety of either Arti or Milia.

\* Berry keeps pouting, this was a conspiracy

<Lucky\_Stars> "Um..." She looks for a place to hide.

<uSeaGM> A cloud of dust rapidly approaches down the tunnel, it would be at the entrance in seconds. A cloud of dust with tens... no, maybe more than a hundred sets of feet and beaks.

\* Watch would be impressed with berry this WAS a conspiracy.

\* Milia looks toward the other door. It was way, way too far away to get to, and it was probably still closed. This was their only way forward... and there were a bunch of Goddess damned swans in their way! "Hide!" she hurriedly whispers, scampering to the side of the door and hopefully out of sight of the impending nightmarish stampede.

\* Lucky\_Stars is VERY good at hiding it turns out.

\* Red\_Mage nods, bolting aside from the door as well and trying to conceal himself.

\* Milia is a terrible sneaky zebra. She's mostly hoping the swans are too caught up in the flow of the stampede to actually notice them.

\* Berry is with stripeypone mom, and she wants to see the birdies, not to hide! she sits there and smiles, wagging her tail

\* Milia IS HOLDING BERRY TIGHT.

\* Lucky\_Stars pulls Red into hiding with her.

\* Red\_Mage gulps, thankful that at least Lucky\_Stars knows how to hide.

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume had gotten a -lot- of practice with hiding from hordes of Chrysallids when she was separated from the group. She had been in those tunnels for several days. And now she had something that needed protecting. She quickly snaps away from the door, and hides herself amongst the thick foliage

\* Watch returns to foilage where he had been hiding before. He plays the part of statue REALLY well as he poses and becomes incredibly still.

<uSeaGM> Between a virtually invisible pony (assumed to be Lucky\_Stars) pulling the others into hiding places and Milia's Momming everyone somewhere out of sight, the party is completely hidden as a tide of swan-beast pour out of the tunnel.

\* Milia may be part lizard, because she could swear she shifts her colors to blend in as she presses her stomach to the wall beside the door. What do you mean this segment of wall is the same color as her cloak? How dare you ruin this for her.

<uSeaGM> Most of the swan-tide spilt around the Harvester and charge down the garden road, but a good two dozen of them turn around to face the open tunnel entrance and squawk angrily at it. There is much stamping of feet.

\* Artifica is hiding through the power of wife!

\* Milia slowly peels herself away from the wall and stops emanating her ZWSF (Zebra Wife Stealth Field; also: patent pending) after the stampede passes. She narrows her eyes in worry. "Such angry swan feets... what in the hell were they so scared of?..."

\* Milia is also staunchly refusing to acknowledge that she may or may not have just embodied a certain stereotype about her kind. She swears, she's normally not good at skulking around!

<uSeaGM> The two dozen swans remain, honking at the open door but getting nowhere nearer.

\* Berry "mom, can i join the swan-pede when i'm a big pone?"

\* Berry "they are so majestic..."

\* Milia smiles down at Berry. "But then you'd have to beak ponies in the face, sweetie. Are you sure that's what you want to do?"

\* Berry "not id they give me crumbles. you beak ponies only crumbles won't come. well, i can lick ponies, i have no beak anyway..."

\* Artifica has to hide again, quickly. This time, to keep from breaking into laughter in front of Berry. Really, she just needs to hide her face. That will be enough. So she buries it against

Milia.

<Watch> "Should...we find out what's beyond the door?"

\* Milia chuckles. "Licking sounds /much/ nicer. Maybe you'd make a good swan, after all."

\* Berry "i can fly above them and peek inside, maybe?"

<Watch> "I mean they're clearly not taking the chance..." Watch somehow manages to speak all the while not moving otherwise.

\* Milia frowns at Berry. "We should go together. Just in case."

<uSeaGM> The angry swans are giving the open tunnel entrance a wide berth.

\* Berry "don't be a silly mommy, you can't fly... i'm going there, watching why the pretty birdies are scared and come back and tell you"

\* Milia thinks. And then, she reaches up and nabs Mercy, plopping her right onto Berry's head. "Then, at least take Mercy with you! That way, I can see what you see too."

\* Berry "or yell it at you from my safe cloud"

<Jasmine\_Mistplume> A box creeps out from behind the bushes where Jasmine previously was

\* Artifica licks Milia while her face is buried in stripeycoat.

<Watch> "you can let me draw off the swans" He'd say as he proceeded to break his pose as he got back on all four hooves and trotted out. "if they charge me. I'm sufficiently durable." He said it confidently...,but there were a lot of birds.

\* Milia starts to squirm and giggle from wife-licks! "Eep! Hehehe!... That tickles!..."

<Watch> "or if they don't attack...I can play pointpony."

\* Berry nodnods and goes airborne. doesn't take the risk and flew way above the heads of the swans, approaching the tunnel from the upper end

\* Milia can't help but nibble on Artifica's ear in revenge. Her muzzle may have been concealed, but her ears weren't!

\* Artifica merphles!

\* Berry but when she's flying above the birdies... ohnoe! she can't resist? she grabs a pre-war cake and starts tosing crumbles of it o the birdies' heads! stupid berry stop that!

<Jasmine\_Mistplume> The Box creeps slowly towards the tunnel. Anytime a Birb looks like its about to look the boxes way, it stops moving and stays still

\* Berry is anyway distracting the birbs with crumbs tossing

\* Lucky\_Stars grabs Red, and sneaks toward the tunnel

\* Red\_Mage carefully follows Lucky\_Stars towards the tunnel. "It seems like this is our only option unless we want to fight all of those monsters," he grumbles.

<Lucky\_Stars> "Just one nearly tore Milia to shreds."

<uSeaGM> One of the giant birbs (one the being Crumbed) looks up and honks at Berry, but the others still look at the tunnel entrance. Still yelling, still keeping a big distance.

\* Red\_Mage shivers. "Yes, I'd rather not fight all of those."

\* Berry finishes the crumbs and flies next to the tunnel entrance, peeking inside

\* Milia blinks, as the rest of the group starts creeping towards the tunnel. Well, that settled that, then! She whispers down to the face-smooshed Artifica, "Time to explore a nice, welcoming tunnel, love."

\* Berry "hel-looo? pretty scaring swan monster?"

<Watch> "Well...whatever is in there. It is quite clearly more afraid of what lies ahead." Watch would say as he continues striding toward the tunnel. He doesn't bother with more stealth.

<Watch> (welcoming Tunnel of love? :V)

\* Milia slinks her way over toward the open doors. She preferred to go as a group, anyways! It was safer that way.

\* Artifica grins and begins slinking with Milia. Her slinking is considerably less slinky wearing armor and a battle saddle.

<uSeaGM> The tunnel is long and filled with swirling dust from the swan stampede, but light can be seen at the far end.

\* Milia may or may not be flicking her tail around as her wife slinks behind her. She can't help it. She literally can't help it. It does that on its own!

\* Berry flapflaps inside the tunnel, now, moving slowly and keeping almost at the level of the ceiling

<uSeaGM> There are also quite a lot of white feathers left behind.

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume sneaky sneakys up behind the others, still in her cardboard box

\* Milia scoops up said feathers. You never know what alchemical purpose horrible swan

monster feathers could have!

\* Berry flapflaps down the tunnel, going for the light

\* Watch finds himself relaxed enough to spare a moment to the zap apples they'd gathered and continues on ahead.

\* Berry also, sniffsniiffs the air, trying to notice if there is bullybugs smell in the air

\* Berry or just birb poo

\* Artifica picks up a white feather and inches closer to Milia until she can tickle her wife's backside with it. Between tail flicks.

<uSeaGM> Roundabout and Mercy both sit on Berry's head wearing matching aviator goggles.

<Watch> "I am really wondering what might be this way to drive the army of murder birds away."

<Red\_Mage> "Whatever it is, we're going right towards it."

\* Berry is not really scouting, just moving above the group

<Lucky\_Stars> "Maybe birb repellent."

\* Lucky\_Stars says hopefully.

\* Milia squeaks! and turns red and glowy. Literally. She shoots a mischievous, giggly look back at Artifica as she slightly smolders with flames. "Oh, so we're doing butt stuff now, hmm?" The zebra continues to trot along, and mutters, "Just you wait till we're out of here... I'll do more than tickle..."

<Red\_Mage> "Yes, we can only hope whatever is down this tunnel won't try to horribly kill us."

\* Milia immediately begins plotting her plot revenge.

<uSeaGM> Mercy suddenly squeaks, her composure broken by echoed tickling.

\* Berry eeps reacting to mercy's squeaking, and zips forward, panicking

<Watch> "It sounds like I should take point then." Watch would pick up a pace so that he'd be the one to take the brunt of any traps that might go off."

<Lucky\_Stars> "Maybe the birb's greatest enemy, a clear glass window." She wonders....

<Lucky\_Stars> "Or mustaches."

<Lucky\_Stars> "Or beards."

\* Milia pipes up helpfully. "Or maybe a birb, standing on another birb's head. And all the rest of

the birb's flipped their shit because they had never seen something so obscene before."

<Watch> "if it ends up being a clear glass window. Assuming I'm pretending to be a mime"

<Red\_Mage> "Wait, what? A clear glass window I understand, but facial hair?"

<Lucky\_Stars> "Silver had a pet parakeet once, and it flipped out anytime my uncle came by."

<Lucky\_Stars> "It just didn't like facial hair. I don't know what it was."

<Red\_Mage> "That is...quite odd."

<uSeaGM> The others, with Watch in front, notice Berry circling around something in the tunnel ahead of them. Then she drops a hoof-ful of crumbs ~~and continues~~.

<Lucky\_Stars> "Parakeets are adorable, but they're probably extinct now."

\* Berry actually, stops for the whole ceremony thing

\* Watch blinks and shrugs. He is quite sure the others would figure out what she was doing as he strides on ahead and keeps following the berry

\* Milia had missed whatever Mercy had seen. Too many wife tickles! Still, they'd see what Berry had found soon enough as they continue plodding along through the tunnel.

\* Berry is tossing crumbs on the head of a dead swan and chating "may you find the nommiest crumbs, may you honk the honkiest songs, may you dance the danciest dances in the great lake of the swans!"

<uSeaGM> The group reaches Berry while she does her ceremony!

<uSeaGM> Berry is giving a dead swan a send-off. The bird looks like it was trampled.

\* Berry turns towards the group and notes "her friends swan-peded her... this is sad..."

\* Milia winces. "Eesh... what a way to go. Trampled by the feets of her bestest swan buds..."

\* Milia nods towards Berry sadly. "She's honking in a better place now, love."

\* Berry patpats the dead swan on the head and then keeps exploring with the others

\* Red\_Mage gives the dead swan-beast a wide berth as he heads into the tunnel.

<Watch> "I'm not mourning it." Watch says before he notes Red is continuing and he'd pick up the pace to keep ahead.

<uSeaGM> Roundabout blows his nose into a black hanky from behind the veil of his widowers outfit.

\* Milia pauses. She looks back to the corpse. "...Anypony got a knife?"

\* Red\_Mage looks back, shaking his head. "Not really, no."

\* Milia 's eyes wander towards Jasmine. Their resident knifebirb. "Hey Jas... can you help me for a sec?"

<Watch> "technically speaking I am a knife." He'd point to scimitar horn.

\* Artifica blinks. "Harvesting swan parts?" She thinks. "What can alchemists make from giant swans? Swan-neck talismans?"

\* Milia grins at Artifica. "I have no idea! But I will soon. Provided I can actually get the parts."

\* Milia adds, "Who knows? Maybe I can make a swan wing talisman! Or swan /feets/ talisman. Imagine. If your hooves were swan feet."

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume takes the box off of herself and folds it up, looking up at Milia. "Aw cmon... how did you know I was theeeeere." She sighs. "Okaaaaay. What do you need?"

\* Milia snickers at Jasmine's pouting, before pointing toward the corpse. "Wings, claws, beak." She flutters her eyes sweetly. "Pretty please!"

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume stares at the corpse of the fallen swanosaur, and then back at Milia. "Woah... Ruuuuude much? Why?"

\* Milia tilts her head at Jasmine. "For potions and stuff! I wanna make things outta this dead swan."

\* Milia adds, "It's better than just letting the corpse rot in this tunnel, isn't it?"

<uSeaGM> "Use all parts of the Swanalo," Lavender chimes in helpfully.

\* Berry is flying in the long tunnel. sure it's long, and straight, and... very long... the little filly is getting the worstest of the ideas...

\* Milia nods at Lavender. "Thank you, sis!"

\* Berry but she still has to know... she only did it in her dreams... xhe can't really know if she can do it... the boom... she needed space, a lot of it... but this silly tunnel looked long enough to....

\* Milia continues, "I mean, I'd ask for all the guts and stuff, too... but it might be hard to transport those. Like, /especially/ the heart. Heart's are super amazing for alchemy." She narrows her eyes, thinking about it hard. "...Yeah, can you get me the heart, too?"

\* Berry "mom i'm trying a thing 'kay 'bai! the filly zips back to the beginning of the tunnel"

<uSeaGM> Roundabout is responsible spirit and cheers on Berry's train of thought. "You can do

it, Berry! I believe in you!"

\* Watch had decided not to go too far ahead, but he was now uncomfortably far ahead of the others

\* Milia is distracted by ogling this poor, dead swan. "Hmm? Okay, sweetie..." she idly responds.

<uSeaGM> Mercy is also totes responsible. "Go Berry go Berry go!"

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume feathers get all ruffled and she looks at Milia like she had just said something rather unsavory. She lets out a raspy caw. "Baaaah... fine! But this is super rude! You owe me one.... a big one! Or several small ones." She uses a claw and stares at the dead swan. She squints, and looks away before she starts to tear into it

\* Milia grins brightly, like a filly in a candy shop. "Deal!"

\* Artifica looks up just in time to see Berry zip off. "oh dear"

<uSeaGM> Mercy falls off Berry's head as she flies off (since that would take her too far away) and returns to Milia. She quickly becomes interested in watching Jasmine's fine claws-birdship.

\* Berry disappeared somewhere down the tunnel ,back from when the group arrived. os doing something donkey related, probably, and it will take a while

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume quickly deals with the parts that look least birblike.... which wasnt much since most of the stuff Milia wanted was the birbparts. She sighs and finally starts to work on the wings and the beak..... and after that, she looked at Milia and said "You absolutely sure you want the heart too?"

\* Artifica winces, feeling for Jasmine\_Mistplume

\* Milia nods energetically at Jasmine. "Hearts are like... potion boner central. For real." She smiles sympathetically. "Is that... asking too much? If it is, it's cool. I can work with what you've gotten me already." Her ears gradually fold back, ever more sheepishly. "Sorry about asking you to do this."

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume shakes her head. "Just remember.... big favor" She reluctantly pushes a talon into the breast of the dead raptorbirb and tears downward, creating a large hole into its chest cavity. It probably doesnt smell none too good, but the smell doesnt seem to phase Jasmine. She moves pieces of the hollow and broken ribcage, most likely shattered when it was trampled over, and cuts out

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume the heart. She holds it up for Milia to collect

\* Berry stretches her wings and takes a deep breath "if you're strong, you can fly, you can reach the other side of rainbow... it's allright, take a chance..."

<uSeaGM> Roundabout secures his aviator goggles.

\* Milia 's eyes glimmer with wonder. 'Doo doo doo doooooo!~'

\* Milia dumps the rest of their food (which they had gone through quite a bit of) into one side of her bags, and puts the raw heart into the sack, and places it and the rest of the parts neatly into her other bag.

\* Milia bounces up and down excitedly. "Thankyouthankyouthankyou!"

\* Milia stops bouncing and clears her throat. "\*\*AHEM\*... I owe you one."

\* Berry something silvery pass above the group. it could be a bird, a missile, a plane, or the suest sue in the sueverse

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume wipes her bloody talons off on her coat and nods. "Yup. Just promise you wont ask me to drink whatever you make with it." She forces a smile

\* Milia nods. "Deal."

\* Milia pauses. "...And what about if it's not drinkable? What about if it's wearable?"

<uSeaGM> Mercy meerkats as Berry shoots overhead. "What was that!"

\* Milia blinks as something \*SWOOSH\*es by her. "What the hell?..." She joins her sister in meerkatting.

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume raises an eyebrow at Milia. "Would you wear a severed zebra leg around your neck?"

\* Artifica gasps. "Berry?"

\* Berry a flash glimpses far ahead in the tunnel. the flash turns into a bright flare, illuinating the tunnel like in a bright day's morning. then everything goes still. quiet. too quiet

\* Berry waaaait for it...

\* Milia takes a moment to think, and then nods. "Yes. Yes I would," she states with absolute sincerity. The zebra makes sure to add, "Well, if it /did/ something. Not for fashion, of course."

\* Berry the sound of the blast is multiplied several times by the walls of the tunnel, when it arrives, it makes gravel tremble and is followed by a cloud of dust moving with the fallout of the explosion.

\* Jasmine\_Mistplume stares at Milia for a long moment. "....." It was a very tense long moment. ".....Fair enough" she shrugs.

\* Milia opens her mouth to comment, except then her entire world becomes explosion. Sound?

Explosion. Sight? Explosion. Smell? Explosion. Touch, taste, smision? Explosion. She was sure she screamed or yelled something in that moment, but it too became explosion.

<uSeaGM> Mercy bounces up and down, her mane waving in the wind. "A Berryboom a Berryboom a Berryboooooom!!!"

\* Red\_Mage suddenly finds himself sprawled on the floor of the tunnel, his ears ringing.

\* Lucky\_Stars is also sprawled on the floor.

\* Milia had gone crosseyed. Curse her squidgy, fleshy nature. "A BerRyBoOM~..." she mutters crookedly.

<Lucky\_Stars> "Was that really necessary...ugh..."

<Jasmine\_Mistplume> \*beeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeep\* the only thing Jasmine could hear was a high pitched beeping in her earholes, as she falls flat on her back, feeling incredibly dizzy after that assault on her hearing senses

\* Milia isn't sure when she turned upside down, but she did. Her legs waggle around in the air. Like a dog paddling over bathwater. "Feels like... someone shoved my ass... up my ass..." she blurbles incoherently.

\* Berry probably it wasn't necessary, but berry needed answers and berry doesn't smart enough to know when you can do a rhing and when not

\* Berry merrily trots back to her mommies and friends

\* Red\_Mage slowly crawls to his shaky hooves. "In the future...no rainbooms in tunnels, please..."

<Lucky\_Stars> "You'd think that would be a given.....explosions and tunnels don't mix."

\* Milia rolls over and slowly crawls to all fours. "I'd entire a bread... if my face big enough..." she agrees.

<uSeaGM> The end of the tunnel, and the other garden beyond, was just a few minutes away from where the group had paused. The garden was now full of rainbows in addition to its plants and flowers. Oh, and the strange statues of course.

<uSeaGM> \*\*\*End of Session for Group 4\*\*\*