

SC276: ~And the fic keeps running, running, and running, running...~

Crazy56U: Well, the years start coming and they don't stop coming. Fed to the rules and I hit the ground running- and insert the rest of *All Star* here.

Ringmaster: Yep, more of this. Recap time, SC.

SC276: Last time on *All Your Terribleness Remembered*, the pilot was redone as a play, I hate Epic Failure's guts, the obvious guy is working for the villains, and we had to stop in the middle of a chapter because Pen Stroke has no idea what "even ground" is. Thankfully, as I understand it, that won't be happening this week?

Ringmaster: Yeah, although the riff length has to go slightly longer than usual as a result, to get through the end of Chapter Nine.

SC276: I'll take it. Whatever gets this over with already.

Ringmaster: Well then, without further ado, part four of the original edit of "Past Sins", by Pen Stroke.

Crazy56U: The last fic was like pulling teeth. I'm quite frankly *glad* we're back to this fic... even if we are nearer to... ...*that* moment...

Dragonborne: The fuck did I miss?

Crazy56U: What *didn't* you miss?

BittplexMutt: You didn't miss much.

Mono: And we go from one cesspool of boredom straight to the other...

SuperMapslover: This is going to be *really bad* or so bad it's good. Let's see.

Toph: *pops up through a hatch in the floor* Oh, boy! What are we doing this wee-
OH COME ON!

Calico: Ah, yes, the fic that strives to ruin Fire Emblem for me via identically-named characters... or at least one of them. Let's see what this week's portion has to offer.

Dark Angel: I can tell you right now that this week's portion will only offer pain.

Twilight yawned, making no effort to control or stifle it

Toph: You know what? I'm not even going to make the joke. We all know precisely what the joke is, so go ahead and laugh at it in your head, and we'll move on.

Crazy56U: ...yeah. The joke being she's tired. Are... ...are you okay, man?

Toph: Actually, the joke I was going to make was that she's mimicking our response, and no. I'm not okay.

Crazy56U: ...do you want a hug?

Toph: Go ahead. Touch me. See what happens.

Crazy56U: (hugs Toph)

Toph: *flings himself and Crazy through a hatch in the floor, a loud body-in-a-woodchippery sound is heard*

as she walked down the path to Ponyville Elementary. The sun was still rising from the horizon,

Dark Angel: As opposed to rising from Celestia's ass?

Crazy56U: Having once again beat the shit out of the moon for its lunch money.

the sunrise's tapestry of colors just starting to fade to the constant blue of midday.

Crazy56U: ...so, in other words, Twilight slept 'til noon?

CaptainPipsqueak: Lazy nag.

SC276: I'm just hearing "It was a beautiful sunny day."

Crazy56U: Uh oh, you finally snapped.

SC276: "Finally?"

SuperMapslover: Talk about oversleeping.

Topher: Yeah, uh, what kind of loser would sleep that late? Ha ha...

Crazy56U: I've slept 'til 2:30PM consistently for a week now. (cheeky grin; thumbs up)

Normally, it would have taken an important research trip to make Twilight get out of bed this early.

CaptainPipsqueak: Noon?

Crazy56U: Well, the Narrator *did* say "midday".

Mono: Well, that or a jar of moonshine.

SuperMapslover: You mean she slept through the morning? But what about the breakfast? The Saturday morning cartoons?

That was, however, before Nyx came into her life.

Crazy56U: "Nowadays, Twilight is lucky if she even gets twenty minutes of sleep."

CaptainPipsqueak: As opposed to the twenty hours she's used to.

Dark Angel: I think you're thinking of Rainbow's sleep schedule.

SC276: You've been a mom *how long* now, and it's only now affecting your sleep schedule?

Mono: Eh, that's motherhood. No one told Twilight life was gonna be this way. *claps four times*

Dark Angel: She has yet to get over the morning sickness though.

So, it was not an expedition to some a far off archaeological sight

BittplexMutt: although that would be rather interesting.

Crazy56U: Because Twilight isn't Daring Do, Narrator, slow your roll.

or a rare celestial event that drew Twilight from her warm bed covers.

Crazy56U: (annoyed) Oh, goody! Twilight's been watching Jojo again!

Dragonborne: TOKI WO TOMARE! *picks up a steamroller*

CaptainPipsqueak: **WRYYYYY!**

Mono: ...some other anime-related thing!

Crazy56U: K.

Though, to a certain little black filly,

Crazy56U: ...Spike?

Dragonborne: Godcat?

SC276: ...baby Thunder-mohawk?

Mono: ...Thorax after a gender change and regression?

CaptainPipsqueak: Nightmare Moon after that spell incident? Oh. Wait.

Dark Angel: Moonie?

it was nearly as important.

Crazy56U: Proof that Twilight ruined Nyx's childhood.

CaptainPipsqueak: Saturday morning cartoons? *BEFORE SOME ASSHOLES RUINED IT FOR EVERYONE ELSE?*

Dark Angel: So, 4Kids?

SuperMapslover: Yeah, *fuck* Litton and their shows!

Crazy56U: Uh, I think he was referring to a certain incident in New York...

Topher: I think we might be thinking of different things. When you say "an incident in New York" my mind immediately jumps to something not really Saturday-morning cartoon related.

A few days after the Spring Festival, Cheerilee announced that she wanted to try something new for the school.

SC276: Under orders from Superintendent Plot.

CaptainPipsqueak: Apparently he's a real asshole. This is the only instance in which you will see me refer to this ludicrous term. Treasure it.

Crazy56U: [Cheerilee] "Today, I'm going to teach you all about meth labs!"

Mono: She wanted to turn it into a sweatshop!

BittplexMutt: She wanted to teach them about Pokemon!

SuperMapslover: She wanted a to make a play with a big budget and then murder everyone during an encore!

A Saturday where students would set up educational exhibits and the school would host food and games.

Crazy56U: "This caused a riot as several of the students tried usurping Cheerilee's position as teacher in order to protect their Saturdays."

CaptainPipsqueak: "Also because the snacks Cheerilee provides *suck*."

BittplexMutt: But the school would not provide any drinks.

CaptainPipsqueak: And the future refused to change. ***SKREEEEEEEE!***

Dark Angel: Cheerilee chose to call this event The Breakfast Club.

Something Cheerilee was playful calling the "Learn and Play Day".

SC276: She always proclaimed it with a very singsong voice.

CaptainPipsqueak: But deep within she seethed with fury.

BittplexMutt: and regret.

Crazy56U: Indirectly ripping off the Worldwide Day of Play, eh Teach? Might as well; both are roughly as paid attention to.

Mono: That name reminds me of Play-Dough.

Dark Angel: So... Learn and Play-Dough?

It was an event that had quickly grown, Ponyville's schools for older colts and fillies getting in on the event as well.

SC276: Because those are... apparently there.

BittplexMutt: For.. some reason.

CaptainPipsqueak: First rule of Ponyville: It's as big as it needs to be.

Crazy56U: Hey now, the show has yet to confirm if there is more than one school in Ponyville, this could still be true...

CaptainPipsqueak: *First rule of Ponyville: It's as big as it needs to be.*

Crazy56U: *Hey now, the show has yet to confirm if there is more than one school in Ponyville, this could still be true...*

CaptainPipsqueak: Don't make me raise my voice.

Mono: Why the fuck are grown colts and fillies interested in this shit for younger foals? If anything, those grown-up foals would probably look at their smartphones all day.

And, due to the fact that the event had grown so quickly,

SC276: The part of the Learn and Play Day will be played by a katamari.

Crazy56U: Partially because of said riot.

Cheerilee had called on Twilight, Ponyville's number one organizer,

Crazy56U: And the only one who returned Cheerilee's phone call.

Mono: Seeing as she's the only one who could possibly possess a phone.

Dragonborne: "Hello, hello?"

to help get everything in order. The purple unicorn had been working alongside the teacher for the past two weeks to organize the event while the students had been researching and building their educational exhibits.

SC276: And there couldn't be smaller scenes where the start of these were introduced because there must be time skips for the main plot to actually do something.

Mono: It's Pen Stroke. You know he'll get to describing every molecule of these.

Crazy56U: Out of protest, mainly. Snips and Snails went with "The Effects of Gasoline on Fire".

CaptainPipsqueak: Nobody died. That was the important thing.

Topher: Nobody whose remains weren't quickly and discreetly disposed of, anyway.

CaptainPipsqueak: I understand her death was almost painless.

It had turned into quite a bit of work, but... Twilight had accepted it.

SC276: [Twilight] "You would not *believe* some of Celestia's school project assignments. This is basically Tuesday."

Crazy56U: "The moonshine helped."

BittplexMutt: "And the brownies."

Nyx had been so excited about the event the moment she heard about it that Twilight wanted to be sure it went off well.

SC276: Might as well score brownie points before the inevitable happens. Once the bad guys start winning, they're gonna need Fluttershy's crop more than ever.

Dragonborne: What about snowflake points? Those count?

CaptainPipsqueak: Never.

Crazy56U: It's basically a glorified regular school day on the weekend, Twilight. You already lost.

Approaching the schoolhouse, Twilight walked around the brightly painted building and to the open

field behind it. There, Cheerilee was working with a few other volunteers to get everything set up.

SC276: Yeah. "Volunteers." Considering they're in a pretty good position for blackmailing, it's amazing teachers don't get paid more.

Crazy56U: Cheerilee was paying them in beer.

Dark Angel: [Volunteer] "We need your help, Twilight! How many legs is a table supposed to have?!"

"Good Morning everypony." Twilight offered, trying to put on a smile only to yawn another time.

CaptainPipsqueak: Good evening, everybody!

Mono: Good night, everybody!

Crazy56U: Janky as fuck animation, everybody!

"Not much for mornings, Twilight?" Cheerilee asked as she walked over to meet the unicorn.

"Not usually, no."

SC276: [Twilight] "Or afternoons. Or evenings. Not all that crazy about nights either."

CaptainPipsqueak: [Twilight Sparkle] "In fact, I'm kind of questioning why I'm alive at all. Might just be the moonshine talking, though."

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "Speaking of, forgot about breakfast. (pulls out a jar of moonshine; opens and chugs the jar)"

"Well, thank you for offering to come out and give everything one final check over before the big day.

SC276: So has she done any *actual* work, or...?

Crazy56U: She showed up, so yes.

Mono: Does "looking around" count?

Dragonborne: Nah, she just brought books and brooms and quills to life, gave them arms, and made them do the work for her.

Mono: It... backfired horribly...

Crazy56U: Nobody died. That was the important thing.

Dark Angel: I thought it backfired BECAUSE nobody died.

CaptainPipsqueak: It was funny as hell, though.

BittplexMutt: That is... until Disney sued her for copying them.

CaptainPipsqueak: Until *they* all mysteriously died in a fire that couldn't be put out.

Everypony seems so excited! This little weekend may turn into a new Ponyville tradition if it goes off right."

Crazy56U: Except no, you are going to suffer the wrath of about twenty or so pissed off students for stealing their Saturday. Excluding Nyx and Twilight, *no one wants to spend their weekend at school you asshole.*

SC276: [Cheerilee] "After that unspeakable incident with my garden that doesn't exist, I need to make a name for myself *somehow.*"

Crazy56U: (punches SC276 in the jaw) No. Bad.

CaptainPipsqueak: Yeah, good thing you were out of town and had a rock-solid alibi when all those kids vanished.

Crazy56U: (punches Pip in the jaw) Fuck you too.

CaptainPipsqueak: I dunno; you'd have to get me *pretty* drunk, first. And I have a high tolerance for alcohol.

Dark Angel: Well this conversation just took a bad turn.

"Well, let's get through today first before we start planning for next year." Twilight said, her saddle bags opening at the beckon call

SC276: God fucking dammit, Pen Stroke.

Crazy56U: Well, excuse Twilight's bags for being sentient, SC. The fuck got into you?

of the unicorn's magic, a checklist and pencil floating into the air and in front of Twilight.

Crazy56U: And then the pencil spun around and sped directly into Twilight's eye-

Dragonborne: And here is lavender unicorn syndrome, in all its decaying glory.

Mono: "What are you talking about?" The riffer asked.

Topher: *bashes Mono head in with a hammer* Trust me, we didn't want it spreading.

CaptainPipsqueak: It's *already* spread, it just goes into remission now and then.

"Now, let's see. Are the exhibit tables set up?"

SC276: [Cheerilee] "You have eyes, you know."

[Twilight] "Did I stutter, bitch?"

Crazy56U: [Cheerilee] "Sorry, I don't speak 'Alcoholic'."

Cheerilee nodded, pointing a hoof to the area direction behind the school. Several circular tables had been borrowed and rented from a number of ponies around Ponyville and covered in white tablecloths to form a veritable sea of tables.

Crazy56U: Tables tables, tables. Tables? Tables!

SC276: Avast me, maties! Cedar on the port side!

Mono: Arr! That be pine, ya land-lubber!

CaptainPipsqueak: It's okay, Mono -you willownly get him mad if you shout at him.

Topher: ABANDON SHIP! MAN THE END TABLES!

BittplexMutt: Um... That is mahogany!

Crazy56U: ...you all need help.

Mono: Oh hi, Mr. Pot. There was a Mr. Kettle asking for you just now.

Crazy56U: Oh, hey, on that note, apparently Mr. Fuck and Mrs. Off wanted to see you.

Topher: Wait, Those two are here?! *dives under the table* Yeah, don't tell them I'm here. Our relationship is a little strained ever since Fuck caught me doing various untoward things with Off.

CaptainPipsqueak: Like jacking?

Dark Angel: Is nobody gonna notice the fact that all the tables in Ponyville happen to be circular? Does nobody have rectangular tables? Or any other shape than circular?

Each table had two little signs on it with numbers.

Mono: One to 5318008. Strangely enough that last one was written in digital

numbers.

BittplexMutt: Uh.. 3.14?

Crazy56U: Specifically: 69 and 4- (is shot and killed)

Dark Angel: *blows the smoke off a gun barrel*

"Thirty round tables

Dragonborne: Gonna get the Knights and King Arthur while you're at it?

Mono: If it's Monty Python-related, then sure!

CaptainPipsqueak: *Everybody* gets to be a knight!

Crazy56U: "Give or take 29."

BittplexMutt: "And no rectangular tables."

with tablecloths with sixty numbered exhibit signs on yellow paper."

CaptainPipsqueak: Betcha at *least* half of 'em'll be baking soda volcanoes.

Crazy56U: Too mainstream, Pip. These days, it's all about Mentos and Coke.

Calico: Or potato batteries.

BittplexMutt: Or a Rube Goldberg machine.

"Perfect." Twilight replied, making a check on her list,

BittplexMutt: and checking it twice.

Crazy56U: [List] "[x] Count some tables.

[_] Laugh at the disabled."

starting to look around the area the pair were standing in.

SC276: You know, now, instead of looking earlier, as I already joked.

BittplexMutt: She didn't do this before because.. Reason unknown.

Crazy56U: You know, just in case the tables got spooked and ran away.

"What about food?

SC276: [Cheerilee] "Well we found a rip in space-time into this lush forest with weird fruit, so catering's covered."

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "...are you high?"

SC276: [Cheerilee] "Fluttershy was by earlier."

CaptainPipsqueak: [Cheerilee] "I said something about 'putting some in the snacks'. From the angry look Fluttershy gave me, I don't think she knew I was joking. I think I might be going without for awhile."

"We're just about to finish setting up the tables for our little food court.

BittplexMutt: And the court is now in session!

Crazy56U: Corn dogs and nachos as far as the eye can see.

Big Macintosh has brought in a food cart from Sweet Apple Acres.

Crazy56U: Ironically enough, it was full of pumpkins.

Mono: As opposed to bringing a food cart from Saddle Arabia.

Topher: [Cheerilee] "This is just a cart of apples."

[Big Mac] "Eeyup."

[Cheerilee] "It's just that it's nothing but apples."

[Big Mac] "Eeyup."

[Cheerilee] "Is there more coming?"

[Big Mac] "Nope."

[Cheerilee] "Ok, but I was hoping the refreshments would have a bit more variety--"

[Big Mac] "LISTEN HERE YOU DUMB CUNT, I JUST HAULED A METRIC TON OF APPLES THREE MILES TO FEED YOUR LITTLE SHITBAGS. YOU ARE GOING TO TAKE THESE APPLES AND YOU WILL FUCKING LIKE THEM."

[Cheerilee] "Oh, I love it when you take control like that!"

They then proceeded to fuck under one of the exhibit tables for the rest of the event.

Crazy56U: (annoyed) Okay, if we're done injecting fanfiction into fanfiction, can we get back on track now?

CaptainPipsqueak: He has to refuse to apologise, first. I'm sorry, but that's the rule.

Topher: Wait! I'm not done! ...At one point, a baking soda volcano went off in an almost perfectly-timed visual metaphor. I am done and I'm not apologizing!

Dark Angel: I think Mentos and Coke would've made a better metaphor.

That just leaves Denver and the Cakes who need to arrive and set up their food stalls."

BittplexMutt: "of sugary-sweet products!"

Crazy56U: "Denver and the Cakes" sounds like a band that only plays county fairs.

"Denver?"

Mono: Denver? I'm calling him Denver from now on.

Dark Angel: Is his first name John?

Crazy56U: I prefer the version from "Live At The Sydney Opera House" but no one uploaded it to Youtube, so... ..yeah...

CaptainPipsqueak: Is it true that he's a dinosaur?

"His family owns and runs the carrot farm next to Sweet Apple Acres."

SC276: The one that is clearly there, and if nobody gets kidnapped and held there in this chapter, I'd be surprised. Mostly because I forgot the story between the play and the bad guys winning, but still.

Crazy56U: You know, the one that exists in Cheerilee/Pen Stroke's imagination.

"Oh." Twilight said, lifting a hoof to giggle. "Let me guess: Denver is a type of carrot."

Dragonborne: Huh. Learn something new every day, it seems.

Mono: Or a city in Colorado. Take your pick.

Crazy56U: Or a comic book character.

Dark Angel: Or a musician.

CaptainPipsqueak: Twilight amuses easily.

Calico: I mean, facts are pretty hilarious. The punchline to "two plus two" kills me every time.

CaptainPipsqueak: Or that thing about seven.

"You'd be guessing right." Cheerilee replied with a chuckle of her own.

SC276: [Cheerilee] "(thinking) You tell me, Ms. Bookworm."

Mono: [Cheerilee] "*thinking* Also, what happened to that one 'e' in my name?"

Crazy56U: [Cheerilee] "(thinking) I want Taco Bell."

"Still, I'd say the food and eating area are all taken care of."

Crazy56U: All one of them. Running joke.

Twilight said, checking off the next item on the list.

BittplexMutt: Wait, what about drinks?

Crazy56U: Drinks are for scrubs.

"That just leaves the afternoon activities. Still, I doubt we'll be able to check that one off just yet."

"Why do you say that?"

SC276: [Twilight] "Because I'm Twilight Sparkle, bitch."

Mono: [Twilight] "Because I like you."

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "...because it's still *morning*, you dunce?"

"Well, we put Rainbow Dash in charge of that. She's reliable, but she kind of likes to procrastinate a little.

SC276: I'm pretty sure that's an oxymoron.

Topher: You'd be surprised.

Dark Angel: Did you know the word 'oxymoron' is an oxymoron?

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "...basically I'm saying she might not even show up today."

I wouldn't be surprised if she was still back at home snoozing away the morning."

CaptainPipsqueak: ...in the afternoon.

Dark Angel: Technically, it still wouldn't be surprising.

Crazy56U: Insert *Cupcakes* comment here.

"Boo!"



Dragonborne:

Crazy56U: "Suddenly, someone threw a tomato."

Mono: Suddenly, Monsters Inc.

Topher: Suddenly, *Dragonball Z*. Yeah, I know it's spelled differently, but everyone else took the good boo jokes.

CaptainPipsqueak: Actually 'Boo' is the proper spelling, they just changed it in the translation. Same with Freeza.

Topher: NEEEEEEERD!

CaptainPipsqueak: I *also* know where the bodies are buried, so shut up.

Twilight quickly turned her head to the side, a little startled by the sudden third voice in the conversation. It was only then that she took notice of the sky blue pegasus that was hovering in the air near her head.

Mono: ...Flitter?

Dark Angel: Lightning Dust?

Crazy56U: Night Glider?

Cheerilee had to cover her mouth to keep herself from laughing

BittplexMutt: from insanity.

Crazy56U: over how terrible her life is currently.

as Rainbow Dash looked at Twilight with a smug grin.

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "Do you want to fucking go, m8?"

Mono: [Twilight] "*deadpan* Give me one good reason not to kill you right now."

CaptainPipsqueak: [Rainbow Dash] "A big jug of moonshine and Fluttershy's latest delivery."

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "...give me *a third* good reason."

"Back at home snoozing, huh?"

Topher: [Rainbow] "I'll have you know I was in that tree over there snoozing!"

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "You stereotyping *bitch*."

"Heh heh..." Twilight said, forcing a smile. "Rainbow Dash, I... didn't expect you to be here this early."

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "Well, sucks to be you, then!"

SC276: [Rainbow Dash] "Neither did I, but the plot removed the snooze function from my alarm clock."

CaptainPipsqueak: [Rainbow Dash] "And the snooze function from *me*. *I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN TWO DAYS.***"**

The pegasus just chuckled, landing next to Twilight and folding her wings.

Topher: Into cranes?

Crazy56U: Nope, into swans.

"Relax Twi; on any normal day I *would* still be asleep.

Mono: [Rainbow] "Wait... this is a normal day. *falls asleep.*"

Dark Angel: [Twilight] "Damn narcoleptic pegasus."

Crazy56U: Namely any day that ends in "Y".

But this is just going to be too awesome! I just had to get up early, not only to clear the skies but to make sure all my awesome sporting events were ready."

SC276: *How* long is it until this event again?

Mono: Knowing Twilight? 5 hours at least.

CaptainPipsqueak: She has to go over her list and then her list of lists and then list the order of the lists listed and...*collapses, foaming at the mouth*

Topher: *pokes Pip with a stick* ...I think he's dead. DIBS ON THE SPARE PARTS!

Crazy56U: (takes Pip's wallet)

CaptainPipsqueak: Joke's on you; I never carry cash with me.

Crazy56U: Who said I wanted cash; my current wallet is shit.

"What all do you have planned?" Cheerilee asked.

"Oh, tons of stuff. I actually went and checked out a book with a whole bunch of killer ideas."

Mono: *suppresses a laugh* Season 1 Rainbow Dash reading? Really?!

CaptainPipsqueak: [Rainbow Dash] "Hey, do you know *why* they call it a hacksaw?"

Crazy56U: (is looking for the tape recorder) Jesus Christ, give me a minute...

Topher: Nobody's really sure. I think the most likely theory is that it comes from the middle english word 'hagge-saue' which means to cut or chop. I'm not making that up.

Crazy56U: (has found the tape recorder) Oh goddamnit, Topher, you stole my opportunity! I was going to explain it! (throws tape recorder against the wall in a fit)

Tape Recorder: Bird flu has reached Equestria.

Crazy56U: ...moving on!

"It was one of the few times she came into the library without crashing." Twilight offered, though Rainbow Dash ignored the unicorn and kept going.

SC276: Much like how I wish I could ignore this fic and keep replaying *Cave Story*.

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "Yeah, yeah, Twilight's house sure is a piece of shit, so anyway, back to me--"

"We've got something for everypony. Got things for just the kids to do, things for kids to do with their parents, and things for the parents to do so the kids can cheer them on.

Topher: And things for the parents to do while the kids aren't watching! *waggles eyebrows*

CaptainPipsqueak: One-on-one, or a group activity?

Topher: First one-on-one, then as a group. *waggles eyebrows*

CaptainPipsqueak: You are learning, student.

Crazy56U: *Get a room, you two.*

We've got games for pegasi, for earth ponies, for unicorns and games where you get to mix it up.

SC276: [Rainbow Dash] "Not going to list any of them, but I *clearly* have them!"

Mono: Meanwhile, Celestia was sulking because they left out the games for alicorns.

Dark Angel: So basically, Nyx will be left out of the games.

Crazy56U: (pats Dark on the head) It's cute that you think Nyx is going to abide by the rules...

It is all just going to be *so awesome!*"

Dark Angel: "So happy."

Crazy56U: And then an unscheduled rain storm occurred, forcing Learn and Play Day to be cancelled.

"Wow, that sounds like a lot."

Dragonborne: A lot of... what? Plot coupons? Youkai? Or cans of silly string?

Mono: A lot of shit.

BittplexMutt: and a jack to include it.

Crazy56U: A lot of awesome.

"Like a lot of *fun*, you mean." Rainbow Dash said, lifting a hoof to a chest and gently brushing it against her. "Yea, I pretty much outdid myself."

Mono: I'm pretty sure breaking the sound barrier is more of a feat than setting up a... thingy for foals.

CaptainPipsqueak: Shh... let her have this.

Crazy56U: It's rare when Rainbow feels like she accomplished something in life.

"And, since we got so many ponies to volunteer their time and things for free." Cheerilee said with a chirp,

SC276: [Cheerilee] "Thank fucking Celestia, because we do not have the budget for that."

Dark Angel: Great, Cheerilee is now talking in tweets.

Crazy56U: ...meaning my "Cheerilee is paying ponies in beer" joke is canon.

reaching under a nearby table and pulling out a box. "I actually was able to spend the last of the budget on some prizes for your events."

Mono: You mean you didn't have them? What would you give the winner? Grass?

CaptainPipsqueak: Which kind? Because Fluttershy doesn't work like that.

Crazy56U: Yes.

Dark Angel: Crabgrass.

"Prizes? Oh boy, nothing is better than having prizes." Dash said,

Crazy56U: What about having purpose and meaning in your life?

SC276: As you demonstrate with such enthusiasm.

Mono: Dash is clearly mimicking the amount of interest I have in this fic.
CaptainPipsqueak: She's channeling Maud Pie. Which is impressive, since she isn't dead. Physically, anyway.
Calico: Exclamation points are a myth.
Crazy56U: Confirmed!!
Topher: [Cheerilee] "I got everyone a participation trophy!"
 [Rainbow] "You gotta be fucking kidding."
Dark Angel: [Rainbow] "If everypony is special, then nopony is special."

the pegasus already digging through the prize box as she took stock of what all Cheerilee had bought.

Topher: [Rainbow] "I appreciate the effort, but I'm not sure a foal will appreciate a wine-and-cheese basket."
Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "Wow, that is a lot of fireworks..."

"Cool, you got yo-yo's in here." Dash eventually offered, pulling her head out of the box with one of the said yo-yo's.

Crazy56U: Gazemaze in gazemazement as Pen Stroke attempts to make *yo-yo's* exciting! (snaps fingers)

In a flash the pegasus had the yo-yo string around her hoof,

Mono: [Dash] "*watches the yo-yo fall to the ground; shakes her hoof a few times with minimal success* ...This sucks."
Crazy56U: As opposed to around her neck, like the *last* time she tried this. Long story short, Rainbow now understood how Spike lives his life what with the constant dying.

giving it a flick and sending the little plastic disk down and up the string in a smooth motion before pulling off a simple sleeper trick, where the yo-yo stayed at the bottom of the string but continued spinning.

SC276: I still find it hard to believe that ponies would even *invent* yo-yos in the first place.
Crazy56U: They invented arcade machines, you dingus. (ball drops in the background)
SC276: What exactly in the evolution of arcade machines would establish that yo-yos are a necessary step? (picks up ball and throws it)
Calico: I find it hard to believe the author's giving a simple yo-yo trick this much attention.
Topher: Simple? I could never get it to do that! See? *flicks a yoyo; it reaches the end of its string, snaps, and bounces around the room before lodging itself in Calico's skull.*
Dark Angel: *sees the yoyo lodged in Calico's skull* Well... yoyos were technically invented to be used as weapons.

"Heh, I used to be pretty good at this." Dash admitted, a flick of her hoof bringing the yo-yo out of the sleeper trick. A few more flicks to build up speed and then Dash quickly wrapped some of the string around her hooves, resulting in the yo-yo swinging back and forth inside a triangle of string.

"This here is called 'The Pendulum'."

Dragonborne: *~The songwriter's deaaaaad...~*

SC276: This fic is the pits.

Mono: This here is called 'The Finger.' *flips the story off*

Crazy56U: (is making shadow puppets) *This* is called "The Bunny".

BittplexMutt: Ooooh... pretty...

Dark Angel: This is called The Crapper. *takes a shit on the story*

Crazy56U: This is called the "Fuck You". (shoves Dark to the ground)

"That's great Dash, but shouldn't you leave the prizes for the ponies who actually win them?"

"Sure,

SC276: [Rainbow] "-whichever of you just spoke-"

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "-deny me of my fun, why don't ya!"

just one more trick. You heard of 'Around the World'? Well, this is my super, double loop, around the sun trick."

SC276: If that doesn't end with the yo-yo on fire, I'm calling shenanigans.

CaptainPipsqueak: Or plowing into someone and killing them.

Crazy56U: Or smacking Rainbow in the eye.

Mono: Meanwhile, Celestia felt offended for some reason.

Topher: Maybe it was because of the yoyo that was suddenly launched into her ass.

With that Dash gave the yo-yo a firm flick, the pegasus jumping into to mid air as she used her wings to spin herself. Still, a few seconds after starting the trick, Dash flopped to the ground, Cheerilee and Twilight laughing out loud as Dash had managed to hog-tie her legs and wings with yo-yo string.

Crazy56U: Meanwhile, at Sweet Apple Acres, Applejack suddenly felt all hot and bothered and she had no idea why.

Mono: Crazy, your CaptainPipsqueak is showing.

Crazy56U: ...I have committed a grave sin. (snaps neck; dies)

Topher: *looks around shiftily* *drags corpse to the hatch in the floor, depositing it within*

Crazy56U: (sees Topher drag nothing) ...okay...

Topher: Wait, what? How? Why? Forget it.

"Oh, wow Dash, that really was something." Twilight prodded.

Dark Angel: I'd rather not think about Twilight "prodding" Dash while under these conditions.

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "I honestly thought I would need to resurrect you. ...again."

"Yeah yeah... laugh it up.

BittplexMutt: [Rainbow] "Next time, you won't be laughing."

Now, are you going to stand there giggling or are you going to lend me a hoof?"

SC276: [Twilight] "Sure sure, let me just take some photos for blackmail material..."

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "... (proceeds to laugh more)"

Dark Angel: [Twilight] "Fine. *starts clapping*"

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The Learn and Play Day was in full swing the moment it opened to the public at 9:00 that morning.

Crazy56U: Okay, so time got fucked a little bit, no biggie.

Calico: It kinda already did when the author said "sunrise" and "midday" in the same sentence.

CaptainPipsqueak: Twilight has a time machine. That way she can get all the sleep she wants and still be okay with waking up early.

Dark Angel: Doctor Whooves would have a heart attack with this story.

The students had already arrived and set up their exhibits, each having done a project on something that interested them.

Crazy56U: Like Diamond Tiara and her "I Fucking Hate Nyx" exhibit, and Dinky Hooves with her "Game Theory: Ben Drowned is Happy Appy!?!?!?" exhibit.

Dragonborne: You know what'll interest us? A good story. Mayhaps something original.

Mono: Then why are you still here?

Crazy56U: ...stop being rude, Mono.

Dark Angel: The truth hurts. Deal with it.

There were exhibits about farming techniques, about history, about how weather was made,

Dark Angel: [Student] "When a mommy cloud and a daddy cloud love each other..."

Mono: "-about how rainbows were made-"

Crazy56U: "-about how babies were made-"

Topher: Take a wild guess who had the farming exhibit.

CaptainPipsqueak: Sweetie Belle. *Duh.*

and dozens of other little topics where the students tried to show off their work.

SC276: There was more than one explosion. One of them had no business exploding and did anyway.

Crazy56U: Two students accidentally invented Skynet, but because computers are a myth, no one gave a shit.

CaptainPipsqueak: And let's not forget the four that unknowingly created their own meth lab.

That was the "Learn" part of the "Learn and Play Day",

Mono: Really? I thought it was the "Play" part.

Crazy56U: That's right, Cheerilee. Remind the children how you destroyed Saturdays

for them.

CaptainPipsqueak: "Dear Princess Luna, please kill our teacher Miss Cheerilee in her sleep tonight."

where the students not only learned more about subjects they wanted to know more about

Crazy56U: [Silver Spoon] "I learned to believe in everything!"

[Archer] "(deadpan) I learned how to be happy and smile more."

[Dinky Hooves] "I learned exactly why God kills ponies!"

but some parents and other ponies in the community had a chance to learn something new as well.

SC276: And since the author didn't want to learn anything, that's all the detail we're getting.

Crazy56U: [Berry Punch] "...what's a Disneylandia?"

"Isn't this so super duper fun Fluttershy?!" Pinkie Pie chirped, bouncing along between the student exhibits while Fluttershy walked calmly beside her. "I mean, I knew Cotton Candy was good and I knew how to make it but I never knew how little pieces of sugar turned into stringy, wingy goodness."

Mono: You knew how to make it, but... you didn't know how to make it?

Crazy56U: Don't know what your problem is, Mono, makes sense to me...

Topher: Wiggly wobbly stringy wingy stuff.

BittplexMutt: How would Pinkie Pie not know what cotton candy is?

CaptainPipsqueak: I wonder if anyone ever tried eating her mane?

"Yes, that was a really interesting display."

SC276: [Fluttershy] "(thinking) Why did I ever agree to come here again, I have pretty much no stake in this..."

Crazy56U: [Fluttershy] "(thinking) God, I should've brought some brownies with me."

"Which one's been your favorite so far?"

Mono: [Fluttershy] "The one about managing a garden..."

Crazy56U: [Fluttershy] "(points in a nonspecific direction) That one."

"Well... um...I liked the one about how caterpillars become butterflies. I already knew about it, but the student did such a wonderful job explaining it."

SC276: Even if one of them had to read their speech off his arm.

Crazy56U: [Fluttershy] "Didn't know you *could* do a presentation in only shadow puppet form..."

"All the kids did a really good job. Oh, I wish I could have an exhibit. I'd do one about parties."

"Parties?"

Mono: You say this as if it is a surprise, undefined voice?

CaptainPipsqueak: Can I call you 'Undefined' or do you prefer 'Mister Voice'?

Crazy56U: As opposed to murder. *That's* been done to death.

"Well *duh*; parties aren't as easy as everypony thinks. There are lots of rules you have to follow, the Pinkie Pie Party rules." The pink pony offered matter of factly.

Dragonborne: That came straight out the ass, didn't it?

Crazy56U: Take a wild fucking guess.

Calico: Like *that's* new.

Topher: What kind of games to plan, how many balloons you'll need to form a properly-structured arch, how much cocaine to give to the kiddins to get them hooked, the usual.

CaptainPipsqueak: I want to punch Pinkie. Does anyone *else* want to punch Pinkie?

Topher: I'd rather have some of Pinkie's Punch.

"Really?" Fluttershy offered in disbelief. "I would never imagine you actually had rules for your parties."

Crazy56U: [Fluttershy] "(thinking) Maybe if I humor her, she'll shut up..."

Mono: [Pinkie] "Me neither until a few seconds ago!"

Topher: Wait until they see the party lair!

CaptainPipsqueak: I always thought it was a cave filled with high-tech equipment.

SC276: Can we get back to the main plot now-

Crazy56U: *Oh no you don't*, Pen Stroke is going to explain the everloving *shit* out of this bullshit! (snaps fingers)

"Of course! How do you think they turn out so good? I have rules you can never ever ever ever never ever break, and as long as you don't break them then the party is a guaranteed success. Like, Rule #1: - Every party must has decorations... or Rule #157: If the ratio of fillies and colts to mares and stallions is at least two to one, there must be a pinata."

SC276: [Pinkie] "Some of them require a background in differential calculus to follow."

Mono: [Pinkie] "Or Rule #34... let's not talk about Rule #34."

CaptainPipsqueak; I remember that one. Something about no matter what it was, there was corn in it? ... Weird rule, but then again this is *Pinkie*, so...

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "Rule #66.6: Rainbow must help make cupcakes."

Fluttershy couldn't help but tilt her head to one side, confusion across her face.

CaptainPipsqueak: [Confusion] "*Hiii* there Pinkie!"

Crazy56U: [Fluttershy] "My *God*, you don't know how sarcasm works, do you?"

"Rule #157? How many rules are there?"

Crazy56U: 156! ...wait...

"376."

SC276: Compy 376, a spectacle of graphics and sound!

Crazy56U: Meh. It ain't got shit on the Compy 377...

"Oh... oh my... that's... that's a lot of rules."

"Hey, throwing parties is my special talent and it is serious business to make them seriously super, duper fun. OH! Hey, there's Nyx's booth!

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "The creation of the only relevant child character in this entire story!"

Crazy56U: Nyx's presentation was on the decline of the wooden nickel.

We should go see what she did."

With that Pinkie Pie bounded ahead, forcing Fluttershy to break into a quick trot just to catch up.

SC276: Even without "Filli Vanilli," Pinkie is a jerk to Fluttershy.

Crazy56U: [Fluttershy] "(thinking) Next batch of brownies I make her, she gets laxatives."

CaptainPipsqueak: Now I'm thinking of them hitting her hard and Pinkie blasting down the street flailing and hollering as her ass launches her forward.

A group of stallions and mares were just stepping away from Nyx's booth when the pink earth pony and yellow pegasus came up,

Mono: [Pinkie] "OUT OF THE WAY, BITCHES! ELEMENTS OF HARMONY COMING THROUGH!"

Crazy56U: [Fluttershy] "(at the back of the crowd) The fuck are those doppelgangers doing?!"

[Pinkie Pie] "(at the back of the crowd) Yeah, the Mirror Pool isn't even a thing yet!"

the black filly offering them a big smile.

Mono: And the obnoxious riffer facepalmed.

Topher: *slams Mono's head betwixt two bricks* WE NEED TO CONTAIN IT!

Crazy56U: ... (shoves Mono's corpse to the ground) ...

Dark Angel: Which obnoxious riffer? There's a lot of us.

Crazy56U: Topher, obviously.

"Hey Fluttershy. Hey Pinkie Pie."

"Hey there Nyx." Pinkie Pie chirped. "What super duper thing did you do for your exhibit? Give us the whole rundown."

"If you don't mind, that is." Fluttershy offered, trying to curb Pinkie Pie's enthusiasm.

SC276: And failing miserably.

CaptainPipsqueak: [Nyx] "Gentlemen! Behold... CORN!"

Crazy56U: (pulls out a trombone)

"Of course not, it's-" Nyx replied, before coughing into her hoof to clear her throat. "I chose to make

my Exhibit about Transfiguration Magic."

SC276: [Nyx] "I even got Professor McGonagall to sign off on it!"

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "I *wanted* to do it about square dancing, but apparently squares aren't hip enough."

"Tranfigurwhatiewhat?"

Dragonborne: I have something better: "supercalafragilisticexpiala-FUCK YOU!"

Crazy56U: Abracafuckyou. (flips off the story)

Nyx giggled.

"Transfiguration, Pinkie Pie. It's the magic that focuses on turning one thing into another."

Mono: Suddenly, Life Change.

Crazy56U: (shoves Mono to the ground) *Strike one*.

SC276: In that case, Nyx, can you transfigure this into a better story?

Topher: Dude, we're going to need at least seven alicorns for magic that strong.

CaptainPipsqueak: Maybe not. Nobody's that strong. I think.

Crazy56U: Uh, Pip, you may need to be a bit more specific there...

CaptainPipsqueak: *Nobody*. You know who I mean.

Dark Angel: Unfortunately, I do.

At that the filly pointed to a number of pictures she had set up on the backdrop of her exhibit.

Mono: A few ponies were looking rather... weird at those pictures.

CaptainPipsqueak: Some of them seemed to have something wrong with their skin.

Crazy56U: Unfortunately, those were all photos of rubber ducks.

"As you can see, Transfiguration Magic can be used to transform practically anything into anything else. A stick into a fancy walking cane. A stone into a hat. An apple into a horse drawn carriage.

Mono: A human into a batpony.

SC276: A normal canon character into a possession sue- no wait, that's being written by a terrible author.

CaptainPipsqueak: A brony into a sane, balanced and productive member of society.

Crazy56U: A Dick York into a Dick Sargent.

"Transfiguration Magic is only truly limited by the skill and the ability of the pony casting it. Skilled unicorns, such as the local fashion designer Rarity, can use Transfiguration to turn fabric into a dress.

Mono: That's not transfiguration, that's dressmaking.

SC276: *Shhhhh!* Don't disillusion her!

Crazy56U: Shut your fuckhole, Mono.

Or another unicorn, Twilight Sparkle, being able to transfigure four common mice into four full sized horses."

"I remember that." Pinkie Pie said with a giggle. "They didn't exactly *look* like horses."

Mono: Get it? It happened in the show!



Crazy56U:

"Yes, and that leads me to the next part of my exhibit. The limits of Transfiguration Magic. Transfiguration magic is, above all, temporary. Everything transfigured will eventually turn back to normal.

Mono: Not in roughly 60 percent of those weird stories on the scary parts of the internet.

SC276: I can think of one of those exceptions.

CaptainPipsqueak: ~Transfigurators! More than meets the eye...~

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "Give or take an eternity."

This is why most anything that needs to be permanent is still hoof made, like houses and clothing, since Transfiguration magic only lasts for so long. Otherwise, there wouldn't be a need for construction works, carpenters, or any other ponies that make things.

Dragonborne: ...seems legit...

Crazy56U: So, Equestria won't have a "Home Improvement" equivalent? ...that sucks.

Dark Angel: I wonder if any con-ponies have ever tried transfiguring rocks into bits.

"And, as a final part of my exhibit, I would like to provide a live demonstration of Transfiguration Magic."

SC276: Well I did already submit a request...

Mono: [Nyx] "Pinkie, would you like to volunteer?"

Crazy56U: And then Nyx pulled out a cardboard box. The word "Duplicator" had been crossed out and replaced with "Transmogrifier".

Calico: Oh, there's no way *this* can end badly.

At that Nyx pointed to the rock setting on the table in the center of her exhibit. The black filly then shut her eyes, focusing as her horn began to glow. The rock glowed until, eventually, it popped and turned into a small, potted flower.

Crazy56U: And then Toby Fox sued Pen Stroke for ripping off *Undertale*.

CaptainPipsqueak: [Flower] "Kill meeee..."

Dark Angel: Technically, this story existed before Undertale. So shouldn't Pen Stroke sue Toby Fox?

Crazy56U: Oh, come on, if people seriously think *Earthbound* ripped off *Undertale*, then *Undertale* ripped off *Past Sins*.

"Ooooooooooooooooo..." Pinkie Pie said, leaning in and sniffing the floor. "It even *smells* real."

SC276: [Nyx] "What does 'real' even smell like?"

[Pinkie Pie] "Stale cupcakes!"

Crazy56U: ...so it smells like brown?

Toph: [Flower] "Oh no, not again."

SC276: The flower is a petunia...?

"So, any questions?"

CaptainPipsqueak: Is it true that you're a tiny Nightmare Moon?

Crazy56U: Why won't Netflix resurrect *Blue's Clues*?

"No, none at all. That was very well done, Nyx. You should be-" Fluttershy began to say, only for Pinkie Pie to put her head between the pegasus and filly.

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "I wanna be the center of attention now!"

SC276: Of course Pinkie would keep trying to do *visual gags* in *text*.

Dark Angel: This wouldn't have been disturbing if her head were still attached to her body.

Crazy56U: Eh, Pinkie has spares. No biggie.

"OH, I got a question! Have you tried changing anything bigger than a rock? Oh, do you take requests?"

CaptainPipsqueak: [Nyx] "No and *fuck* no."

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "As long as it doesn't involve 'Wonderwall'."

"Well... no, but I guess I could try. Uh... what did you have in mind?"

"Turn that grass into cotton candy.

Crazy56U: Behold: Pen Stroke attempting to invent Discord prior to Season 2.

No, turn that into a candy apple. Wait, you should turn that stallion's bowtie into a squirty flower.

SC276: [Nyx] "Without his permission?"

[Pinkie Pie] "*Especially* without his permission!"

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "How about I turn you into a mime?"

[Pinkie Pie] "Nah, fuck mimes."

OH, no no no no.

Crazy56U: And three...

I know what you should try to do!"

Crazy56U: (raises hand) Two...

Pinkie Pie smiled, pointing a hoof at Fluttershy.

Crazy56U: One. (snaps fingers)

"Turn her into a tree."

Crazy56U: MEME TIME!

SC276: ~Here's the meme, it never memes / It makes me want to wag my memes / When it comes I want to weme / MEME!~

Crazy56U:I love you.

Topher: ...well that happened.

"Turn who into a what now?" Nyx asked, tilting her head to one side in confusion.

"Turn Fluttershy into a tree."

Dragonborne: You didn't...

Mono: HOLD ME! FUCKING HOLD ME! *leaps at the fic; starts punching it rapidly*

Dark Angel: I would. But I don't think we're in that kind of relationship.

Crazy56U: (is watching Mono punch nothing) ...you okay, buddy?

SC276: I think he needs a nap...

Topher: *pulls out a tranq gun, and shoots Mono in the neck* Now normally I use this for elephants, rhinos, and medium-sized dinosaurs, so you'll probably be out for a while. *goes through Mono's pockets*

Mono: Joke's on you, I always carry my wallet in my backpack.

Crazy56U: (not paying attention; is rifling through Mono's backpack) Well, for your sake Pip, I'd suggest seeing a doctor for that.

Mono: *sees Crazy searching through nothing* Something tells me he's not the only one...

CaptainPipsqueak: *watches Crazy56U wave his hands around randomly, takes sip of coffee* Does anyone want to tell him, or should we wait?

Crazy56U: (is still looking the backpack) Look, mock my sleep deprivation all you want, I'm gonna find that wallet, just you wait...

Dark Angel: Is anyone gonna tell Topher that he shot Mono with a Redbull shot?

Topher: No I didn't! That was the tranq Dart! THIS is the Redbull. *shoots himself in the neck* No, wait, that was just a bullet. *collapses*

"Why?"

"Because this one time on a train I got talking with Rainbow Dash and Twilight and for some strange reason Dash thought Rainbow Dash was a tree, even though she obviously isn't.

SC276: ...Dash thought she herself was a tree?

Mono: Damn, did her self-confidence take a nosedive...

Crazy56U: Or the brownies hit Rainbow *hard* that day...

Dark Angel: I think she meant to say that Rainbow thought Twilight was a tree.

But then Fluttershy said she'd like to be a tree, so can you turn her into a tree? It would be super duper fun."

CaptainPipsqueak: For us, yes. For her... maybe?

Crazy56U: [Fluttershy] "Don't I have a say in this?"

[Pinkie Pie] "Go fuck yourself! :D"

"Well... I don't know...."

"Oh come on, just give it a try. You never know until you try." Pinkie Pie chirped.

Crazy56U: Try try, try. Try? Try!

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "I mean, I'm only asking you to turn one of my best friends and one of the defenders of Equestria into an inanimate object!"

CaptainPipsqueak: I don't see the issue - she's usually doormat at the best of times as it is.

Dark Angel: The issue is that Pinkie Pie has a doormat as a best friend. Then again, she also has a bag of flour, a bunch of rocks, a bucket of turnips, and lint as friends too.

Crazy56U: Imaginary friends don't count, Dark, you *know* this...

"Are you okay with this Fluttershy?"

"Well, it won't hurt will it?" The pegasus asked quietly.

"It shouldn't."

SC276: [Nyx] "I know because sometimes Twilight gets bored of testing spells on Spike."

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "You'd think after the 18th time, Spike would stop screaming as he is burnt to death, but eh, whatcha gonna do..."

"And it won't be permanent?"

Mono: Five bucks saying she'll fuck up.

Calico: Sucker's bet.

CaptainPipsqueak: Yeah; she learned how to do *that* from her mom.

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "(shrugs) Hell if I know!"

"No, Transfiguration Magic is by definition temporary." Nyx assured.

Crazy56U: Vandalizing a dictionary doesn't count, Nyx.

"That and the first spell Twilight made me learn when I started this project was how to break a Transfiguration spell... in case I made a mistake."

SC276: Too bad the same couldn't be done for Pen...

Crazy56U: ...like turning a pony inside out again?

"Well... I am kind of curious what it would be like..."

CaptainPipsqueak: Making a mistake? Because the screams were pretty horrifying that last time.

Crazy56U: Making a tree? Well, that's why Arbor Day is a thing...

"See? It will be so much fun!" Pinkie Pie half shouted, bouncing a little in excitement.

Mono: Yeah. It would be fun being a non-talking, not-moving thing.

Dark Angel: Isn't that what she already is?

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "I want to see the laws of physics and nature get fucked over!"

Nyx could only swallow hard, having been literally put on the spot by the pink earth pony as some others in the crowd had gathered.

SC276: Goddammit, Pinkie, even with only one season under your belt, you make things worse for those around you.

CaptainPipsqueak: It's okay; it's not anyone who matters.

Dark Angel: It'd be better if it were a background pony though. Where's Applejack?

Crazy56U: Who?

Taking a deep breath, Nyx shut her eyes as her horn began to glow. First a single level of glow, then another took shape as the filly focused on her magic.

=====

SC276: And now to cut away from that actually happening, because the author doesn't have the budget to film that part.

Crazy56U: Actually, Nyx fucked up: she accidentally teleported the Narrator to a different part of the story.

CaptainPipsqueak: Oh great Fluttershy's been transformed into a stream of equal signs! Now where am I gonna get my fix from?

Crazy56U: ...Jesus?

"Man, some of these booths are really cool." Rainbow Dash offered, she and Twilight trotting amongst them. "I mean, did you see what Scootaloo did? She actually explained how my Sonic Rainboom works.

Mono: The part of Scootaloo will be played by this guy.



Crazy56U:

I didn't even really *knew* how it worked, besides the fact I was breaking the sound barrier."

SC276: Hope it's not like the millipede being asked how he walks, because if it is the wedding reception is going to be that much more boring.

Crazy56U: ???

"Yes, all the students have really done-"Twilight began, only to be silenced as the ground began to shake and a loud noise cut through the air.

ssssrrrr-RRRRUUUUGGGGHHHH-RRRUUUGGGGHHH-frggggh.....trrrssss-sssstthhh-stttshh...

Dragonborne: That sounded painful...

Crazy56U: Why is Pen Stroke inserting quotes from *Candle Cove*?

SC276: Sounds like hydraulics leaking.

Mono: Suddenly, constipation.

CaptainPipsqueak: **INDIGESTION...**

SC276: ~Upset stomach, diarrhea!~

"What was that?" Twilight asked, regaining her footing from what had felt like a minor earthquake. When she got no answer, Twilight turned to look at Dash, who was staring narrowed eyed in the opposite direction. Following the pegasus' gaze Twilight nearly choked on the air in her own lungs at what she saw.

SC276: She immediately asphyxiated and died.

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "*OH MY GOD, BLOOD EVERYWHERE*- oh, wait, that's ketchup."

A large, leafy tree had appeared in the center of the exhibits, as tall as the school house with a trunk as thick as a pony was long. It was a weeping willow tree,

SC276: Lord knows *we're* weeping.

CaptainPipsqueak: [Flutterwillow] "...kill meeeeeee....".

Dark Angel: [Pinkie Pie] "Well, you heard what she said! *grabs an ax*"

Crazy56U: John has been crying since 11:35. ...cough...

its long hanging branches and leaves draping over the nearby exhibits.

Mono: Fucking up said exhibits in the process.

Crazy56U: ...so Fluttershy is roughly the same size as Twilight's house?

The tree, however, was very unusual as its bark was a bright yellow and all of its leaves were a light, frilly pink.

SC276: You noticed the *type* of tree before the *color*?

Crazy56U: Well, come on, pink trees are too common nowadays, they're practically cliché.

Mono: I think Dr. Seuss might sue someone from up above.

"Oh my Gosh! You DID IT!" Pinkie Pie's voice burst out above the crowd, drawing Rainbow Dash and Twilight out of their stupor. The two quickly raced through the network of tables and to the base of the tree. Pinkie Pie had climbed up into the branches, climbing around with speed and agility that would make a monkey proud.

SC276: Do weeping willows even *have* strong-enough branches for monkeying around in?

Mono: I would say something about climbing with hooves, but then I remembered this is Pinkie Pie we're talking about.

CaptainPipsqueak: [Pinkie Pie] "Now just let me get my chainsaw!"

Crazy56U: ...did Pen predict the *Littlest Pet Shop* cartoon?

"Pinkie Pie, where the hay did this tree come from?" Dash asked, the pegasus taking flight as she caught up to Pinkie Pie in the tree's crown.

"It was super duper amazing! Nyx did it with her magic!"

SC276: [Nyx] "Yeah, sure, throw *me* under the bus, you crazy broad!"

Crazy56U: As opposed to her gumption.

"Nyx did?" Twilight said, the unicorn looking up and down the tree in disbelief before her eyes narrowed. "Wait, where is Nyx?"

"Over here." The filly replied, climbing out from beneath her exhibit table. "Twilight, I'm sorry... I didn't mean... well, I meant to but Pinkie Pie asked and Fluttershy said it was okay but I didn't think I would be able to do it."

SC276: [Baby Doll] "I didn't mean to."

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "I was just humoring Pinkie, you taught me to do that!"

"Do what?" Twilight asked.

"She turned Fluttershy into a tree!" Pinkie Pie cheered as she hung from one of the branches.

Mono: [Twilight] ""*thinking* Ohhhh, god. Moonshine help me now... "

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "...I will kill you where you stand, Pie."

Calico: If a branch breaks and causes Fluttershy to be messed up upon the spell's reversal, I will be amused.

Dark Angel: If she loses all her leaves and is bald upon the spell's reversal, I will be amused.

"Wait... wait wait wait." Dash said, pointing a hoof at the yellow and pink weeping willow. "This, this tree right here. This tree is Fluttershy."

SC276: Yeah, she can barely take it too.

CaptainPipsqueak: Fluttershy's a weeping willow. When she woke up this morning, she had no way of knowing she'd end up with a case of mourning wood.

Crazy56U: (gives Pip a trophy with the words "Good job. Now never do that again." etched into it)

CaptainPipsqueak: *holds up trophy* I'm not going to thank anybody, because I did it all on my own.

"Well *duh*. Of course it is! I just *told* you that Nyx turned Fluttershy into a tree. Seriously Dash, I'd think you'd be happy.

SC276: [Rainbow Dash] "You had our friend turned into a tree!"

Topher: [Pinkie] "But I read your diary, and there were a lot of stories about Fluttershy having wood, so-"

[Rainbow] "STOP."

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "DID YOU FORGET TO TAKE YOUR MEDS AGAIN?!"

After all, you were the one that thought Fluttershy was a tree when we were on our way to Appleloosa."

"I did not! I was being sarcastic."

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "How do you not know how sarcasm works?!?!"

"Sarcastawhat?"

Dragonborne: Show of hands: who knows somebody that doesn't know what basic sarcasm is?

Crazy56U: Does Bloo from "Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends" count?

Dragonborne: No, Crazy, imaginary friends don't count.

Crazy56U: DAMNIT

As Dash tried again to explain to Pinkie Pie why she had once called Fluttershy a tree, Twilight began to glance nervously around the steadily growing crowd of ponies. They were all murmuring and whispering about Nyx, considering a filly had just done something that even she wouldn't have been able to do without a lot of practice.

Mono: [Townspany] "Should we burn her?"

CaptainPipsqueak: The tree, Twilight, Rainbow Dash, Pinkie or Nyx?

Dark Angel: Yes.

Crazy56U: Pinkie, obviously. She caused this.

"Nyx, Sweetie." Twilight whispered, leaning into the little black filly. "Can you turn Fluttershy back... now?!"

SC276: [Twilight] "Don't even know why you haven't already!"

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "Why? I think it's clear now that I can decide who lives and who dies. *Who are you to impose your will upon me?*"

[Twilight Sparkle] "(hold up a bag of cookies)"

[Nyx] "(takes the bag) Deal."

The last words communicated the urgency of the request, Nyx nodding her head and shutting her eyes.

SC276: But she accidentally connected two sentences together as a run-on first.

CaptainPipsqueak: Shut up, unless *you* wanna end up a tree, too! She can do what she wants at this point.

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ"

The filly's horn glowed again, reaching the same brilliance it had when first casting the Transfiguration spell. Twilight watched and observed the glow around Nyx's horn and how far it radiated out, a sign of how hard a unicorn was straining their natural magical ability.

Dark Angel: I guess we're just supposed to assume the same logic works with alicorns too.

Crazy56U: Something that Twilight... apparently never knew before?

The glow got about twice as bright and large as when Nyx was usually using her horn before the tree imploded in on itself,

SC276: -forming a black hole and destroying the universe.

Mono: THE END!

Crazy56U: And Nyx just committed murder-

its roots being pulled out of the ground. Dash grabbed Pinkie Pie before she could drop out of the air, the blue pegasus setting the earth pony down just as a resounding pop filled the air.

SC276: That was everyone's ear drums rupturing simultaneously.

Crazy56U: Someone was chewing gum during this, and had blown a big bubble.

With that pop Fluttershy reappeared, the pegasus dropping to the ground with a small thud.

Crazy56U: (salutes) Gone too soon.

RIP Fluttershy

19XX - 2011

"Brought a meme full circle and paid the ultimate price."

Mono: And then her bones were broken.

CaptainPipsqueak: No, her bones were left behind. Now she's Flutterblob. Or Flutterjelly. ...Fluttergack?

Crazy56U: Fluttercorpse, actually.

"Fluttershy, are you okay?" Twilight asked, quickly rushing up to help her friend back to her hooves.

Crazy56U: [Fluttershy] "My life is worse now."

"Ye... yes, I'm...I'm fine."

SC276: By some miracle.

Calico: Phooey.

Crazy56U: And then Fluttershy began violently vomiting termites-

"Oh, what was it like? What was it like?" Pinkie Pie asked, bouncing in excitement.

"It was....." Fluttershy began, pausing a moment to collect her thoughts.

Mono: "...shit."

Dragonborne: "...a pisswaffle."

Crazy56U: "...wood."

CaptainPipsqueak: Treemendous.

Not only did Pinkie Pie and Dash lean in to hear the answer, but any ponies nearby who had witnessed the feat of magic leaned in as well, eager to hear the a first hand account of what it was like to be a tree.

SC276: The tension is palpable.

Crazy56U: And now, the cop out! (snaps fingers)

"Nice." Fluttershy finally concluded.

Crazy56U: (jazz hands)

Dash's disappointment in the answer was reflected on the faces of most ponies who had watched. Hearing that being turned into a tree was "nice" wasn't exactly the kind of answer they had been hoping for.

SC276: I'm not sure what else you expected from someone being transformed into something that doesn't have a *brain*. It's amazing she remembers anything.

Dark Angel: You mean characters in this story had brains before being turned into inanimate objects?

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "I wanted an existential breakdown!"

Pinkie Pie was, as usual, un-phased.

Mono: No, she was fucking hyper.

Dark Angel: That's what the narrator said. Pinkie Pie was un-phased.

Crazy56U: So either Pinkie took her meds or she didn't. *Pick one, Pen.*

"Oh, now I want to be turned into something! A rose bush... no, a balloon! NO! Turn me into a cake, turn me into a--"

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "How about my canon self? Can you turn me into that?!"

CaptainPipsqueak: Turn her into cupcakes and eat her.

Crazy56U: Annoying fuck? ...wait...

"Wow, would you look at that! It's almost lunch time."

Mono: [Fluttershy] "...it's 9 AM."

[Twilight] "It's almost lunchtime... "

Topher: It's noon somewhere! *Pulls out a burger*

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "And look, there's lunch now! (tackles Pinkie; snaps her neck)"

Twilight interrupted, putting a hoof against Pinkie Pie's mouth while she put on a forced smile.
"Personally, I'm starved. Aren't you starved Nyx? Of course you are, you just turned a pony into a tree. That kind of thing must really work up an appetite. Why don't we go get something to eat?"

SC276: ~Something-something to eat, COME IN, COME IN, MAY I OFFER YOU TEA~

CaptainPipsqueak: If you try to show me your pingas, I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "NO YOU'RE FREAKING OUT"

Not even waiting an answer from the black filly, Twilight grabbed up Nyx with a levitation spell and galloped out of the crowd of ponies.

SC276: Blue skidoo, we can too! (BWAAAAAA) *explosion*

Mono: ...you're alright, dude?

Crazy56U: Why do you hate Blue's Clues, SC?! Did "Meme Time" mean *nothing* to you?!?

SC276: What?! It's not my fault if attempting to escape the riff by Blue skidooing caused the painting to explode instead! ...Somehow!

"Aw... but I wanted to be a cake..." Pinkie Pie, her voice ringing with a twinge of disappointment.

Mono: You don't want to. Celestia might be around.

Crazy56U: Sucks to be you, Pinkie.

The pink pony then quickly perked up, eyes darting around as she scratched at her neck.

"What's wrong Pinkie Pie?"

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "I just realized we're in a terrible fanfic!"

Dark Angel: [Rainbow] "You *just* realized that?"

Crazy56U: Fleas, obviously.

"Itchy Neck, Itchy Neck." The pony replied.

CaptainPipsqueak: No, she said 'Bitchy prick.'

Crazy56U: Told ya!

"Itchy neck... wait, like Twitchy Tail?" Dash asked.

"No, Silly. Twitchy Tail is when something is about to fall."

SC276: Well my interest in this plot is dropping fast...
Crazy56U: (ball drops in the background) ...wait, what?

"Then what does Itchy Neck mean?" Fluttershy asked.

SC276: Is it overuse of capitalization?
Mono: Nope, it's boring fanfic.
Topher: [Pinkie] "That I have fleas again!"
Crazy56U: See? *Topher* gets it!
Dark Angel: [Rainbow] "Considering you were just crawling around on Fluttershy, does that mean that Fluttershy has fleas too?"

"Somepony is watching us." Pinkie Pie replied, eyes moving around the now dispersing crowd of ponies.

Mono: Because I have no better joke, here's the most obvious one.
CaptainPipsqueak: OOH! OOH! Is it the IRS this time?!
Crazy56U: Nope, it's the FDA.

"Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy just got turned into a tree. *Everypony* was watching us." Dash pointed out.

Crazy56U: Cough.

"No, no no no no. That was an innocent 'wow that's a really cool thing that happened' watching us. No, Itchy Neck is bad kind of watching."

SC276: Even in season 1, "Pinkie Pie breaks the fourth wall" jokes were overused...
Mono: Bad watching? Is that the same as watching Family Guy?
Crazy56U: (shoves Mono to the ground) Sorry, reflex.
CaptainPipsqueak: I thought it was the same as watching the Simpsons. Because *holy fuck* has that show worn out its welcome.
Crazy56U: Look, no matter how long it has run, *The Simpsons* will always be better than *Family Guy*, okay? And don't even get me fucking started on *The Simpsons Guy*.

"Bad watching? What the hay is bad watching?"



Crazy56U:

"Ssssspyyyyyying." Pinkie Pie replied with a hush. "And the spy is... that way!"

Dragonborne: ...here we go.
Topher: [Spy] "BULLSHIT! I WAS CLOAKED! VALVE NEEDS TO NERF THE PINKIE

SENSE!"

CaptainPipsqueak: [Pinkie Pie] **"FOOL! THE PINKIE SENSE IS UNNERFABLEABLE... .. ABLE!"**

Crazy56U: She said, pointing (points in a nonspecific direction) over there.

Without another word the pink pony was off, galloping at a full sprint leaving a very confused Fluttershy and Rainbow Dash.

Dark Angel: In other words, what they've been this entire fic.

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "...but the spy's (points in the opposite direction) *that way...*"

"She is so random."

Crazy56U: Fuck off, you stupid, dumb horse.

SC276: [Rainbow Dash] "Which is why we're going to encore the Parasprite thing and ignore her until everything goes to hell."

Topher: [Rainbow] "And then the day will be saved by the power of polka."

CaptainPipsqueak: Which is a terrifying phrase all by itself.

=====

Mono: Oh shit, I forgot about the bucketloads of equal signs...

Crazy56U: How?

Dragonborne: *In Our Town, in Our Town...*

Dark Angel: This is why so many people these days a failing math class. The missing equals signs on calculators.

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I do not own the intellectual properties this fan-fiction is based on.

Dark Angel: That certainly explains the lack of intellect in this fic.

Crazy56U: "You know, like... ..uh... ..trees..."

=====

Past Sins

By Pen Stroke

Assisted By Batty Gloom

SC276: For all the good it does this story.

Mono: Two writers and you still managed to fuck up.

CaptainPipsqueak: It's Batty's fault! **IT'S BATTY'S FAULT!**

Crazy56U: Again, I'm pretty sure Batty did jack fucking shit.

=====

Chapter 8
You Can't Hide Magic

Crazy56U: Nor can you *run* from it. Speaking from personal experience.

Topher: Then what the fuck did they do in the season four finale if not hide their magic?

CaptainPipsqueak: [Vegeta] "Damn; they've hidden their power levels!"

=====

Twilight looked on in a half daze,

Crazy56U: She was the beta tester for Fluttershy's new "Moonshine Brownie". She had *no* fucking idea what was happening currently.

CaptainPipsqueak: She *was*, however, *strongly* considering marrying Fluttershy.

watching as Nyx gingerly ate at an apple. The pair were sitting on the grass behind the apple stand currently being worked by Big Macintosh,

Crazy56U: Because Applejack was currently stuck in the Negative Zone.

SC276: Why are you sitting in the premiere place to check Big Mac out?

CaptainPipsqueak: ... kinda answered that one yourself.

Mono: She's filling in for Fluttershy.

Topher: Cheerilee would later murder them in their sleep. Nobody steals her man.

the red stallion allowing the pair to hide away from the crowds after the tree incident.

Crazy56U: Big Mac got confused and thought the cops were after them.

CaptainPipsqueak: He spent his free time working up a solid alibi.

The unicorn was in full on panic mode,

SC276: No, if she was in full-on panic mode, something would've exploded by now. (explosion) Oh, OK, we're good.

Mono: *let's go of a remote* Damn, these new special effects work well. The explosions sound really realistic. *sniffs* Does anybody else smell something burning?

Topher: *dragging himself along the floor* Anybody seen my legs? They're about yea long, last seen wearing blue jeans? Also, would anyone happen to have any spare blood? O positive preferably but I'll take what I can get.

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "(thinking) Twilight, just settle down, okay- *settle down!* YOU ARE LOSING YOUR MIND! WHO IS YELL- WHO IS YELLING?!"

CaptainPipsqueak: I thought Big Mac was an earth pony.

though she was doing her best to keep up a calm facade so that Nyx wouldn't feel like she had done anything wrong. Still, Twilight's mind was spinning faster than Dash could fly.

SC276: [Twilight] "In retrospect, I'm really bad at teaching her to resist peer pressure. I haven't gotten to that friendship lesson yet!"

Mono: So, light speed?

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "Am I glad he's frozen in there and that we're out here, and that he's the sheriff, and that we're frozen out here, and that we're in there, and- I just remembered, we're out here! *What I wanna know is where's the caveman?*"

Dragon shaped eyes could be hidden with glasses, wings with a vest but... but Nyx had practically blown her disguise right out of the water with that display of magic. Every pony at the Learn and Play Day had to be talking about what happened.

SC276: Except the ones talking about the sweet kebabs.

Dragonborne: [Gordon Ramsay] "IT'S RAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAW!"

CaptainPipsqueak: Fluttershy seriously considered breaking out some of the tame stuff, just to calm the kids down.

Crazy56U: [Random Pony A] "...so, how about the weather?"

[Random Pony B] "This thing sucks, why did Cheerilee think wasting our Saturdays as a good idea again?"

[Pinkie Pie] "SPY! (tackles Random Pony B)"

A tree as tall as the school house had popped up out of nowhere and just as quickly turned back into a yellow pegasus.

SC276: Please, all that means is that Fluttershy has secretly always been a Transformer.

Calico: ~Willows in disguise!~

Crazy56U: "For those coming in late, here's what you missed!"

Twilight wasn't even sure *she* could pull off that kind of magic,

Mono: We're talking about the same mare who turned her parents into cacti, right?

Calico: And who threatened to do the same to Diamond Tiara earlier in this same story, yes. Unfortunately, Twilight's part goldfish.

CaptainPipsqueak: [Goldfish] "Fuck you, buddy! You want me to come over there?!"

Crazy56U: (laughs violently)

and not only was she an adult she was one of the most gifted unicorns in Equestria. Her special talent was magic itself; if anypony could do something like that it would be her... but here that feat of magic had been done by Nyx... a normal filly.

Calico: "Normal"? We... *are* thinking about the same pony, right?

Crazy56U: As opposed to a formal nilly.

No, despite what Twilight told herself and everypony, Nyx wasn't entirely normal. She was an alicorn,

SC276: And that is all it will be if we don't want to provoke Crazy's wrath.

Crazy56U: ...*what are you trying to say, friend?*

CaptainPipsqueak: Don't call him 'friend', pal.

and there were only two other alicorns Twilight knew. Luna and Celestia, and those two had the magical power to move the sun and moon. They were immortal princesses...

Crazy56U: No one. Comment. On this.

Topher: Alicorns: The Super Saiyans of MLP! Also, Applejack is Krillin.

CaptainPipsqueak: And Scootaloo is Yamcha.

SC276: And Sweetie Belle is... I dunno, Agent Spin.

Topher: And I guess that makes Discord Buu. Also, Rarity is Tien. Wait, Who would be Piccolo? Would Starlight be Piccolo? Or would she be future trunks with all the time travel? Am I overthinking this gag? Absolutely.

Was... was Nyx the same way?

Crazy56U: Given how Nyx takes more after her mother (Nightmare Moon/Luna) than her mother (Twilight), I'm willing to bet yes.

She wasn't Nightmare Moon, Twilight was dead sure of that.

CaptainPipsqueak: ...because she's sure not dead.

Crazy56U: Except given how much Twilight flip-flops on this fucking issue, I'm pretty sure Twilight is only *slightly* sure of that.

But... she had come from the spell *meant* for Nightmare Moon and she was an alicorn. Had the filly somehow inherited a gift of immortality?

SC276: How are you getting immortality from her turning Fluttershy into a tree?!

Crazy56U: ...where are you getting Fluttertree from this? She put that to the side to deconstruct immortality. (ball drops in the background)

CaptainPipsqueak: There's an easy way to be sure: stab her multiple times. If she doesn't die, then she's immortal. If she *does* die, then she's no longer your problem.

Would she, when she was older, be able to move the sun and moon or other heavily bodies?

Mono: No. Other *light* bodies however...

Crazy56U: Well, factoring in Nyx's genetics, I'd reason to believe Nyx would become powerful enough to juggle planets, Twilight. Much like Superman before he couldn't due to retcons or something, I forget at this point.

Topher: I don't know, let's try that puppeteer guy, he was pretty well-fed if you catch my drift.

Would she become as grand and regal as Celestia?

SC276: Presumably not, because then the whole mother / daughter relationship would get really awkward.

Crazy56U: Here's where I'd post a picture of Adult!Nyx to answer this question... but that would be a spoiler, so instead, Redneck Dash:



CaptainPipsqueak: Wouldn't it be funny if that's what she *would* look like?

The full weight of parenthood came crushing down on Twilight at this moment. What was she getting herself into?

SC276: Besides a lackluster story?

Dragonborne: Or a trite plot?

CaptainPipsqueak: Well, she's dead now - crushed under parenthood. So there's that.

Crazy56U: Hiding?

She was taking care of this filly like a daughter, like she was Nyx's mother... and she was barely an adult herself.

Mono: Well, she doesn't really have a canonical age. She could be 45 for all we know.

Topher: That doesn't even include horse years.

Crazy56U: Or *cartoon* years.

And, for all the unicorn knew, she was raising a filly that could someday sit beside Luna and Celestia as another immortal princess.

SC276: Do parents *usually* have to worry about their kids becoming royalty?

Calico: Only if their kids are poorly-written OCs.

CaptainPipsqueak: *Twilight suddenly felt a surge of white-hot anger pass through her.*

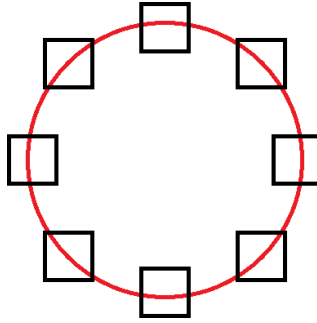
Crazy56U: Wrong, Nyx is going to grow up to become a rockstar. She's bringing Heavy Metal back, ladies and gentlemen.

And how long would she be able to keep the truth hidden? Dragon shaped eyes could be hidden, wings could be hidden, but... that kind of magical power, how much longer would it be before Celestia heard of this prodigy in Ponyville and came to investigate herself?

SC276: ["Celestia"] "Look I'm trying to figure out this magic circle nonsense right now, there's only so much my processor can take."

CaptainPipsqueak: HOW CAN ALL THESE SQUARES MAKE A CIRCLE?!

Crazy56U: Like so:



(I know that was a joke, but I was bored.)

And even if the hiccup with turning Fluttershy into a tree was a one time thing,

Mono: That was a hiccup?

Topher: Wait till she burps, it'll be a bloodbath.

Crazy56U: What about a sneeze?

what would happen as Nyx got older?

SC276: Well there'd probably be a lot of OC guys hitting on her and wanting her to have their kids.

Topher: She'll get all greasy and angsty and her voice will change.

CaptainPipsqueak: And then she'll get her ears pierced and start wearing makeup and jeans with holes already torn in them...

Crazy56U: She's become a partner in Fluttershy's enterprise, obviously.

Would Nyx's magic get more powerful? How big was the filly going to get? Luna, after all, was only a little bigger than the average pony

SC276: Anyone else miss season 2?

CaptainPipsqueak: Not *really*, no.

Crazy56U: I miss season 6...

but she was still the younger sister; she might get bigger in time just like her older sister.

SC276: First the mind-reader last week, and now a goddamn prophet. Can we please stop getting these fucking psychic authors?

Dragonborne: Holy Deus ex Machina, Batman!

Crazy56U: And funnily enough, even *after* her redesign, Luna is *still* shorter. Poor thing can't catch a break...

And speaking of Celestia.... what if Nyx got to be as big as her? You can't hide a pony that big.

SC276: Well you're doing a shit job hiding her now, since people know she exists.

Topher: Just do what you do with all freaks. Lock 'em in the attic until they become bitter and angry, They escape, kill you, kidnap some chick from the village they saw through the window, and die in a burning building!

CaptainPipsqueak: Either that or frighten away and disgust people around you until you start performing heroic feats and making the populace love you!

Crazy56U: Just have her cover her face, Twilight! That's instant camouflage!

And what about her mane? What if Nyx's mane started to turn magical,

Crazy56U: Aka. "ethereal crap".

turning into that night blue field of magic with stars like the real Nightmare Moon? She could dress Nyx in a full body suit and that mane would still give her away.

SC276: So have the suit cover the mane. What is the issue here?

CaptainPipsqueak: Rubber or leather? Because either one would result in questions being asked.

Topher: At this point you're basically turning her into pink guy, do you think that would help her blend in?

Crazy56U: Also, that would destroy Nyx's social life and/or make her weird in the head.

And what would ponies think when they began to realize what Nyx was? That she had some connection with Nightmare Moon? How long before the torches and pitchforks came out?

SC276: T-plus three weeks.

Topher: T=0. *is holding a torch and pitchfork*

CaptainPipsqueak: See? Torches and pitchforks are *tradition*.

Crazy56U: Twilight, you of all ponies know that Torches and Pitchforks went out of business last week. Goddamn Quills and Sofas ran them into the ground...

How long before the royal guard was hunting Nyx down? How long before Celestia would banish Nyx to the moon?

SC276: How long before you grow a beard made of green spinach?

Mono: Oh come on. Celestia *surely* wouldn't think of something like that.

Crazy56U: ...well, you *are* right on *that* front...

SC276: *Grodus*, on the other hand...

Topher: [Nyx] "Try it m8 Ill fukin rek U swear on me mum."

CaptainPipsqueak: Be funny if it turned out the moon *didn't* have an atmosphere...

Nyx didn't deserve any of that.

CaptainPipsqueak: She deserved much, *much* worse.

Crazy56U: All she deserved was a stern talking to and some sage advice.

She wasn't Nightmare Moon, she just wasn't. She just *looked* like her... and had her power...and some of her memories...but she wasn't-

SC276: If it looks like a duck, moves like a duck, and sounds like a duck, it's *clearly* an eggplant.

Topher: So you're saying that if she weighs the same as a duck we should burn her?

CaptainPipsqueak: Only if she floats.

Crazy56U: *This is the song that does not end! Yes, it goes on and on my friend!*

"Twilight, you okay? Yer lookin' a might pale."

Mono: [Twilight] "Shut up, undefined voice!"

Crazy56U: [Bic Mac] "Well, *excuse me* for still being able to talk!"

The unicorn was snapped out of her spiraling thoughts as she looked up at Big Macintosh, who had a moment free from customers to check on the pair.

SC276: So apparently he's got his voice mode on.

CaptainPipsqueak: [Twilight Sparkle] "WHO TOLD YOU YOU COULD TALK, YOU HICK?!"

Crazy56U: Also because he hated the customers.

"Oh... yes, sorry... I'm fine. Just... just a little light headed."

"You want another apple?"

Mono: [Twilight] "*looking fat as hell* I'll pass this time."

Crazy56U: [Big Mac] "(holds up a bucket of apples) *Please?* Nobody wants the damn things!"

"No, no thank you Big Macintosh." The unicorn replied. "Uh, have they started the afternoon activities?"

"Don't think so, but I reckon' it's going to start right soon. Saw Applejack and Apple Bloom headin' in that direction."

SC276: (points in a nonspecific direction) Over there.

Topher: It's Big Mac. (points in a nonspecific direction) Yonder.

CaptainPipsqueak: You forgot the 'I reckon'.

Crazy56U: Yeehaw.

"We're still going to that, even after what happened?" Nyx asked, a bit surprised.

Topher: A tree appeared, stayed there for 30 seconds, then vanished. It didn't damage anything, it just came and went. SOUND THE ALARMS! SHUT IT ALL DOWN! ABORD! ABORT! ABORT!

CaptainPipsqueak: That was practically tame compared to the shit that *usually* goes down in Ponyville.

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "I thought I was grounded!"

"Yes, both because you didn't really do anything wrong and because I know you've been looking forward to it." Twilight replied, getting to her hooves. Those were two valid reasons for them to stay and participate in the afternoon activities.

Mono: And potatoes. Don't forget potatoes.

CaptainPipsqueak: And a third undefinable thing.

Crazy56U: Yes.

The greater and unspoken reason, however, was that Twilight was worried about what would happen if they left.

SC276: The plot wouldn't be about them for a bit?
Crazy56U: A bear could attack!

The two leaving abruptly would seem out of the ordinary, which would make her friends worry. They would then come looking for her and Nyx expecting an explanation, not only to why they left but even why Nyx was able to turn Fluttershy into a tree. Leaving would invite more unwanted attention.

SC276: ...I'm having trouble thinking of a joke that's not political.
Crazy56U:
SC276: You said it, man.
Crazy56U: Come on, we were *all* thinking it.
CaptainPipsqueak: Well, *you* all were. I could hear the wind whistling from here.

But if they stayed, then they could try and act like what had happened was nothing out of the ordinary. That Twilight wasn't at all surprised that Nyx was able to turn Fluttershy into a tree and that it was perfectly normal.

Mono: Yeah, like that would fly.
CaptainPipsqueak: I remind you again that this is Ponyville. Also, Pinkie is here.
Crazy56U: *Man* Twilight's plastered today...

This was the farthest from the truth, but at the moment Twilight was hoping that maybe, just maybe, ponies would think Nyx was just a very, very gifted little unicorn and *not* Nightmare Moon reborn.

SC276: Roll Bluff at -3.
Calico: Crit fail!
Topher: I told you to give your character more charisma, but NOOOO, dump it all into strength and constitution!
CaptainPipsqueak: Well, at least she can beat the shit out of them
Crazy56U: Twilight Sparkle: Paranoid As Fuck.

For the moment, however, they would continue to hide behind the apple stand, if only to give Nyx a few more minutes to eat in peace.

SC276: Gheeze, she eats slowly.
Crazy56U: No, Twilight is making her eat slowly. There's a difference.

=====

"I know you're here some where Spy Spyerton McSpy."

Crazy56U: ...fuck that name, he's Johnny Rivers now.
Mono: Not Johnny English?
Topher: [Spy] "Fuck you, you annoying pink imbecile!"

Pinkie Pie whispered to herself, eyes focused in a hard glare as she surveyed the crowd of ponies moving about the lunch area and the exhibits. Whoever had been watching her, Dash, and Fluttershy had slipped away once, but now Pinkie Pie knew the spy was there, and she would find him or her.

SC276: [Liam Neeson!Pinkie Pie] "I will find you, and I will kill you."
Crazy56U: What makes you think the spy is even real, Pinkie?

Itchy

Dragonborne: "Tasty..."
CaptainPipsqueak: "Scratchy..."
Crazy56U: (Wookie noises)

Neck...

Mono: I'm half-expecting Pinkie's neck to turn 180 degrees at this point.
CaptainPipsqueak: Oh like that'd be *unusual*.
Crazy56U: Even if that *did* happen, it's not like it would change anything.

Pinkie Pie's head snapped to the right, her eyes zipping through the crowd to meet a pair of brown-gray eyes.

SC276: [robot!Pinkie Pie] "TARGET SIGHTED"
Mono: No SC, that's Sweetie Belle.
CaptainPipsqueak: Yeah, everyone knows Pinkie is a cyborg.
Crazy56U: Nah, Pinkie is just mental.
SC276: I don't see why those couldn't overlap.

Her eyes remained fixed on those eyes for a moment, the pony who owned them realizing Pinkie Pie was looking right in that direction and quickly ducked around a corner.

Creaky Knee...

Topher: [Pinkie] "I'm getting too old for this shit."
Crazy56U: Rigor Mortis is a *bitch*, let me tell ya...

"Gotcha..." Pinkie Pie whispered with a slightly devilish grin, starting to gallop.

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "I'MMA GET THAT PIKACHU"
Crazy56U: I thought *Pokemon GO* was dead...

Creaky Knee was one of her twitches that told her somepony was trying to get away from her... and most importantly the knee closest to the pony was the one that got creaky. Which meant she could track the spy.

SC276: How convenient.
Mono: It's Pinkie Pie. She's made of conveniences.
Topher: And bubblegum.
CaptainPipsqueak: Also cotton candy and icing.
Crazy56U: And cocaine.

Rounding a corner the spy had just disappeared around, Pinkie Pie maneuvered through the crowd in hot pursuit. She caught small glances of somepony at a full gallop just ahead of her, rounding corners. The spy knew she was onto him, but that wouldn't stop her.

SC276: Pinkie is a more dogged chaser than Blinky after he goes Cruise Elroy.
Crazy56U: ...what the fuck kind of Pac Man bullshit is "Cruise Elroy"?
SC276: Basically, after Pac-Man has eaten a percentage of dots in the maze, Blinky goes faster. No one knows why it's called "Cruise Elroy" like that, he just is.
CaptainPipsqueak: Ain't *nobody* gon' keep Cruise Elroy from doin' his thing.

Nopony went about being a nasty Spy Spyerton McSpy, especially around her and her friends.

Creaky Knee Front Left... Creaky Knee Front Right... Creaky Knee Front Right... Creaky Knee Back Left... Creaky Knee Front Right... Twingy Ankle...

SC276: What is this, a story or a debug log?
Crazy56U: Up, up, down, down, left, right, B, A- (is set on fire) ...ow.
SC276: Might want to try that in some game besides *Gradius* next time.
Crazy56U: (is still on fire) *How does that help me with my current situation?*
Mono: Don't worry, I'll douse it. *throws a bucket of gasoline over Crazy's head*
...wait, that wasn't water...
Topher: *starts roasting marshmallows* I see no problem with this situation.
CaptainPipsqueak: See? The Konami code *doesn't* fix everything!
Crazy56U: (is now a pile of ashes)

Pinkie Pie put all four of her hooves to the ground, breaking hard and sliding to a stop. Twingy Ankle... now the spy wasn't running, the spy was *hiding*.

SC276: So she activated radar mode.
Calico: Okay, just how many of her senses are specifically related to chasing people?
CaptainPipsqueak: Yes.
Crazy56U: As opposed to being dead.

Pinkie Pie's eyes narrowed, the pony finding herself on one side of the food court area that had been set up for the Learn and Play Day.

SC276: As opposed to the Lobotomy Day.
Mono: As opposed to Leg Day.
Dragonborne: As opposed to Heart Day.
CaptainPipsqueak: As opposed to Night Day.
Crazy56U: As opposed to Sunday.

There were ponies at almost every table, eating their lunches while other ponies mingled about, talking and laughing.

"Oh, he's *good*, but Hide and Seek is one of my favorite games. " Pinkie Pie whispered,

SC276: One of my favorite games is *Clue*, but that doesn't mean I'm *good* at it.
Crazy56U: *Battle for Bikini Bottom* is a good game. ...I have nothing to contribute beyond that.
Calico: I'm almost confident enough to turn the Smash Bros. CPU to the *second* level of difficulty!
CaptainPipsqueak: My favourite game is that one. The one where you do the thing.

before taking in a deep breath and shouting, "YOU HEAR THAT!!! I'LL FIND YOU!!!"

SC276: Hey, I already made that joke!

Topher: [Zed Pinkie] "I WILL FIND HIM!"

CaptainPipsqueak: [Pinkie Pie] "KNEEL BEFORE PINKIE!"

Crazy56U: [Cheerilee] "SHUT THE FUCK UP, PINK HORSE!"

All the ponies who had been eating their meals and chatting turned to look at Pinkie Pie, most quite startled by the pink pony's sudden and very loud proclamation. Still, Pinkie Pie ignored the confused stares as her eyes scanned the crowd, eventually taking sight of a pony sitting alone at a table who had not turned around, her eyes falling on the back of his slicked back navy blue mane.

Mono: A genderbent Luna?

Crazy56U: Uh oh, it's an OC!

"Gotcha... again." Pinkie Pie offered with a menacing grin.

SC276: The part of Pinkie Pie will be played by Predator.

Crazy56U: Pinkie, stop trying to be cool, you will *never* be cool.

The pink pony moved across the food court slowly, stepping between ponies as she did her best to approach the spy from behind. She was within a few tables when a face popped in front of her.

Crazy56U: Specifically this one:



SC276:

Crazy56U: Two can play at this game.



Topher:



CaptainPipsqueak:

"Oh, there you are Pinkie Pie. I was worried when you ran off." Dash said, hovering just in front of the pink earth pony.

SC276: Even when she's not a victim, Rainbow Dash invites disaster.

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "(singing) Here I come to wreck the daaaaaaaaaaaaay!"

Topher: BAHHAHAHA! HOLY SHIT I WAS RIGHT! WOOOAHAAHAHAHA!

"It's almost time to start the afternoon sports and games. You still want to help?"

"No... I don't... because... I'm tracking... a pony and..." Pinkie Pie replied, trying to strain her neck to look around Rainbow Dash.

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "Dashie, will you please stop being fat for a minute?"

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "(repeatedly blocks Pinkie's point of view) What's that, what's that, being a spying creep, being a weirdo in public, yeah, uh huh, that right?"

Eventually, the earth pony gently pushed the hovering pegasus out of the way,

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "Okay, you need to go fuck off now. (throws Rainbow into the forest)"

Mono: [Dash] "*flies off in the distance* *bling*"

Calico: "We're blasting off agaaaaain!"

only to find the pony she had been creeping up on had vanished. The pink pony grunted in aggravation,

Mono: The part of Pinkie Pie will be played by a Death Metal singer.

Crazy56U: Or in indigestion.

CaptainPipsqueak: *GRUNT.*

turning accusing glare on Rainbow Dash.

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "You read the Bible, Dash?"

"And you let him get away!"

SC276: She didn't want to run from the Legendary Pokémon encounter. Now she has to turn the game off and on again.

Crazy56U: Plot twist: Rainbow is a sleeper Nightmare Moon Fan Club member.

"Whoa... sorry, I didn't mean to mess up... whatever it is you're doing."

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "Even though I doubt you actually *are* looking for someone and have in fact finally snapped."

CaptainPipsqueak: As if it were easy to tell.

Creaky Knee Front Right...

Pinkie Pie's frown quickly turned back to a sinister smile, her head snapping in another direction.

"Don't worry about it Dashie; now the spy is trying to run away from me again and nopony can run away from Pinkamena Diane Pie."

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "He will be served this form, dammit!"

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "(does the Woody Woodpecker laugh as she goes cross-eyed and pulls out a knife)"

Mono: Suddenly, Cupcakes.

Crazy56U: Thank you, that was in fact the joke. (ball drops in the background)

CaptainPipsqueak: What about the sequel: 'Brownies'?

"Wait, you're still chasing this imaginary spy?"

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "*STOP BELITTling MY MISSION, RAINBOW!*"

Pinkie Pie, however, offered no answer as she galloped across the food court. She caught sight of a navy-blue tail

Crazy56U: ...Soarin' is the Spy?

SC276: That Spy is not one of ours!

Dragonborne: That Indigo Zap is a Spy!

CaptainPipsqueak: Better kill her, just to be sure. Now *where'd* I put my hacksaw...?"

ducking behind the front of the school house, and the earth pony broke into a full sprint to catch up. She leapt around the corner, eyes darting about to see where the pony went.

Creaky Knee Front Right... Twingy Ankle...

Mono: *looks at his hand* Oooh, a clenching fist! That means something is being annoying!

Crazy56U: ...you have issues.

Mono: Tell me something I don't know.

CaptainPipsqueak: The billionth digit of Pi (hurrhrrhurr) is 9.

"Oh, you silly spy. You thought you could hide in the school house, but nopony can hide from Pinkie Pie."

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "The fact that I killed Dashie for cupcake ingredients and replaced her with a magically-autonomously-animated meat puppet with nopony noticing is proof of that!"

CaptainPipsqueak: [Rainbow Dash] "Wait, what?"

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "But, quite frankly, I'm doing the world a favor! I've heard stories about the Rainbow Factory, you asshole! *I KNOW WHAT CRIMES RAINBOW HAS DONE!*"

CaptainPipsqueak: [Rainbow Dash] "Wait, *what?*"

Topher: Pinkie then chucked a molotov cocktail through the window, killing the spy and a small child who needed to use the bathroom.

CaptainPipsqueak: The child was the one who hired him, so it wasn't the tragedy one would think.

With that the earth pony moved to the school's front door, taking a moment to gather herself before bursting through the door and jumping up onto her back hooves, pulling a few karate poses as she shouted into the dark.

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "This is intimidating you into surrendering, right?"

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "You don't wanna mess! I've listened to *Kung Fu Fighting* at least *five times!*"

Mono: [Pinkie] "If Jack Black voicing a panda can do Kung Fu, I can as well!"

"Come on out now, Spy Spyerton McSpy!"

SC276: OK, seriously, that's not even that snazzy a nickname.

Crazy56U: Hence me calling the poor soul Johnny Rivers. Because Pinkie's name is giving spies a bad name.

CaptainPipsqueak: Could someone give her a Monster and mellow her out? Please?

I know you're in here, and you're going to tell me why you're being a big meanie and spying on me and my friends!"

"Enough of this." A voice offered from the back of the dark room.

SC276: He wants this plot over with too.

Crazy56U: [Johnny Rivers] "(beyond pissed) You know what? I quit. Yep. I quit. Fuck this, fuck you, fuck this scene, fuck that nickname, fuck Pen Stroke. I'm out. (leaves)"

Pinkie Pie turned, her eyes meeting the same brown-gray eyes she had seen among the exhibits. The eyes closed, and then, upon reopening, had turned a brilliant turquoise.

SC276: Yeah sure, drop your disguise, because you're totally capable of trapping fucking *Pinkie*.

Crazy56U: Don't worry he had bullshit on his side!you'll see.

Mono: OH MY GOD, CONTACTS!

CaptainPipsqueak: *That's* Pinkie's one weakness?

Dragonborne: SHE IS ASCENDING! SHE IS DEMON-POSSESSED! EVERYBODY RUN!

=====

"All right, ponies!" Rainbow Dash half shouted over the remaining crowd. "It's time for the last awesome event of the day. The Tug of War Tournament."

SC276: [Lyra] "(to Sweetie Drops) Did she say 'last awesome' or 'less awesome?'"

Calico: "All events *after* this one are officially sub-par."

CaptainPipsqueak: [Rainbow Dash] "The winners get to live, the losers... .. Do the math, kids. ... No, really; the losers have to do a math quiz."

The parents and other ponies who had come out for the Learn and Play Day all cheered, having formed into a sizable audience around three different colored tug of war ropes.

"So, here's how it's going to happen. There are teams of four, and each team has been placed on our tournament roster. There are also three age groups and teams will fit into the age group of its oldest member. The last teams standing in each age group will get prizes, and then we'll let the top teams tug it out to see which one is the Tug of War Champions of the day.

SC276: [Twilight] "Wait, wasn't the entire point of the age groups so they'd only take on opponents of their size?"

[Rainbow Dash] "Sorry, your logic is being drowned in *AWESOME*."

CaptainPipsqueak: Originally, Rainbow Dash had planned knife-fights. While Cheerilee approved of Rainbow's idea, they realised that the parents probably wouldn't. This was the compromise.

"Now teams, report to the colored rope you were assigned to and let's get tugging."

Mono: *wiggles eyebrows*

Another round of cheers as fillies and colts, some younger and some on the verge of being mares and stallions,

Mono: So the agenders/transsexuals?

filtered to one of the three ropes. At the red rope, for the youngest age group, Rarity stood with a clipboard levitating gently in front of her. Cheerilee had the middle age group and Applejack was keeping the oldest ponies in line.

Crazy56U: (pulls out a tape recorder) A-like so. (hits "Play")

Tape Recorder: Losing a game of tug-of-war? A night in the Box. Cheating in a game of tug-of-war? A night in the Box. Refusing to spend a night in the Box? A night in the Box.

SC276: ~This old man, he played two / He played knick-knack on my shoe...~

Mono: Oh, hey! I remember that psychological horror story disguised as an episode of a kid's cartoon!

"All right." Rarity half sang above the sizable crowd of little fillies that had crowded around her. "First up are the Cutie Mark Crusaders vs The Carrot Clan."

Crazy56U: They *wanted* to be called the Carrot Cotillion, but they didn't know what a "Cotillion" was...

Mono: I'm imagining them being Scottish now, because fuck it.

CaptainPipsqueak: Not quite, Crazy. They actually wanted to be called the Kickass Karrot Klan, but something about the name just rubbed everyone the wrong way.

Crazy56U: Well *duh*, Carrot is misspelled.

Those two teams get to your sides of the rope and everypony else stand back please."

CaptainPipsqueak: [Rarity] "I know these two groups. One's likely to draw a gun on the other if they find themselves losing."

The young ponies followed the directions. On one side of the rope were three colts and a filly, all of them with some form of a carrot themed cutie mark, who took up the rope in their teeth.

SC276: ...That's it? You link names and the same defunct pictures for pretty much the entire school, and you're passing over *this*? When it's *hard*?

Mono: The image links are broken anyway, so what does it matter.

On the other side of the rope, the four fillies wearing bright red Cutie Mark Crusader caps got into line.

SC276: [Applebloom] "Sweetie Belle, did you make these hats out of our old capes?"
[Sweetie Belle] "Yeah! It was easy! I just had to cut the 'e' off!"

Sweetie Belle was in the front, Scootaloo behind her. Nyx, who had been officially inducted into the Cutie Mark Crusaders just after the Spring Festival,

SC276: And couldn't be alluded to earlier because

I DON'T KNOW!

Calico: Author, when we say to leave out the boring stuff, that doesn't mean leaving us in the dark about the current state of things!

Dragonborne: Suddenness seems to be a thing as of late. 'Tis tragic for a fan-acclaimed classic.

CaptainPipsqueak: Yeah, but 'My Little Dashie' is a fan-acclaimed story, too, so that's not as tragic as you'd think.

took up the third position while Apple Bloom became the team's anchor.

SC276: He knows a fancy tug-o-war term and yet not... some other piece of vocabulary I might have mentioned he didn't know previously?

Mono: AB was immediately thrown overboard.

CaptainPipsqueak: Makes sense. Apple Bloom *is* dense, after all.

"Remember, the goal is to pull the flag in the center of the rope across your line." Rarity replied, motioning towards the white lines that were painted on the ground.

SC276: [Nyx] "We paid fucking attention the first time, you know."

[Rarity] "Really, such language--"

[Twilight] "Shut the fuck up, Rarity."

The two teams nodded their heads in agreement, already starting to pull the rope taut between them.

Able to notice the eagerness in the team, Rarity didn't waste another moment.

"Ready... Set... GO!"

SC276: (waves a green flag)

The two teams tightened their jaws and began to pull on the rope, struggling to drag the other team far enough the flag would cross the line.

Topher: They almost immediately had most of their teeth ripped out, in a symphony of suction-y squelching noises and screams of agony.

CaptainPipsqueak: And that was when the cheering *really* started...

For a moment the Carrot Clan team began to get the advantage, the four earth ponies managing to pull the Crusaders a few steps forward. Still, the tides turned back as Scootaloo began flapping her wings, much like when she was riding on her scooter. The added force let the Crusaders regain their footing,

Mono: I'm pretty sure this is bullshit, buy hey, THEY WON!

and soon, with a few hard pulls, they had won the first match.

SC276: Whee.

Mono: WHEE!

Dragonborne: WHEE!

Crazy56U: YAHOO

"YAY! Cutie Mark Crusader Tug of War Champions!" The four cheered in unison before stepping away from their side of the rope, letting the next two teams approach.

SC276: Yeah, that's great and all, but it still doesn't cover the fact you're cutting away from a pony in *real danger*.

CaptainPipsqueak: Pfft. How do you know? They might just be trading party tips.

=====

Due to the tournament ladder, the Cutie Mark Crusaders had two more rounds of tug of war before they reached their age group's final match, and the Crusaders couldn't be happier who they were facing.

SC276: Johnny Cash?

Mono: Johnny Test?

Crazy56U: Johnny Rivers?

Dragonborne: Johnny Quest?

Topher: Johnny 2x4?

CaptainPipsqueak: Johnny Five?

Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon had gotten two of the strongest colts in the age group on their team,

Crazy56U: With the three Bs: bullying, blackmail, and bribery.

CaptainPipsqueak: And the potential promise of a *fourth B*. ... What? I meant *booze*. ... Perverts.

and they had gotten to the final match by basically relying on those two strong colts.

SC276: I'm slightly more concerned if they positioned themselves in front of or behind them.

Still, the Crusaders weren't about to lose to fillies who liked to call them blank flanks on a regular basis.

Mono: Fillies who liked to call them blank flanks once a month, though...

That and Nyx still had a bit of a personal score to settle with Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon for the whole Everfree Forest prank.

SC276: That totally wasn't a murder plot.

"Ready... Set... Go!" Rarity shouted, the two teams quickly pulling the rope taut. Almost immediately the Cutie Mark Crusaders began to lose ground, the two colts on the other team starting to drag the three fillies back. They were colts just barely in the youngest age groups; one of them literally had a birthday within a week.

Mono: And that was... important?

Calico: Happy early birthday, champ. (blows expired party horn)

"Come on!" Apple Bloom grunted through the rope in her mouth. "Pull!"

"We are!" Scootaloo grunted back. "But our hooves are slipping!"

SC276: Maybe if you spent less time talking with the thing you're pulling with...

"Ha ha ha! Looks like you four are going to be losers *and* blank flanks." Diamond Tiara called, actually taking her mouth off the rope since the two older colts on her team were doing all the work.

SC276: Whilst Diamond Tiara will be a loser either way.

"Oh... It. Is. On!" Sweetie Belle offered,

Mono: Because memes are genetic.

the unicorn in the front digging her hooves into the ground and finally managing to halt the team's slow defeat, the flag on the rope just short of the other team's line.

"Everypony." Nyx mumbled out. "Pull hard together. Ready... PULL!"

SC276: I'm just waiting for the vest to pop off and the wings to do shit.

The four Crusaders put their weight into their unified tug, and actually managed to regain some ground, each taking a single step back. Nyx made the "Ready... PULL!" again,

Mono: And I made the "middle finger" again.

Calico: (cobbles together a "you fucked up")

and again the fillies were able to reclaim a single step, slowly dragging back the older stallions.

Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon tried for the first time in the tournament to really help pull, not wanting to see the Crusaders win.

SC276: [Diamond Tiara] "I didn't manage to kill their friend, so this is the closest thing I'm getting to closure!"

Still, Nyx's strategy was working, enough that they were able to get the flag on the rope back to where it had started.

At that point, however, Diamond Tiara's team figured out a counter strategy for the Cutie Mark Crusaders' tactics, the four of them leaning hard into the rope whenever Nyx called out pull. It lead to a tense stalemate.

Mono: "Tense" is a relative term here.

SC276: So is Pinkie *dead*, or...?

"My jaw is starting to hurt." Sweetie Belle mumbled out.

Mono: My brain is starting to hurt...

"Just hold on, we can win this." Scootaloo countered, trying to pep up the team as she beat her wings like mad.

"We can't over power them." Nyx grunted as the Crusaders began to lose a little of their hard earned

ground. "We have to out think them."

SC276: Have fun with that.

"And just how are we supposed to do that?" Apple Bloom asked, only for Nyx to start whispering, just loud enough for her friends to hear but keeping the plan secret from their opponents. When the plan had been conferred to all Nyx began to count.

Mono: [Nyx] "Four. Four losers. Ah ah ah."

Dragonborne: [Apple Bloom] "Fools! Four is death!"

"Ready... PULL!" Nyx shouted out through the rope in her teeth. Diamond Tiara's team, hearing this, quickly pulled, trying to counter act the tug the Crusaders were about to perform. The crusaders, however, did not pull back. They instead let Diamond Tiara's team have some of the slack.

SC276: Well tug-of-war can now be added to the list of sports that include feint tactics.

The sudden lack of opposition threw off Diamond Tiara's team, causing the stallion they had in the back to trip over his own hooves and fall off the rope. This was what the Crusaders had been hoping for, as Nyx shouted out another "PULL" and the four fillies took back all the slack they had given and then some.

"Match over; the Cutie Mark Crusaders win!" Rarity sung out to the cheers of the crowd, and the defeated shouts of Diamond Tiara. Still, her minor tantrum was ignored as the four Cutie Mark Crusaders high hoofed and then went over to where Dash was hovering to wait for the other age groups to finish.

SC276: So, how are you guys doing? University's being rather tough, but it should be this last semester before I graduate.

=====

"All right, it's time for our awesome championship round."

Calico: "Awesome" being the only adjective in Rainbow Dash's vocabulary.

Dash announced, only one tug of war rope remaining. "It's going to be between the Cutie Mark Crusaders and The Boulders."

Mono: Four versions of that wrestler from The Last Airbender?

SC276: No, because that would be awesome and we don't get nice things.

Topher: The unstoppable team of Tom, Boulder, Holder's Boulder! (Which you cunts need to stay off of.)

Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, Scootaloo, and Nyx all looked wide-eyed at their opponents. By some luck they had managed to beat the middle age group champion team, but now the four little fillies were facing a team of four colts that were arguably full grown stallions, or very close to being considered young adults.

**Mono: [Twilight] "I told you these age groups were bullshit."
[Rainbow] "Still not listening, Twil."**

"Now, since one team has an obvious advantage," Dash said, motioning towards the four earth ponies of The Boulders. "We'll allow the Cutie Mark Crusaders to have an advantage.

SC276: It's called a "handicap," author.

They can either add another pony to their team, have one unicorn be allowed to use magic,

Calico: Which won't end badly at all.

or they can pick a pony from The Boulders to sit out."

The Crusaders quickly huddled up, Apple Bloom quickly offering her opinion.

"We should ask my big sister to join our team, no, wait! ... we should ask Big Macintosh to be on our team! I bet he could beat those four big ponies all by himself."

"No, I want to beat these colts ourselves. I say we take the biggest and make him sit out. It be four vs. three." Scootaloo argued.

Mono: Yeah, but... there's still three left.

"What about magic? I'm not that good at it, but Nyx is *really* good at magic. She turned Fluttershy into a tree!" Sweetie Belle pointed out.

"You heard about that?" Nyx asked, a bit embarrassed.

"Hard not to, considering everypony here saw the tree.

SC276: Even the ones that arrived *after* Fluttershy was turned back.

Still, I think Sweetie Belle is right. Nyx is wicked awesome at magic, and just think how cool it would be to beat those big ponies without help from anypony else."

Mono: [Nyx] "Thank you, random voice."

"I don't know." Apple Bloom admitted. "Nyx, do you think you have enough magic?"

"I... I think so. I mean, I did turn a pony into a tree."

**SC276: [Nyx] "So, do you want me to turn *them* into trees, or...?"
Topher: [Scootaloo] "TURN 'EM INTO CORPSES!"**

"All right, it's decided then. Nyx will be our anchor and use her magic." Scootaloo concluded, the Crusaders ending their huddle and telling Rainbow Dash their choice. The pegasus echoed their choice to the crowd, most of the ponies cheering

Crazy56U: "MORE ASBESTOS! MORE ASBESTOS! MORE ASBESTOS!"

while one particular purple unicorn looked a little anxious.

Mono: ...Amethyst Star?

Crazy56U: Uh oh, Starlight time traveled again...

Soon the two teams were lined up on the single, remaining tug of war rope. And, since it was the last final, there was even a proper mud pit.

Mono: By god, they went all out with the budget this time.

The rules were classic: once all the members of one team were in the mud they lost. It was a tug of war to the last pony standing.

SC276: [Rainbow Dash] "Which means if you somehow fling the opponent over the horizon or something, it doesn't count."

The four nearly full grown stallions on the other team took the rope in their mouths, smiling like they had already won. Sweetie Belle, Apple Bloom, and Scootaloo took the rope up as well, biting down hard as they prepared for what was going to be a very hard match to win.

SC276: Is. Pinkie. DEAD.

Nyx stood at the end, gripping the very end of the rope in her teeth while her horn glowed, the filly deciding to use her magic to help her keep her hooves from sliding.

"All right, is everypony ready?" Dash asked, looking at the two teams.

Mono: What the hell kind of accent did our narrator put on this time?

Every pony gave a nod, and with a smile Dash lifted a hoof high into the air.

"Ready... Set... GO!"

SPLASH!!!

Crazy56U: You were sensational!

Mono: FAIL!

Dragonorne: Splash does nothing!

Sweetie Belle was in the mud pit within moments of the match starting, the big stallions on the other team just having to give a sound tug to drag the little white unicorn into the mud.

SC276: Nyx, you had one job!

The other three fillies did their best to pull back, but even with Nyx's trying to bewitch their hooves to hold tighter to the ground The Boulders were able to drag them.

SPLASH!!!

Crazy56U: And that's two sensational ponies.

Mono: FAIL!

Scotaloo was next, Sweetie Belle just barely able to get out of the way before the orange pegasus joined her in the mud pit.

SPLASH!!!

Crazy56U: And now we're up to three! They may have fallen into mud, but at least they still won the moral victory.

Mono: FAIL!

SC276: [Mayor] "I fell in the mud."

The older kids weren't even trying that hard, practically just dragging the Crusaders into the mud. Nyx was the last left, the magical filly's hooves sliding across the ground as she was inched closer and closer to the mud pit.

"Come on NYX!" Apple Bloom called out, the farm filly already out of the mud. "Use more magic!"

SC276: All systems, full power!

Crazy56U: Atomic batteries to power! Turbines to speed!

Topher: CHEWIE, LOCK ON AUXILIARY POWER!

"Yea, don't let them beat you!" Scotaloo offered, stomping a hoof.

The black filly glanced at them, knowing they were right. All she had that might have been stronger than the other team was her magic, but how could she use it? She couldn't do anything too complex, otherwise she'd lose concentration and be pulled off her hooves, and she couldn't just pull harder because her hooves were sliding across the ground.

SC276: And thinking about this in such detail *isn't* breaking your concentration?

What she needed was traction and strength, and one of the spells had to be something she could cast and forget because she wouldn't be able to concentrate on more than one spell at a time. The mud pit was drawing closer, the older colts playing with Nyx as they inched her closer and closer to the pit without even really trying.

SC276: Ooooh, *suspense*.

That was the first thing she needed was to them from pulling her closer to the pit.

Nyx's horn began to glow a little brighter, and with a flash Nyx was suddenly rooted to the ground, her hooves no longer sliding.

SC276: For she had turned herself into a tree.

The older colts were caught off guard by the sudden stop, but didn't get to process what was going on before Nyx began to shift her magic.

She began to just pour the mystic energy into herself, bending the magic from her horn down into her

legs and muscles and jaw.

SC276: So, she's hulking out?

When ponies are directly exposed to magic, it can have a profound effect. Celestia's hair was a constant example, the magic that naturally flowed from the sun princess giving her the amazing, regal mane.

Mono: Or it could just be really expensive dye. Haven't thought about that option, have you Pen?

Fill a pony with magic, and their body will use the energy to make itself better until the magic is gone.

SC276: And people wonder where the "unicorn master race" thing comes from...

And Nyx could feel it working, feel herself getting just a little stronger. Her jaw was no longer hurting and she was able to bite down harder on the rope. The black filly lifted one of her hooves, revealing the fact that her first spell had transfigured some of the dirt on the ground into horseshoes with long spikes, the perfect thing to keep Nyx from sliding.

Mono: Wow: Nyx's magic has some really convenient transfiguration-effect-thingies.

SC276: And you just *have* to show them off even if it hurts your chances of success. She really *is* Nightmare Moon.

Magic flowing through her and her eyes shut tight in concentration, Nyx took a step back and began to pull, and the rope gave a little. Not much, but just a little. It was enough to tell Nyx what she was doing was working and all she needed was more magic.

SC276: Directing all power to engines!

Toph: Warp nine, on my command! ENGAGE!

Calling on her horn, Nyx began pouring as much magic as she could into her little body, feeling it giving her strength. It also made her mane and tail feel weird, but the filly couldn't focus on that as she took another few steps. The other team offered valiant resistance, and at times made Nyx have to take a step forward again. Still, the match had become very one sided, and soon Nyx's ears were greeted with four sounds.

Crazy56U: Specifically, the sound of four knocks. Somepony in the crowd started freaking out and had a hissy fit, but other than that, no one cared.

Mono: I thought they were four claps.

SC276: Chitty chitty bang bang?

Crazy56U: (is now dead)

Dragonborne: I WARNED YOU ALL, BUT DID YOU GUYS LISTEN?!

SPLASH... SPLASH... SPLASH... SPLASH...

Crazy56U: Revenge! Double kill! Triple kill! Extermination! Killjoy! Overkill! Game over!

Mono: EPIC FAIL!

SC276: GAME CLEAR

Topher: TEAM KILL!

The moment Nyx heard the fourth splash she dropped the rope and released her magic, panting heavily as she stared at the grass. The magic began to evaporate from the filly, her body releasing the high concentration of arcane energies that had been poured into it.

SC276: So, she exploded, basically.

Topher: It melted the faces of half the audience.

Nyx began to feel sore all over, her jaw especially tender, but she was still smiling.

She had beat the big kids, just her,

SC276: [Nyx] "My friends are worthless!"

and now everypony would be cheering and happy and she'd get a first place ribbon just like her friends and...

It was at this moment Nyx noticed how very quiet it was.

Crazy56U: Specifically, how it was *too* quiet. Then, suddenly, an army of bears stormed out of the forest-

Mono: And then she noticed everybody left.

SC276: They were all dead. They died in the explosion.

Looking up, the black filly was surprised to see everypony that had been watching the match was staring at her, many with their jaws hanging open. Nyx even caught sight of Twilight, the unicorn looking like she was about to faint,

SC276: Nah, that looks more along the lines of "ABORT MISSION ABORT MISSION"

her narrow eyes darting about the crowd like it could turn into something very dangerous very quickly.

SC276: Nah, that'd be *interesting*.

The silence wasn't pleasant at all, Nyx starting to feel like she had done something wrong. The black filly shrunk back a bit, her own eyes moving about the crowd as she tried to find eyes that weren't looking at her like she was weird.

SC276: Yeah, uh, hate to break your heart, tiny pitch-black alicorn...

And Nyx did find those eyes, three pairs looking at her with disbelief but slowly building with joy.

Mono: Quickly switching to anger.

SC276: Then bargaining, then depression, and finally acceptance.

It was her friends, the other Cutie Mark Crusaders slowly coming to terms that their friend just beat four big colts at a game of tug of war all by herself. And, when that realization hit them,

SC276: Hit and run cases are always so sad.

the three fillies raced towards Nyx in their excitement.

"That was awesome!"

"You did it! You did it!"

"I don't think even my big sis could have beat all those colts by herself!"

Mono: "Who the hell is talking right now?"

Dragonborne: "What is even going on anymore?"

The cheers and admiration from the Crusaders snapped the crowd out of their stupor, and many began to applauded as well, some offering very well meant cheers while some were just stomping their hooves on the ground since it was what was expected.

SC276: How sad it is, to be trapped in expectations.

Others didn't applaud at all, whispering to each quietly.

Amongst those who applauded was one pony with brown-gray eyes and a blue, slicked back mane.

Mono: Hi Pinkie's murderer!

He applauded with a gentle smile on his lips, eyes focused on the little black filly.

SC276: Stalker.

=====

"Man, that was crazy."

Crazy56U: Mundane at best, shut your fuckhole.

Rainbow Dash said as she fluttered in the air, carrying a box in her hooves. "I mean, little Nyx beating that whole team of older colts. What are the chances?"

SC276: Well she's the main character in a poorly-written story, so... 100%.

"It really was amazing." Fluttershy replied, the pegasus pony walking along the ground. She too was carrying a box on her back, the pair taking some of the leftover prizes and other things into the school house, helping to clean up from the Learn and Play Day.

Mono: [Rainbow] "I still can't believe Cheerilee didn't accept these Rainbow Dash action figures as prizes!"

"To do all that, Nyx has to have as much magic as Twilight."

"Or more!" Dash added, the pegasus pushing open the door and into the darkened school house. Still, before the pegasus could get two feet into the door, she ran into something.

SC276: In midair?

The blue pegasus jumped a little, quickly flying backwards as she tried to register what she had run into.

Mono: ...a naked guy?

Dragonborne: The Special Task Force?

"Pi... Pinkie Pie?" The pegasus eventually mumbled, she and Fluttershy setting down the boxes they were carrying and moving around in front of the earth pony. Pinkie Pie was standing still as a statue on her hind legs in a fake karate pose with her eyes focused on a point on the far side of the room.

Crazy56U: Remember when I said Johnny had bullshit on his side?

"Is... is she even breathing?" Dash asked, noticing how very still Pinkie Pie was standing.

Mono: No. THE END!

"Oh no! She's been Stared!" Fluttershy offered.

Crazy56U: TA DAH!

SC276: ...what?

Mono: DUMB DUMB DUUUUUUUUUUUUMB!

Calico: "Dumb" indeed.

"Stared, what's Stared?"

Crazy56U: Uh... .. (points at eyes)

"You know The Stare."

Crazy56U: Well, the *readers* do. ...but let's assume they either *don't* or are too fucking stupid to understand! (snaps fingers)

"Oh, yeah." Rainbow Dash replied. "It's when you stare an animal or pony down and it makes them do what you want them to."

Mono: Like we didn't know already.

SC276: [Fluttershy] "Yes. I know. I *just told you.*"

"Well, not *exactly*... but, yes. Well, sometimes, when I use The Stare and I don't mean too...

Mono: How can you use it but not mean to use it?

well, sometimes I can make the pony or animal I'm staring at just freeze up."

"Wait, so you did this to Pinkie Pie?"

Crazy56U: [Rainbow Dash] "What the fuck, Fluttershy?!"

"Oh no, it wasn't me." Fluttershy quickly defended. "I haven't done this to anypony in years."

SC276: [Fluttershy] "On purpose."

It was only when I first found out I had The Stare that I accidentally did this once in a while,

Mono: "And that guy hasn't recovered ever since."

Topher: [Fluttershy] "I use him as a scarecrow."

but I'd never do it on purpose to another pony. No, some other pony did this."

SC276: I saw *Kamen Rider Ex-Aid* episode 18 a few hours ago and *I am not feeling up to your bullshit, story.*

"Well, how do we fix it?"

Topher: It's a simple procedure, the most common term used for it is a "lobotomy."

"Well, um... I usually just throw a bit of water on them, but anything that gives the pony a little shock is enough to snap them out of it."

"Oh, then I know just the thing." Rainbow Dash said,

SC276: And then she bonked Pinkie on the head.

hovering up near Pinkie Pie's ear and beginning to whisper. "Hey Pinkie Pie!

Mono: "You and me. My house. Tonight."

Dragonborne: "Tonight, you..."

Twilight just got a letter from Princess Celestia. She wants *you* to plan the next Grand Galloping Gala so it'll be, like, 200% more fun."

Crazy56U: Okay, *obviously* this is a lie, but fuck it, I wanna reference this:



Pinkie Pie's eyes, which had been narrow and transfixed on a spot on the far side of the room,

SC276: OK, and that's how you know the author saw the Full-Body Bind Curse from *Harry Potter*.

suddenly went wide, and in a flash the pink pony was bouncing off the walls and ceiling, giggles filling the air.

"Oh, that is so super dupe *amazing!* I am going to make it the best party ever! I'll make it the most amazing incredible tremendous super-fun wonderful terrifically humongous party in all of Equestria! *Oh the Grand Galloping Gala will be the greatest party. Oh the Grand Galloping Gala will be the greatest party. Hip hip, Hooray, It will be the best all thanks to me, to Pinkie!*"

Crazy56U: (to a conga beat) *Rehash, reuse, re-cy-cle! From the fucking sh-ow! Rehash, reuse, re-cy-cle! From the fucking sh-ow!*

Mono: Pen Stroke. Reminding us that anybody who knows how to copy-paste can be a fanfic author.

SC276: You need Pen Stroke for that, and not Mykan Jr?

Mono: Pen Stroke for when we're talking about episodes, Mykan Jr. for his own fic.

"Yeah, Pinkie Pie... I was lying."

Crazy56U: Because, you see, it's funny because fuck *The Best Night Ever* (the episode, not the fanfic).

Mono: Actually... yes.

The party pony froze up practically mid-jump, defying gravity for a moment before dropping down to the ground.

Mono: Visual gags!

Springing back to her hooves, Pinkie Pie trotted over to Dash, glaring coldly at the pegasus.

"That was *not* an okay prank, Dashie."

Crazy56U: [Pinkie Pie] "A *better* prank would've involved cookie zombies!"
[Rainbow Dash] "...that sounds fucking stupid, and we're doing that next week, but we have more pressing matters to deal with."

"Sorry, but it wasn't meant to be a prank. I needed to say something to snap you out of being Stared."

"Stared... wait, I was Stared?"

"You actually know what that is?"

Topher: Presumably something to do with staircases?

"Oh... um, yes. When... well, when I first met Pinkie Pie she kind of, well... scared me and, I didn't mean to but... I used The Stare on her and she got Stared." Fluttershy admitted sheepishly.

SC276: I suppose this technically *doesn't* contradict three minutes ago, but it feels like it does.

"It was the last time she ever did it." Pinkie Pie pointed out. "Unless you count today."

"But Pinkie, I wasn't the one who used The Stare on you."

"You weren't? But then who..." Pinkie Pie began, only for her eyes to narrow as turned to look at the far end of the room, intending to glare at a pony that was no longer there. "It was HIM!"

Mono: Suddenly, this became a Powerpuff Girls crossover!

"Him who, Pinkie?"

"The Spy!" The party pony seethed as she trotted across the room and pointed to a spot on the floor.

SC276: [Pinkie Pie] "No one told me this was going to be a *Team Fortress 2* crossover!"

"I followed him in here and he was standing right here and I had him cornered but then he opened his eyes and they were turquoise instead of the color they were and then the next thing I remember is you telling me Celestia wants me to plan the next Grand Galloping Gala,

SC276: That sounds less like the Stare and more like fucking Medusa. For whatever reason one would *want* to fuck Medusa.

which, by the way, is *still* a very mean prank." The party loving pony forced out in a single long breath before turning her gaze back on her friends.

"Look, Pinkie, I said I was sorry." Dash countered as she flew over by the earth pony. "But, I guess you weren't kidding about the spy. I mean, its not like an imaginary pony could have Stared you."

Mono: Well...

SC276: Imaginary friends don't count.

"But why would anypony be spying on us?" Fluttershy asked as she made her way across the room, choosing to walk between the desks.

Mono: Because... he likes you guys?

Topher: Because... He thinks you're sexy?

Dragonborne: Because... the story is shit?

"I don't know, but I sure as sugar am going to find out... after all the fun afternoon games though. I would hate to miss the seven legged race, or watching the tug of war."

"Uh, Pinkie Pie, you *did* miss all that." Dash admitted.

"WHAT!?"

"Yea, you've been in here all afternoon. We're actually cleaning up right now."

SC276: [Rainbow Dash] "Honestly, you didn't miss much. The whole thing was really overhyped."

"Oh... oh now I *am* going to find that spy! Not just because he was a Spy Spyerton McSpy. No, now it's *personal*."

Crazy56U: "Pinkie Pie vs. Johnny Rivers". Rated PG-13. Coming soon to a theater near you.

Mono: I'd actually pay to see that.

Dragonborne: Ditto. Or Pinkie Vs. Calvin and Hobbes.

No pony makes Pinkie Pie miss Pin the Tail on the Pony!"

Mono: Can this story please focus on Pinkie's vendetta now?

Crazy56U: (violent laughter) You think the story is going to bother *continuing* this plot point...

=====

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Crazy56U: "Past Sins" will be right back, after this word from our sponsors.

SC276: You think you know theme parks? You haven't had fun until you've come to Philosopher World!

Crazy56U: Tired of the thrilling drudgeries of roller coasters?

Past Sins

By Pen Stroke

Assisted By Batty Gloom

=====

Chapter 9
Revealing Truths

Crazy56U: "Tonight on TMZ: Princess Celestia dyes her mane?! Fancy Pants likes carrots?!?! We haven't been cancelled yet?!?!?!"

Mono: "We exist longer than *Pushing Daisies*?!?!"

SC276: "Ring might actually be Mykan?!?!"

=====

Twilight walked back to the library with Nyx as the sun began to set near the western horizon.

Mono: Thanks for telling us *where the sun sets*!

Topher: Actually, it usually sets back in the east, but Celestia felt like shaking it up. Literally! The sun did a cheeky little samba as it descended behind the horizon.

SC276: Also it had that face from the opening of the *Samba de Amigo* Wii game.

Rainbow Dash and a few others were staying to cleanup the Learn and Play Day. It was a moment the unicorn was thankful she hadn't volunteered to help, since staying around the school at that point was the last thing she wanted to do.

SC276: [Twilight] "Cheerilee giving up moonshine turns out to be the worst thing that ever happened to me."

Nyx was happy as she could be, bouncing along with her first place ribbon from the tug-of-war competition, wearing her Cutie Mark Crusader cape and a kazoo in her mouth, her chosen prize from the prize box.

SC276: She was playing *Rhapsody in Blue* on it, because it seems like a lot of authors are copying my mental processes recently.

The little filly was content to play the kazoo in a triumphant fan fare that only she knew the notes to,

Mono: The song in question?

SC276: Was it "The Song that Never Ends?"

a sight that made Twilight smile a little.

Topher: I admit, I'm picturing it, and it's adorable as fuck.

Dragonborne: Look! A spoonful of diabetes! At least Pen did SOMETHING right for once!

Twilight was happy that Nyx had a good day, and that it had ended well. The silence from the crowd after the last round of tug-of-war had been deafening.

SC276: There was still ringing in her ears.

Had it not been broken by Nyx's friends, Twilight could only imagine how bad the filly would have felt, wondering if she had done something wrong. But thankfully Apple Bloom, Sweetie Belle, and Scootaloo had ran up to her and cheered her on, making the black filly very happy.

Yet, it was only a small drop of happiness in a sea of a very bad situation.

SC276: And by "situation," you mean "fic."

While Nyx was unaware of what had happened, Twilight had been in the crowd watching when she began to use her magic to try and win that last round of tug of war.

Mono: ALWAYS WATCHING, WAZOWSKI! ALWAYS! ...this was an appropriate time, right?

She was using her magic, a lot of it... and that was when it began to happen.

Nyx's mane at first just seemed to start shimmering, something that may have just been contributed to a trick of the the light.

SC276: The afternoon sun is a trickster god. Myth confirmed.

But as the little filly began to use more and more magic her mane and tail began to change more, her hair reflecting the arcane energy that the filly was using.

SC276: Nyx's mane is a trickster god. Myth confirmed.

Her hair began to get lighter, and then actually began to float and wave in the air, as if Nyx was floating deep underwater instead of standing on solid ground in a tug of war grudge match.

SC276: Not sure it counts as a grudge match if she never saw her opponents before.

The shimmering of the hair also began to get more noticeable, starting to focus into a few dots.

Mono: Getting grey hairs at such a young age? Shame...

Topher: She went SUPER SAYIAN! I knew it!

It was one of the worst things Twilight could imagine happening.

SC276: So Nyx being revealed as the reincarnation of Nightmare Moon ranks on the disaster scale above, say, Twilight's own death? Does that mean her death would be a mercy kill?

Nyx's mane and tail had been changing into the night blue mane and tail that Nightmare Moon was known for, infamous for...

Mono: Because I think of a thing Nightmare Moon is infamous for, her mane is the first thing that pops into my mind.

SC276: And not, y'know, the whole moon for a thousand years thing.

and the change had started to happen right there with everypony at the Learn and Play Day watching.

SC276: I'm not sure whether or not smartphones existing would make the situation better or worse.

By some small miracle Nyx's hair didn't completely change. It reached a point very close to changing completely but it didn't finish the transition. If anything, it more closely resembled Celestia's mane, which was still made of hair even though the follicles were in a rainbow of pastel colors and moved constantly.

SC276: And that's better... how now?

Nightmare Moon's mane and tail, in contrast, were clouds of magical energy, which was why she was able to use and manipulate them like they were extra appendages.

SC276: ...She was?

Mono: So... it looked like Luna's mane?

Dragonborne: You're saying her mane is made of galaxy-colored cotton candy?

And it all brought several unwanted thoughts back to the forefront of Twilight's mind.

Calico: "Why *do* kids love the taste of Cinnamon Toast Crunch?"

SC276: "*Starfleet Humans* exists, and there's more than one."

For the first time since that evening Nyx called her mom,

SC276: Which was, what, four days ago tops?

Twilight was starting to doubt herself. Could Nyx really be Nightmare Moon? The unicorn had always argued that Nyx just looked like the infamous Mare in the Moon, but... with those memories coming back and Nyx's unbelievable level of magic... was it possible she really was Nightmare Moon?

Topher: Is a clone of Hitler still Hitler? This and the philosophical and ethical implications of it will NOT be explored in this fic.

Dragonborne: I got another philosophical query: If you clone yourself and kill the clone, is it then considered suicide?

SC276: Another one: if a tree falls in a forest and no one's around to witness it, will anyone care?

Crazy56U: (eye twitches) *SOUND CAN'T EXIST IF IT CAN'T BE HEARD, MOM, SHUT UP WITH THAT TREE SHIT!* (shoves flips the table) ...what just happened?

Another part of Twilight's mind snapped at this, cracking a mental whip like some wild animal tamer trying to drive a beast back into its cage.

Mono: This reminds me of that werewolf fic for some reason. Maybe I just wish we were riffing that instead.

No, Nyx was *not* Nightmare Moon! The filly was too sweet, too well behaved. She had friends and was happy. While Nightmare Moon laughed at times, it was because she believed she had won. A maddening laughter that was not born of true happiness.

Mono: Like this?

SC276: What happiness were you expecting when she was alone on the moon for a thousand years, and *no the comics don't count.*

But Twilight was starting to wonder if she'd have to deal with the fact that Nyx had the fallen princess' power. And... possibly even her immortality.

Mono: Just... wait a few more seasons. That will take care of itself.

That the filly she was taking care of, was raising... would possibly be alive for thousands of years after she had gone,

Mono: Again... wait a few seasons.

with the power to do things like move the sun and moon. Was she really up to that kind of responsibility, to shape the life of a filly that could live for the rest of time?

SC276: Anyone else miss *every season after 1?*

"Twilight, are you okay?" Nyx asked, breaking the unicorn's train of thought.

Mono: Eh, that train was late in the first place. *grins at Crazy*

The little black filly had taken notice of how quiet Twilight had been and had ended her happy kazoo playing to look up at her unofficial mother.

Topher: She began playing her kazoo inquisitively.

"Yes, I'm fine." Twilight lied, putting on a smile as she and Nyx neared the library. "Just tired, that's all; we've had a busy day. Now, why don't you run in and show Spike your ribbon?"

SC276: So, is she holding the ribbon somehow, or wearing it somewhere, or...?

I'm just going to stay outside for a little while longer."

Nyx nodded, replacing the kazoo in her mouth and blowing on it loudly as she ran inside,

Mono: Suddenly, earrape.

Dragonborne: *as loudly, tone-deaf and shrilly as possible, breaking glass in the process* *WELCOME TO DULOC, SUCH A PERFECT TOWN*

scaring one particular dragon quite well.

Mono: And then Grumble had a heart attack and died. Oh, and Spike got one as well.

Twilight smiled at this sight, a smile that faded quickly as the truth of the situation weighed down on her.

SC276: [Muffins] "Oops! Sorry! What are the odds I'd drop an anvil on the same pony *twice?!"*

=====

"Dear, you really should drink your tea before it gets cold." Rarity lectured before taking a sip from her own cup. She looked across the table at her desk, though she might as well have been having a conversation with a statue.

SC276: Then she put her glasses on and saw she was talking to a statue.

Twilight hadn't hardly said a word since her arrival, choosing to instead just stare at her cup of tea like it held all the answers in the world.

Mono: Well, people can read the future with tea leaves. At least that's what Harry Potter taught me.

Topher: Rarity became mildly concerned when Twilight flopped forward into her tea.

"Twilight... Twilight!" Rarity snapped, bringing the purple unicorn out of her thoughts.

"What... oh, sorry Rarity. I... I was just thinking about something."

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "You know what I think? I think we better think of something."

[Rarity] "I'll think of something."

[Twilight Sparkle] "And I think we better think of something."

[Rarity] "Good thinking!"

"That's all you've been doing since you got here, Twilight. All you've said to me is that you wanted to talk, but you haven't said a single word since then.

SC276: [Twilight] "I *did* say 'What... oh, sorry Rar-'"

[Rarity] "No one likes a smartass, Twilight."

What is wrong?"

Twilight sighed, lifting the cup of tea magically as she drank it all down in a single gulp, something that made Rarity squirm since it wasn't at all the manners of a proper mare.

Mono: Ha ha ha, oh season 1 characterization.

"I'm sorry Rarity, I'm just worried about Nyx."

"What for Dear? Don't tell me she's gone missing again."

"No, she's at school."

SC276: And time continues to hop around at random like the Doctor TARDISing under the influence.

"Then why are you worried?" Rarity asked as she refilled Twilight's cup of tea, silently hoping the purple unicorn would drink it properly this time.

Topher: [Twilight] "SHE'S A FUCKING ELDRITCH HORROR REINCARNATED AS A SMALL CHILD, RARITY! WHY THE FUCK DO YOU THINK I'M WORRIED?!"

"Rarity, every pony in Ponyville has heard what happened at the Learn and Play Day. They all know Nyx turned Fluttershy into a tree and how she won the tug of war tournament by herself with her magic. They all also saw her mane and tail start to turn magical... start to resemble what Nightmare Moon's mane and tail used to look like. I worried that I won't be able to keep her safe much longer.

SC276: Well so far no one's tried to murder her *again*, so you've gotten a better track record.

That every pony in town will realize how strongly she resembles Nightmare Moon, that Celestia will swoop down from the palace... that they'll take her away from me.

"I... I'm wondering if I shouldn't just lock Nyx up in the library and hide her away, at least until things calm down."

Crazy56U: Well, since I doubt things *will*, that would be a bad idea, Twilight. You may not have experienced *Amending Fences* yet, but you off all ponies should know of the negative side effects of being a recluse.

"Twilight..." Rarity began, speaking softly. "Locking Nyx up is the last thing you should do. That would be no better than Celestia banishing her to the moon.

Mono: Yes, and we all know Celestia would never suggest such a thing.

Topher: *Hands Mono a spacesuit* You'll be needing that. *Watches as Mono rockets through the ceiling, propelled by an unknown force* If you find the lander, bring back some ice cream!

She'd be separated from her friends, from doing the things she loves like going to school, and it would break her heart having you go from the pony she loves to the pony that's keeping her unfairly imprisoned in the library."

SC276: Well, *fairly* imprisoned, because Nightmare Moon, but you've made your point.

"But Rarity... I'm just so worried-"

"And that's perfectly normal. Heavens knows I worry about Sweetie Belle every time she goes off with her friends to do her Crusading.

Topher: [Rarity] "But hey, someone has to retake the holy land!"

[CMC, in the distance] "DEUS VULT! CUTIE MARK CRUSADER INQUISITORS! YAY!"

SC276: So would it be "The Pony's Crusade" that ends so terribly...?

Those three fillies have gotten into more danger than I ever did growing up...

Mono: Well, you probably never did anything dangerous growing up, so that kinda goes without saying.

**Topher: Apart from being dragged through a desert by your horn, but hey!
Body-slamming a few cacti builds character.**

and I'm always afraid that somepony will come running into my shop telling me Sweetie Belle got hurt... or worse.

Topher: [Rarity] "That she's totally fine and I have to keep putting up with her!"

"But I can't let my concerns keep Sweetie Belle from enjoying her childhood.

Mono: Wait what? The quotation marks stopped, so who is talking here?

SC276: See, there's a reason one style is the last paragraph of a quotation leaves off the leading mark.

She should be out there with her friends, having fun and even getting into trouble... not too much trouble mind you, but some."

Topher: She can fuck the hookers, but not kill them.

"Sweetie Belle is just a normal little unicorn, Rarity. Nyx is..."

Topher: Cthulhu.

Dragonborne: Akron.

SC276: Helhiem.

"Nyx is just as normal." Rarity retorted. "Yes, she is an alicorn, and yes she has magical power that you and I could only dream off.

SC276: [Twilight] "(thinking) Maybe *yours*, you jealous bitch."

But, she is still just a normal little filly.

Mono: She's special, but she's normal.

Dragonborne: MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

SC276: And when everyone's super, no one will be.

She goes to school, she has friends, she gets teased by bullies, and when she scared or when she is in trouble she has somepony that cares about her to come to her rescue... a certain purple unicorn who is quite the maven at magic herself."

Topher: Maven? I didn't know Rarity was jewish! For the rest of the story I'll be reading Rarity's dialogue in a yiddish accent.

SC276: Hey, anything to make this interesting.

Twilight smiled a little. "I... I guess you're right Rarity."

Mono: "Also, I'm kinda sick of saying your name in every sentence, Rarity. But otherwise the audience won't know who I'm talking to because the fic is written that way, Rarity."

"Trust me Twilight; it's a good thing you are worried about her, never think otherwise. But don't ever let your worry make you do things that wouldn't be in Nyx's best interest. Yes, there is a risk of the truth being discovered when she is out and about Ponyville... but that's only a risk.

SC276: [Rarity] "I mean, it's not like there's ponies out there that would try to *kidnap* her or anything. By the way, Pinkie had the most outlandish story last night..."

You try to hide her away in the library, and I guarantee the only thing you'll really accomplish is making Nyx hate you."

SC276: I can live with that.

"How do you know all this Rarity?"

Mono: "Self-help books."

"Learning from experience." Rarity offered softly, now staring into her own cup of tea. "After all, I've been taking care of Sweetie Belle all by myself for the past several years now. After... well... after what happened to our parents."

Topher: [Rarity] "They died when dad's rockin' mustache broke free and went on a rampage..."

Calico: Thanks, author, for another reminder that this was written during Season 1.

SC276: ANYONE ELSE MISS SEASON 2

Crazy56U: [Rarity] "They got locked in the basement... (sniff) *They refuse to call a locksmith...*"

"You want to talk about it?"

Mono: "They weren't allowed to appear in season 1. It's such a tragedy."

Crazy56U: If this were that fucking werewolf fic, Twilight probably would be laughing at Rarity instead of giving a shit.

"Maybe another time Twilight." The white unicorn replied. "I tend to get misty eyed when I think about it too much

Mono: "Seriously, the writers needed to imagine them sooner... "

Crazy56U: And then Pen Stroke crossed his fingers in the vain hope he was right about Rarity's parents being dead. As you can guess, he was wrong.

SC276: [Pen Stroke] "(starts watching 'Sisterhooves Social') ...*FUCK*"

and I've got ponies coming into get fitted for some dresses in an hour so I need to look presentable. Still... another time for sure."

Topher: [Rarity] "I can't be seen with a Prole like you!"

Crazy56U: [Rarity] "Maybe in the sequel."

[Twilight Sparkle] "Wait, what?"

"Of course Rarity." Twilight offered with a smile.

Calico: Okay, Mono, I think I'm starting to see your point, Mono. It really *is* starting to get on my nerves, Mono...

Crazy56U: Uh oh, you're stuck. (hits Calico in the back of the head) That do anything?

Calico: Uh, Crazy? What the heck was that for, Crazy? I'm totally fine, Crazy!

Crazy56U: ...yeah, you're fine...

"Now, in light of all this, I *do* hope you're going to let Nyx go to the Cutie Mark Crusader sleep over Apple Bloom is having at Sweet Apple Acres.

SC276: Because screw events being announced *before* they're plot-relevant.

I can only imagine that Nyx is just as excited about it as Sweetie Belle is.

Mono: Because... fuck Scootaloo and Apple Bloom, I guess...

Crazy56U: (suddenly stabs Mono in the eye) Oh, fuck, sorry, reflex!

"Probably *more* excited considering it's her first sleep over. And... yes, I think I will let her go."

Topher: Twilight chose to ignore the large neon sign that said "SOMETHING BAD WILL HAPPEN."

Crazy56U: This was also in spite of the fortune cookie Twilight had earlier that day: "Chapter 10 will fuck you over raw."

Dragonborne: That was less subtle than an attempt with a sledgehammer.

SC276: So no one told Twilight that there's a fucking *spy in Ponyville* with *hidden turquoise eyes* when like a month or two ago she was kidnapped by a cult of *turquoise-eyed ponies*. Good to know this entire tragedy would be avoided if *Pinkie was acting more like Pinkie*.

Crazy56U: Or if Pen took a break and watched some more of the show.

"That's good. Not only will it make Nyx happy but seeing her going out with her friends will help dispel any thoughts ponies around town have that what happened at the Learn and Play Day was out of the ordinary."

Topher: Wow, they're really building this shit up, I bet it'll go off without a hitch!

SC276: So they want them to think that... Nyx being super-powerful is ordinary?

Gheeze, I had hoped all the Mary Sue references were just jokes...

"Yeah, and, if our friends are any indication, they all just think Nyx is really good at magic, like me. So... for the moment I can just say that strong magic runs in our family and most ponies seem to believe that. After all, I turned my parents into potted plants

Calico: Gee, I almost forgot that happened since the *last* time this fic brought it up!

and made Spike grow to a full grown dragon when I was taking my entry exam for Celestia's School for Gifted Unicorns, and I was still just a filly myself back then too."

Mono: Yeah, but that was with the help of weird Sonic Rainboom magic-enhancing plot stuff.

SC276: Yes, author, I saw that episode too.

"You mean the day you got your Cutie Mark? Yes, I heard it was quite the impressive display, at least from what Sweetie Belle told of the story."

"Yea, it was pretty crazy."

Crazy56U: Nah, it was a happenstance. Trust me.

Topher: "I turned my mom into a cactus."

"Mind sharing?"

SC276: [Twilight] "Don't you have a dress thing soon or something?"

[Rarity] "The author already forgot that point, darling."

Crazy56U: [Twilight Sparkle] "Uh... ..okay. (opens her skull; removes her brain; gives it to Rarity)"

[Rarity] "...doesn't that hurt?"

[Twilight Sparkle] "Not really, surprisingly."

Twilight shook her head, taking a sip of her tea before going into the story, though she'd try to keep herself from jumping around endlessly saying "Yes!" as she had done with the Crusaders.

Mono: Fuck you Pen for ruining that adorable scene by adding it in this shitty draft.

SC276: (checks) ...This entire section seems to be omitted from the final draft, but fuck you anyways Pen.

Topher: She's not too worried about turning Rarity into a cactus though.

Crazy56U: ...so, in other words, she *did* jump around and, in turn, destroyed Carousel Boutique.

=====

"Well, I don't think our Cutie Marks have anything to do with bein' rodeo ponies." Apple Bloom offered dejectedly as she pushed open the door to her bedroom. Sweetie Belle, Scootaloo, and Nyx were all following close behind, their sleeping bags already rolled out on the floor in the yellow farm filly's bedroom.

"Though, it was kind of fun seeing Big Macintosh tied up like that." Scootaloo offered with a chuckle.

Mono: UMMMMMMMMMMMMMM...

SC276: Kinky.

Crazy56U: Mono, calm down, just be glad Apple Bloom didn't say it.

Topher: She didn't say it, but she was thinking it!

Crazy56U: Okay, fuck off, you. (kicks Topher in the shin)

Topher: *collapses* ...You know you're gonna pay dearly for that, right?

"He didn't even know what hit him."

"Tell that to my sister." Apple Bloom replied as she jumped onto her bed. "Because if she had found it funny we wouldn't have been sent to bed already."

"Still, I'm pretty tired." Sweetie Belle admitted, lying down on her sleeping bag.

"Aw, don't tell me you want to go to sleep already?" Scootaloo whined. "Sure, we had to go to bed but there is still a lot of fun things we could do."

SC276: [Scootaloo] "We're a bunch of girls at a slumber party, we are staying up until the wee hours and *panties will be involved apparently!*"

Crazy56U: (dead-eyed glare)

"Like what?"

"We could tell... ghost stories!" The orange pegasus replied, grabbing a flashlight and holding it under her face, using it to create a spooky face.

Crazy56U: [Scootaloo] "I even know a particularly terrifying one! It's called 'Happy Appy!'"

Topher: [Applebloom] "Fuck you."

"No offense, Scootaloo, but your scary stories aren't that scary." Apple Bloom commented.

Crazy56U: Yeah, well, tell that to these two:



Mono: Yeah. I mean, just look at your future self...

"Okay, then what do you think we should do?"

"We could play a board game?"

"No." Sweetie Belle and Scootaloo said in unison.

Crazy56U: [Scootaloo] "I refuse to play board games ever again after *someone* ruined 'Monopoly' for me!"

[Sweetie Belle] "Well, *EXCUSE ME* for knowing how to handle my money efficiently!"

SC276: [Applebloom] "But I *just* got this copy of *Betrayal at House on the Hill!*"

[Scootaloo] "How good could it be if it has a syntax error right in the title?!"

"Well shoot..."

Crazy56U: [Sweetie Belle] "Nah, not that, we agreed guns are for nerds."

what are we goin' to do then?"

"Well, Twilight did give me a book she said really helped with her first slumber party...

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "For some reason, it had mud, twigs, and leaves amongst the pages. I tried asking her why, and she just ignored me"

Mono: We get it Pen, you watch the show. Guess what? *So do we!*

SC276: *Maybe!*

Calico: I still say the author thinks we're goldfish.

which is kind of what this is." Nyx offered, horn glowing as she levitated a book from her saddle bags, which were stacked with the rest by the bedroom door.

Topher: [Nyx] "Wait, this isn't the slumber party book! This is the Necronomicon!"

Crazy56U: [Apple Bloom] "Read it anyway! What could possibly go wrong?"

Calico: [Nyx] "Eh, can't be worse than when I read that *Nosferatu* tome."

"Are slumber parties the same as sleep overs?" Sweetie Belle asked as Nyx cracked open the book.

"Well, you spend the night with friends. So, I guess they're the same. Still, I don't want to do any sort of makeup stuff." Scootaloo said, scrunching up her nose at the thought.

SC276: [Scootaloo] "But Rainbow Dash always dresses in style- wait."

"Well, we could have a pillow fight." Nyx offered, looking up from the book.

"We only got four pillows and my bedroom is too small." Apple Bloom countered.

Mono: [Scootaloo] "Won't stop me! *decks Apple Bloom in the face with a pillow*"

Crazy56U: [Apple Bloom] "I *wanted* to have the sleepover in the barn, but Applejack says Dad is haunting it tonight, so I can't."

"We could make s-mores."

"We don't have marshmallows...

Mono: You can always get Rarity.

Crazy56U: Why are you advocating murder?

or chocolate... or gram-crackers...

Mono: What about a gram of crackers?

Crazy56U: Why are you advocating math?

Dragonborne: Because typo.

or even a fire to roast the marshmallows on." Sweetie Belle pointed out.

SC276: [Scootaloo] "Trust me, that fire part can be covered pretty quickly."

"Well... Ghost Stories are in here too, but I think we've already decided not to do that...

SC276: [Applebloom] "But the dub is hilarious!"

um, what about Truth or Dare?"

"That could be fun." Scootaloo offered.

Mono: Scootaloo. Refusing to do makeup stuff, but still willing to participate in the world's most girliest game.

Crazy56U: No, COD is the girliest game.

Calico: Nice roast! Good thing, too, because it's been a while since I had a good serving of fried fish.

"Let's give it a try."

"How do you play?"

Crazy56U: Now, let me ask you a question: have you ever wanted to waste a minute or so of your life reading the explanation of a game that is *quite literally* explained in the goddamn title? Well... (snaps fingers)

Mono: Oh jolly. It's like description porn but worse.

SC276: *is Pinkie dead yet*

Nyx held a hoof on the page in the book, quickly reading it over before speaking. "Okay, rules are simple.

SC276: Either *you* win... or *they* win!

Somepony starts by asking if another pony wants to tell the truth or take a dare. If the pony chooses truth, they have to answer one question truthfully. If they take the dare, they have to do whatever dare the first pony gives them. Once the question is answered or the dare is complete. Then, the next pony in the circle takes their turn.

SC276: [Nyx] "Which they start by connecting that sentence fragment to an actual sentence."

Play continues for as long as desired."

"That sounds kind of boring actually.

Crazy56U: That wasn't in response to the game; it was in response to the paragraph.

Mono: Random Voice has a point here. The game is boring as fuck.

SC276: [Random Voice] "Let's throw a bottle in."

I mean, the truth part sounds all right but the dares, what could we dare each other to do?"

"Oh, I know!" Apple Bloom perked up. "Let's make Truth and Challenges. If you don't want to answer a question then you have to complete a challenge. If you can't, then you have to answer a question."

Crazy56U: So... ..Truth or Dare. You... you literally changed nothing, aside from name.

Mono: Originality!

Dragonborne: Hinting at stuff!

SC276: Being Pen Stroke!

"Oh, that sounds *way* better." Sweetie Belle agreed.

SC276: Somehow.

"Let's do it."

Nyx nodded, putting the sleep over guide book back into her bags. "So, who wants to go first?"

SC276: Not it.

"Oh, me! Me!" Scootaloo offered, putting a hoof in the air. She then turned her attention on Apple Bloom. "Truth or Challenge?"

Crazy56U: How about you spell "Challenge" correctly, first?

"Um... I'll go with the Challengee."

Crazy56U: WHAT DID I JUST SAY?

SC276: (plays his tape recorder)

Tape Recorder: How about you spell "Challenge" correctly, first?

"I challenge you to stand on your head for ten seconds."

"Ha, is that all?" Apple Bloom replied confidently.

Mono: [Scootaloo] "Well, excuse me for trying to keep this fic PG... "

Crazy56U: [Scootaloo] "Look, it's either this, or I ask you about what happened last week involving Opal and the weed wacker."

Within moments the yellow filly was balancing on her head, legs waving around as her friends counted down.

"10... 9... 8... 7... 6... 5... 4... 3... 2... 1... 0!"

Crazy56U: HAPPY NEW YEAR! (blows a noisemaker)

Topher: Yay.

Apple Bloom got back on her hooves, smiling but then wavering a little bit, having to shake her head. "Whoa, that makes my head all swimmy."

SC276: I've heard of "water on the knee," but not "water on the head."

"Really, let me try?" Sweetie Belle chirped, the unicorn quickly flipping onto her head. Soon, all four

Cutie Mark Crusaders were on their heads, laughing and giggling as the blood rushed from their legs into their skulls.

=====

"Okay, Nyx... Truth or Challenge?" Apple Bloom offered about an hour later. The game had turned into a perfect way to spend the last bit of the sleep over. The four friends had done a lot of strange and silly challenges,

Mono: You mean to tell me no one picked truth?
SC276: They can't handle the truth!

from holding their breath to having hoof wrestling contests. Nothing that would be considered a proper dare

SC276: -because the author doesn't know what does either-

but plenty of very fun challenges.

Mono: Because, again, PG.
Dragonborne: Dammit...

The black filly stuck out her tongue, turquoise eyes focusing on Apple Bloom as the black filly tried to decide which thing she would do.

"Truth."

"Tell us something you've never told any other pony."

Mono: That's... the vaguest thing ever.
Topher: [Nyx] "Flipperdy Gloop, Scrumpootily Roofingtile."
Dragonborne: "It's a skilly-wiggler!"
SC276: [Applebloom] "And it better not be the entire script of *The Bee Movie*, because I saw you shouting it in the middle of town square the other day."
Crazy56U: [Nyx] "K. (proceeds to shout the entirety of *We Are Number One*)"

"Like what?" Nyx asked, caught a little off guard by the very general nature of the question.

"Anything."

"Yea, just make it something cool." Scootaloo added.

Topher: [Nyx] "Sharks with laser light-shows on their teeth that breathe fire!"
SC276: [Scootaloo] "Like being a Master Builder! We won't tell Bad Cop!"

"Well... I can't really think of anything to tell you... but..." Nyx fell silent at this, glancing back at her vest.

Crazy56U: Oh. Right. (pulls out a tape recorder) This.

"There... there is something I can show you."

Crazy56U: Five years later, this is still unintentionally creepy. (hits "Play")

Tape Recorder: Hmm... I can't tell, but I think things got 20% more uncomfortable.

Crazy56U: ... (groan; pinches bridge of nose) Real fucking cute, past me... Real fucking cute...

Mono: Hey, we're all ashamed of what we did in the past. And because of FimFetch existing, I'll never escape mine...

SC276: Yeah, we totally need this line right now...

"Really, what is it?" Sweetie Belle asked.

"I think it's better if you just see it but... you got to promise not to tell any other pony."

Crazy56U: I'm actually surprised no one sat Pen down, made him read this scene, and made him realize that *maybe* he should've went about Nyx revealing herself in a less... iffy way...

SC276: That would imply he was stupid enough to let other people read this first.

Tape Recorder: 40% . . .

Topher: BUCKLE YOUR PANTS PEOPLE, SHIT'S ABOUT TO GET RAPEY!

Dragonborne: Now? You're warning us *now*?

Twilight knows, but she told me I couldn't show what I'm about to show you to anypony."

SC276: Good to know that you'll violate your mother-figure's trust for a *friend's* game.

Calico: Hey, man, "Truth or Challenge" is *serious business*!

"Oh man, this has to be good if Twilight told you to keep it a secret." Scootaloo offered.

Mono: Or it could be book-related.

Calico: So Twilight's diary, then?

"But yea, we promise not to tell nopony."

SC276: [Nyx] "Yeah, I'm kind of a language expert by now, and that double-negative is... not reassuring."

Nyx turned to look at Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle, the two other fillies also offering their promise. Still, Nyx wasn't done.

"And... you have to promise we'll still be friends after I show you."

Crazy56U: "Or, failing that, promise to wait until I leave town before you decide to spill the beans."

Tape Recorder: 56% . . .

"Well, that's a silly thing to promise."

Crazy56U: [Apple Bloom] "I mean, what do ya take us for, Diamond and Silver? We ain't assholes!"

SC276: No, a silly thing to promise is a Gen Urobuchi narrative that doesn't turn into a cosmic horror story.

"Yea, we're the Cutie Mark Crusaders. We're going to be best friends for life."

"No matter what."

SC276: Anyone else miss season 6?

Nyx smiled, looking at her three friends. Decision made, the black filly got up from her sleeping bag and walked across the room into Apple Bloom's closet. The black filly shut the door, and for a moment there was only the sound of rustling from behind the door.

Crazy56U: Uh oh, the closet demons got Nyx!

Tape Recorder: Crazy56U isn't around to say it, so... 70%... ...I'M SITTING RIGHT HERE, MAN.

Crazy56U: (stops tape; puts tape recorder away) That's enough of that.

SC276: [Nyx] "Hey, Applebloom, why does your closet have a street lamp in it?"

Apple Bloom, Scootaloo, and Sweetie Belle all craned their necks, watching anxiously until the door opened.

Nyx kept her eyes shut as she walked out, carrying her glasses and her vest in her teeth.

SC276: This filly is *so fucking lucky* that smartphones don't exist.

Once she was a few steps out of the closet the black filly spread her wings out, stretching the feathered appendages for a few moments before finally opening her eyes, the dragon shaped pupils no longer disguised and hidden from the world.

Mono: Congratulations! You done fucked yourself!

Calico: (blows another expired party horn)Damn it, I thought I checked this one...

Sweetie Belle, Scootaloo, and Apple Bloom all stared

Crazy56U: Oh, good job, you three! Now Nyx is *triple* frozen! She's probably dead now!

Dragonborne: ONE JOB!

with their eyes wide and their jaws hanging open. Nyx could only offer a weak smile, taking a moment to set down her vest and glasses. The silence in the room was a bit unnerving, Nyx wanting her friends to say something, anything.

SC276: The tension could be cut with a knife, but it wasn't because adding a knife would make this story interesting.

Calico: Except for when that one cultist used one to draw Twilight's blood in the prologue, which was just kinda weird instead.

She was just beginning to wonder if she had made a huge mistake about revealing the truth when her

three friends zipped up beside her, inspecting her long hidden wings.

Mono: Well... yes.

Calico: I mean, fucking *duh*.

"Why didn't you tell us sooner you had wings?" Apple Bloom asked.

Mono: I'm starting to wonder if Nyx actually started or, if not, increased the massive amount of alicorn OC's.

SC276: Does that mean the red-and-black alicorn OCs were intended to be edgy aged-up male Nyx clones with red mixed in to be creative? That's disturbing.

Calico: I think you can thank Shadow the Hedgehog for the "ketchup spill" color schemes, though.

"Well, Twilight

Crazy56U: [Apple Bloom] "(hold up a hoof to stop Nyx) Say no more, Twilight's weird due to the moonshine, I understand."

[Nyx] "...you mean the *water*."

[Apple Bloom] "... (sadly puts a hoof on Nyx's shoulder) We need to talk."

said that if ponies knew I had both a horn and wings some would get jealous."

"Oh yeah; you could so make Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon jealous." Sweetie Belle admitted, offering the thought like it would be something amazingly fun to do.

SC276: Look, that bitch barely had a reason the *first* time she tried to murder her. You want to give her a *better* motive?

Crazy56U: Nah, effort's hard.

"But you girls aren't jealous, are you?"

"Naw, why would we be jealous?"

Mono: Said Random Voice with a really passive-aggressive undertone.

Topher: [Scootaloo] "I'm disabled and even I'll be socially accepted! You're a fucking freak!"

Crazy56U: [Apple Bloom] "Jealousy gets you nowhere in life. You gotta be Zen."

It's just part of who you are. It be as silly as me being jealous of how well Sweetie Belle sings."

"Or me being jealous of how well Scootaloo rides her scooter."

"Or me being jealous of how good Apple Bloom is at fixing up things like our clubhouse."

Mono: Thank you for notifying me who is jealous of who.

SC276: [Scootaloo] "The *other way around*, though..."

Topher: Oh yeah, I forgot about how they teased at what their cutie marks would be. I always wondered what Applebloom's carpentry cutie mark would be. An apple with a nail in?

Crazy56U: No, a hammer smushing an apple.

"Yea, it's like my big sister Applejack says: 'There ain't no point in bein' jealous, because it doesn't change how things are'."

SC276: I could say the same about being angry at terrible fanfics, but we do it anyway.

Calico: Hooray for us!

Crazy56U: WE ARE NUMBER ONE!

"Still, why do you have wings and a horn? The only ponies I know that have both are Princess Celestia and Princess Luna." Sweetie Belle offered.

SC276: [Sweetie Belle] "And they'll totally be the only ones forever and ever."

Crazy56U: Maybe *someday* Cadence will finally start existing... ...someday...

"Well, isn't it obvious?" Apple Bloom asked, looking at her friends who only answered her with silent, blank stares.

Mono: "She's an OC."

Crazy56U: "Magic! Duh!"

"Well... okay, maybe not so obvious."

"Just spit it out Apple Bloom."

"I bet that one of Nyx's parents is a unicorn and the other is a pegasus."

Crazy56U: Close, Applebloom. One is a unicorn, the *other* is an *alicorn*.

SC276: [Applebloom] "2 + 2 is 22, right?"

Crazy56U: [Scootaloo] "No, dummy. The force between any two charges is equal to the absolute value of the multiple of the charges divided by four pi times the vacuum permittivity times the distance squared between the two charges."

[Sweetie Belle] "You are *all* wrong! 2 + 2 is Fish!"

"Is it really that simple? I mean, doesn't somepony in our class have a mom that's a unicorn and a dad that's a pegasus?"

Mono: <insert joke about interracial marriage here>

Crazy56U: Funny enough, that pony was born a penguin. Mommy has some explaining to do.

"Maybe it doesn't happen all the time. I mean, isn't there also a pony in our class who has a pair of unicorns as parents but doesn't have a horn of her own?"

SC276: I don't know, *is* there?

Crazy56U: Yes. Because that pony was adopted.

"Yea, I think you're right." Apple Bloom agreed. "It must only happen some of the time. Still, it's pretty cool."

"Yea it is." Scootaloo cheered. "Almost as cool as her eyes."

Mono: [Scootaloo] "You have beautiful eyes... "

Crazy56U: And then Scootaloo felt ashamed of herself, and she had no idea why.

Calico: And thus our fears and horrors came true...

"Whoa, I didn't even notice her eyes. I was too busy looking at her wings."

Mono: Not her mane?

Dragonborne: Not her horn?

SC276: Not the teddy bear on the shelf behind her?

Crazy56U: Not the fly on the ceiling?

"Nyx, isn't that what your eyes looked like during the Spring Festival play?"

The black filly could only nod. "Yes. You see, Twilight put a charm on my glasses so my eyes look like everypony else's eyes when I'm wearing them. I don't even really need them, I can see just fine."

SC276: "They don't have lenses anymore! I haven't needed actual glasses for almost a year!"

Crazy56U: [Nyx] "Kinda makes you wonder why she doesn't just give me contacts instead..."

"Twilight sure makes you do a lot of weird things, don't she?" Apple Bloom pointed out. "I mean, wearin' glasses you don't really need and wearin' a vest to hide your wings. Makes you wonder why, don't it?"

SC276: To clarify: is this before or after the default attitude towards OC alicorns became "freakshow?"

Calico: Yes.

Crazy56U: Definitely.

"I... I have wondered sometimes, but Twilight is nice... I don't think she'd make me do anything without a good reason."

"Yea, Twilight is pretty cool.... a bit nerdy, but cool." Scootaloo offered.

Mono: A-HEM! Egghead-ish is the correct term.

Crazy56U: Scootaloo, no one likes a nerd racist.

"Still, it's your turn Nyx."

The black filly smiled, lying down on her sleeping bag and enjoying the feeling of not having to wear her vest or glasses.

SC276: [Nyx] "~...the me I see inside...~"

Crazy56U: Or her glass vest, or her vested glasses.

"Okay, Sweetie Belle, Truth or Challenge?"

"Truth!" The little white unicorn answered without a moments hesitation.

SC276: [Sweetie Belle] "I mean, the ball's rolling and all."

Crazy56U: [Sweetie Belle] "Wait, no, challenge! Truth! Challenge! *GAH TOO MUCH PRESSURE!*"

"What's the funniest story you have of your big sister Rarity?"

Sweetie Belle snorted.

Mono: Yeah, I'd figure that's the only way you'd make it through this.

Crazy56U: [Sweetie Belle] "I have too many to count..."

"Oh, you guys are going to like this."

Tophers: And here's the story of the time that Rarity had a gentleman caller, and how Sweetie Belle thoroughly fucked it up.

Crazy56U: [Sweetie Belle] "It involves a bottle of wine and a pumpkin!"

And the story began, Sweetie Belle getting into it and soon all four fillies breaking out in loud laughter.

Crazy56U: Rarity sued Pen Stroke to prevent this story from being posted in the story.

Laughter that was only ended when a pounding came at the bedroom door.

Mono: ~Pound, pound, poundin' on the bedroom door-~

Crazy56U: This *Knocking on Heaven's Door* response song kinda blows...

"Apple Bloom, you and yer friends get to sleep right this minute or I'm goin' come in there and hogtie all of you in your sleepin' bags!"

Mono: UMMMMMMMMMMMM...

SC276: Ki- nah.

Crazy56U: [Applejack] "I HAVE A HANGOVER, SHUT IT!"

Tophers: [Applebloom] "You'd like that, wouldn't you?"

Applejack threatened, having been kept up by the girls and their sleep over. "I got buckin' to do in the mornin' and I won't have you four keepin' me up all night."

SC276: And see, this is why #LetPoniesSayFuck is important, because were CaptainPipsqueak to reach this line...

CaptainPipsqueak: It's okay; I can count on you to pass the torch for me. Fuck fuck fuckity fuck.

Crazy56U: Got it out of your system?

CaptainPipsqueak: Just making sure we have enough on hand.

The four fillies chimed back an apology and, with their game ended by Applejack, the Crusaders decided to call it a night.

SC276: It was the middle of the day, but they called it "night" to be contrary.
Crazy56U: And also to spite Celestia. In the rough rough draft, the CMC were also part of the Nightmare Moon Fan Club.

Nyx flipped the room's light switch with her magic,

Crazy56U: And then a rave happened.

and soon the four fillies were lying in the darkened room.

SC276: Dead.
Crazy56U: Stoned.

"Whoa... Nyx, did you know your eyes glowed in the dark?" Apple Bloom whispered.

"They do? Nyx said, looking in the direction of Apple Bloom's voice. As her eyes adjusted to the weak light, Nyx began to make out her friends in fairly good detail, the filly having excellent vision in the dark.

SC276: Then someone shone a flashlight in her eyes and she was blinded.
Crazy56U: And then the heat ray vision kicked in.

"Yea,

Mono: "Can you please cover them up? I'm trying to sleep."
Crazy56U: "Now blink, it'll look like a rave!"

and by the way, it's awesome." Scootaloo offered before stifling a yawn.

"Thanks girls. And... thanks for still being my friends, even after I showed you my

Topher: Pu-*gets brick'd*
Crazy56U: (pulls out another brick) Moving on.

wings."

SC276: "WING FORM." (explosion) First IXA, and now Den-O! I'll find one that stays intact eventually!
Crazy56U: [Scootaloo] "Eh, I was more sold with the eyes..."

"Of course." Sweetie Belle offered as she laid down, on the verge of going to sleep. "We're the Cutie Mark Crusaders; that's like being friends for life with a cool theme song."

Crazy56U: [The Cutie Mark Crusaders] "Dah-dah-da-dah! Dah-da-da-dah!"

We are the Cutie Mark Crusaders.

*On a quest to find out who we are.
And we will never stop the journey
Not until we have our cutie marks.*

SC276: Your "cool" theme song could use a revision.

Crazy56U: Hence my previous riff, which also doubles a reminder that, despite what the CW would have you believe, Green Arrow can actually be *tolerable*!

Calico: Oh hey, it's that thing from the show! Remember that? Author sure thinks we don't!

While Sweetie Belle had been the one to start singing, the other three started singing as well.

Mono: Waking up Applejack again.

Dragonborne: And Granny Smith, too.

Crazy56U: And Winona.

Not in the intense and arguably painful rock ballad that she had been performed at the talent show. Instead, the three sang it softly, softly enough that even Scootaloo's voice was bearable.

SC276: So, quiet enough it couldn't be heard at all. Got it.

Crazy56U: (CinemaSins voice) The Narrator hates Scootaloo. (ding!)

And with that the four soon drifted off to sleep, none resting as well as Nyx who had been able to reveal a truth about herself to her friends, who accepted her all the same.

SC276: We know, author, we read the fic this far.

Calico: You forget how poor the author thinks our memory is... which really just proves their point.

Crazy56U: So, in other words, Nyx gave the others insomnia.

That and she found out her eyes glowed in the dark, which was really cool.

Crazy56U: Except for when it kept them up all night and later gave them nightmares. ...funny, that...

=====

Nexus stared up at the moon through his study window,

Mono: Oh, great. Him again.

SC276: Can't you just wait in the corner for the scene where you actually *do* something?!

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "... ...God I need a TV..."

Topher: We interrupt *Past Sins* to bring you *My Little Lovecraft*!

glass of orange juice floating in his levitation magic nearby. He swirled the contents gently, a visual indication of the fact his mind was chewing over new information he had been presented.

Mono: Well, that's one way of interpreting it.

SC276: He needs to visually communicate he's thinking in order to assure others he's capable of the act in the first place.

Crazy56U: Are you sure you should let your brain *chew* information? Isn't that what causes amnesia?

Topher: **is sticking a book in his ear I have no idea what you're talking about, stranger. **faint munching noises emanate from Topher's skull****

He had received the reports from the spy,

SC276: -whose name the author doesn't know either-

Crazy56U: Johnny Rivers, I have said this at least twice. (ball drops in the background)

and while some of the information was welcoming other bits were troubling.

His plan had gone off without a hitch; a few flyers sent out in the mail inspiring some local teacher in Ponyville to have the Learn and Play Day.

SC276: do you have to take credit for *fucking everything*

Crazy56U: Next up, Epic Failure's gonna take credit for the revival of Fanfic Theater!

It was the kind of public setting where Nyx wouldn't be around Twilight Sparkle the whole time and thus could be observed and even spoken to.

Mono: Or, y'know, any school day.

Crazy56U: Or any day period. Or did you *really* feel the need to kill Saturdays for children in Ponyville?

And the spy had done all that until the pink earth pony started chasing him. He had watched, he had observed, and even gone up and spoken with Nyx at her booth.

Calico: "You like jazz?"

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "Hi, little girl!"

[Nyx] "...why are your eyes turquoise?"

[Epic Failure] "... (runs away) *GODDAMNIT, FUCK*"

He had also witnessed and reported the two feats of magic the little filly performed. Turning a pony into a tree... winning a tug of war game by herself against four much larger and stronger opponents. It was the kind of magic that no filly, even one as naturally talented as Twilight Sparkle, should possess, let alone be able to control.

Mono: Even though Twilight could, but again, weird Sonic Rainboom magic-enhancing stuff.

SC276: You're telling me Twilight couldn't beat four ponies by herself if she wanted to?

Crazy56U: Twilight doesn't know how to throw a punch.

It was the kind of magic held only by two others, the alicorns who sat upon the royal thrones.

Crazy56U: It's a good thing Cadance doesn't exist yet.

SC276: We know, author.

Topher: Also a third one, but they couldn't find a throne so she just sat on Twilight's brother's face.

But while the magical potential was there, the queen was not. The filly did not act like Nightmare Moon, did not speak condescendingly to the country bumpkins of Ponyville.

Mono: Hey, don't talk about the Apple family like that!

Dragonborne: Unless it's that Hayseed Turnip pony. I don't think he's a true Apple.

Calico: So... she isn't a jerk. Boohoo.

Crazy56U: Yeah, how *dare* she be *nice*?!?! (flips off the story)

The spy described her as pleasant and energetic, with friends and a good standing in the community. All words that Nexus wouldn't have believed would be attributed to Equestria's true queen, at least when dealing with the common pony.

SC276: Well maybe *you* don't have a fucking idea how your own queen works, ever think about that, asshole?!

Crazy56U: Why do you think he knows how to think?

Could he have possibly done something wrong? Could the spell have gone wrong?

SC276: [Spell Nexus] "Why did we even use paint again?!"

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "Did we not use enough fire?!"

Was the filly truly Nightmare Moon, or just a pony that had been gifted with the queen's power? These questions, in a variety of forms, rolled around in Nexus' head, clattering together like marbles as the unicorn tried to discern some truth from what he already knew.

Topher: Along with the actual marbles he stuck in his brain in a misguided attempt to be more in tune with the spheres.

Crazy56U: And then Epic Failure had a brain aneurysm and died. THE END

A process interrupted when the door to his study opened.

"Sir?"

"Yes Proper Etiquette?"

SC276: [Proper Etiquette] "I'd like to have a name change to something less on-the-nose."

[Spell Nexus] "Out of the question."

Crazy56U: [Dork] "Can I go home now?"

[Epic Failure] "...you have a home?"

"Princess Celestia is at the front door and wishes to have a word,

Mono: [Nexus] "*thinking* Oh shit..."

SC276: [Spell Nexus] "(thinking) ABORT ABORT ABORT"

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "Cantaloupe. ...okay, night. (leaves)"

but wants it to be known this is a request and not a demand. Shall I see her in?"

"Yes, please." Nexus replied, closing his eyes. Upon re-opening them the turquoise orbs, a blessing given to those who were of the order,

SC276: *We already know that! Move on already!*

Crazy56U: You say "blessing", I say "curse".

disappeared and were replaced by Nexus's old, slate gray eyes.

SC276: So no matter what, he always looks dead inside.

Crazy56U: Win win!

He then downed the rest of the orange juice in his glass, shivering a little as the perfectly chilled juice gave him a minor brain freeze

Mono: No. Just... no. That's factually bull.

Tophers: You get brain freeze from orange juice? YOU PANSY! *chugs liquid helium, freezes solid*

Crazy56U: Glad to know the Narrator is so bored he is pulling shit out of his ass now.

before he moved over to a chair and picked up a book, wanting to look like he was enjoying a quiet evening at home when the princess stepped in.

SC276: And you couldn't do that with a glassful of orange juice?

Tophers: [Nexus] "Act casual! Act casual!" *Flings himself at the couch, knocking over half the furnishings in a hilarious slapstick rube-goldberg machine*

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "(breaks down the door) Knock knock."

And the timing was near perfect,

SC276: Almost as if it was narratively convenient.

Crazy56U: Near perfect, not *completely* perfect. Epic Failure would cry himself to sleep later.

Nexus just getting settled into one of his chairs with a book when the doors opened, Princess Celestia strolling in while her guards remained stationed at the door.

"Thank you for allowing me into your lovely home at such a late hour Nexus." Celestia offered as she strode across the room. "I do hope I wasn't interrupting anything."

SC276: The least you could've done is interrupt an explosion.

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "What makes you think I have a life, Celestia?"

"A good book and nothing more."

Tophers: [Celestia] "You were jacking it, weren't you?"

[Nexus] "Whaaaaaaaaat? Get outta here! I wasn't masturbating! Haha!"

SC276: ["Celestia"] "I was referring to playing cards, Mr. Nexus."

[Nexus] "What? What does that expression mean if it refers to a playing card jack?"

["Celestia"] "Something far worse than whatever the fuck you were thinking."

Crazy56U: Specifically, the *Back to the Future* novelization.

Nexus lied expertly with a reassuring smile as he set the book he had taken up on a nearby end table.

SC276: ["Celestia"] "So what's it about?"

[Nexus] "Just one of those cheesy romance novels that makes me be happy to be single."

["Celestia"] "Oh, I was uninformed that one could get cheesy romance stories from an *algebra pamphlet*."

Crazy56U: And then the table collapsed.

"Still, I find it surprising you are out and about at such an hour. You are usually in bed around this time."

"Yes, but I have received a bit of news late in the afternoon and I've been working to prepare for the morning."

"And just what happens in the morning?"

SC276: ["Celestia"] "The world ends. Obviously."

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "...I raise the sun?"

"In due time Nexus. First, I want to inform you of the situation at hand." And with that Celestia began, taking a seat on a cushion Nexus kept in the study just for the royal visitor.

SC276: Anyone else that tried to sit on it was shot.

Crazy56U: Epic secretly has a hate-crush on Celestia, obviously.

Celestia began telling Nexus about the spell in the forest, about the research his co-worker Bastion

Topher: Who got play of the game AGAIN.

Crazy56U: ...remind me, is he the robot with PTSD or the knight?

SC276: The robot, I think. Not the one with the giant energy shield.

Topher: You're gonna need to be more specific, there are two robots and two people with giant energy shields now.

was doing on the spell, and of many other things that Nexus knew already about. Still, he feigned interest, and the appropriate levels of shock and disbelief when told some new piece of information.

Topher: It's like watching the news!

SC276: You know what would have made this interesting? If the audience was as in the dark about Nexus being the main villain as the main characters were. But no, we have to get *his* perspective as he acts like a manipulative ass with too much author-granted power dragging the good name of orange juice through the mud.

Crazy56U: But, on the plus side, at least he knows how to act.

"To think, ponies trying to resurrect Nightmare Moon. It is hard to believe some would be so foolish."

Calico: Ha, get it? It's funny because it isn't.

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "NO I'M NOT A CULT LEADER"

Nexus offered several minutes later, pouring a fresh glass of orange juice for himself. He silently made an offer to pour a glass for Celestia, but she offered a smile and a gently shook of her head in reply.

SC276: ["Celestia"] "You know I drink only from my hip flask, which most certainly does *not* contain gasoline."

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "(pulls out a can of paint) I got my own."

"Yes, it is disconcerting that there are those in Equestria who would turn to Nightmare Moon for some grand revolution instead of speaking to me about what's driving them to make such a horrible mistake."

Topher: Well if everyone in this show communicated effectively there would be no show, so take what you will.

Crazy56U: Moral of the story: Never talk.

"But you stopped them; the spell was interrupted."

"Yes... but I fear that while not returned to her original power, Nightmare Moon was still reborn."

Nexus lifted a questioning eyebrow. "Really? What makes you say that?"

Topher: [Celestia] "I realized we were in a fanfic when Luna started acting all edgy and sad."

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "I read the script!"

"You, of course, know my student Twilight Sparkle."

"The most magically gifted unicorn I've ever seen, of course."

SC276: ["Celestia"] "Good thing Sunset doesn't exist yet or else I'd be concerned about your eyesight."

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "Excluding that pony I met on the bus, of course: Starlight Something."

"At the Spring Festival in Ponyville I discovered my student was taking care of a young black coated filly by the name of Nyx, a filly she said was her half-cousin. A filly that, if my sources are to be believed, started living with her the day after the cultists casted their spell in the forest. A filly who, in recent days, performed two very profound feats of magic at a school weekend event."

Topher: [Celestia] "The pulled that rabbit out of the hat AFTER she showed us it was empty, and then she found a card I had selected and hidden in a deck!"

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "Turning gold into napalm and cheese into bunnies!"

"Well, I can only imagine magic runs in her family." Nexus offered before sipping on his orange juice.

SC276: OK, we can't get orange juice a lot in my house, so it actually offends me of a level when *he* gets orange juice and *I* don't. My juice is made out of sour grapes. (sips) *Sour*.

Crazy56U: ... (pulls out a jug of orange juice) Why didn't you just ask? (slides the jug over)

SC276: (catches) Thanks, man.

"Yes, I would believe that as well if Nyx was related to Twilight, but I have checked the family's records.

Mono: Downside of your family having *ties to the royal family* Twi. Through you!

Dragonborne: [Celestia] "Sucks to be you."

Crazy56U: Meanwhile in Ponyville, Twilight just smacked herself in the face and she had no idea why.

There is no listing of any relative of Twilight having a daughter named Nyx, and in fact there is no listing of a Nyx being born in Equestria in the past several decades."

SC276: So, the filly has the name of an old woman?

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "I mean, it's not like it's a *nickname* or anything, those are a *myth*..."

"Perhaps that is not her real name."

"A consideration I have taken into account Nexus. While there have been a few black coated unicorn fillies born that would be at the right age, they were all born in very different parts of Equestria and they are all living happily with their families. It is like this filly appeared out of thin air."

Mono: Well, maybe Twilight can say she created her by magic? That would be an option to keep her identity a secret.

SC276: In which case the only reason Celestia would believe that Twilight *wouldn't* tell her mentor / figure of academic worship that she did that is that it's "Celestia."

Crazy56U: Like she fell from the sky. Nyx is The Mare That Fell To Earth.

Nexus, who had been taking another sip from his orange juice glass, froze up for a single moment.

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "OH FUCK, BRAIN FREEZE (collapses to the ground; grabs head in pain)"

Not long enough for Celestia to notice but a small sign that the true Nexus, who was hiding behind sweet words and feigned interest,

SC276: I know whose interest is freakin' *feigned* around here.

Calico: Zzzz... huh, wha?! 2! The answer is 2!

Crazy56U: And orange juice. Mostly orange juice.

was a bit concerned.

"You believe this filly was created by the spell?"

Celestia nodded. "Yes, a very clever deduction Nexus."

Topher: If by clever you mean fucking obvious.

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "(thinking) God, I loathe you..."

"You give me far too much credit, Princess. After all, we were speaking of the spell and Nightmare Moon before you brought up this little filly, and since you believe she came out of thin air... well, I can only assume you believe she is a product of the spell.

SC276: ["Celestia"] "My logical capabilities are far superior to yours, fleshbag."

[Nexus] "...Fles-?"

["Celestia"] "I am not an evil computer-man, beep boop."

Crazy56U: As opposed to being the product of sex out of wedlock.

The question I do have, however, is whether or not you believe she is Nightmare Moon."

"I am unsure." Celestia admitted. "The reports of her magical ability are troubling, but at the same time she has been living in Ponyville for months now with no incident.

Topher: Apart from turning people into trees, getting lost in the Everfree Forest, going Super Saiyan to win a game of tug o' war, and assisting with the CMC's sexual awakening, that is.

SC276: And, y'know, being the victim of attempted murder.

Crazy56U: But she suppressed all of that, remember? Why else do you think she's addicted to moonshine?

From what information I have been able to gather, she acts like any normal filly. She goes to school, has friends, and is known to most of the town as a sweet, happy pony who gets into a little trouble once in a while with three of her friends, the four of them together calling themselves the Cutie Mark Crusaders."

Crazy56U: I want you all to remember this. Celestia saying this, describing Nyx in this way, is going to bite her in the ass next chapter when... well... you'll see...

SC276: I think I can guess how by the mere fact that you're pointing this out now.

Topher: [CMC, in the distance] "DEUS VULT!"

"Hmmm... such behavior does seem out of character from what stories I've heard about the Mare in the Moon.

SC276: [Nexus] "It *could* just be a long con, but no one in this story is smart enough for that, not even me."

Crazy56U: You know, like eating ponies who don't give her candy, or something along those lines.

Tell me, what does Luna think? Surely she, who was once Nightmare Moon, would be able to offer the most honest analysis."

Mono: Yes. Getting an expert's opinion on this is surely-

Crazy56U: Celestia does two majorly fucking stupid acts in this fic. This is the first.

(snaps fingers)

"All Luna knows is that Nyx is a black filly that is staying with my student Twilight Sparkle. She knows nothing of the cult, the spell, or any of my concerns... and I would prefer if it stayed that way."

Crazy56U: And now a picture to summarize how fucking stupid this is:



Mono: Sure! Leave the mare (or former mare) herself out of this. Nice thinking, Celly.

"You are keeping Luna in the dark?"

Topher: *rimshot*

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "...just for that, fuck you. (sends Epic to the moon)"

Do you not trust her with this matter?"

SC276: I wouldn't trust anyone in this story to buy me lunch without eating it on the way home.

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "I trust her about as much as I throw her, I mean *come on*, so *what* if she's my sister and was also the original Nightmare Moon, (scoff) what would *she* have to say about this bullshit, nah, I feel much more comfortable trusting some random fuckhead who may or may not be involved with the cult *behind* this nonsense and is playing me like a cheap fiddle- excuse me for a second, Mama feels parched. (pulls out and opens a can of paint; proceeds to chug the can)"

"No... no, I trust my sister.. I know my sister all too well and I know that I could trust her with the truth... but I choose to keep this a secret for her own sake." Celestia admitted,

Crazy56U: ...take it from a guy who has seen *Supernatural* extensively: keeping secrets from your sibling, *especially* when it's major-league shit? **NOT A GOOD IDEA, DUMBASS**

Mono: Not to mention: your sister was *Nightmare Moon herself*! If anybody would know something about this, it's her!

SC276: ["Celestia"] "And this is *not* because I literally can't stand how archaic her speech is."

"My sister has come a long way in the time since she was freed from her driving jealousy and hatred.

Topher: Read: Brainwashed with magic rainbows.

Crazy56U: Silly Topher, don't you read the IDW comics? She was brainwashed by evil moon goo! The rainbows got rid of it! *I fucking hate how IDW handled Nightmare Moon's origin.*

She has come to terms with what she was, enough so that she was able to sit through and even enjoy a Spring Festival play about her mistake.

Crazy56U: Friendly reminder that this was written before *Luna Eclipsed* happened. SC276: She's not talking like a Shakespeare play. Thanks for the reminder, but I'm good.

Topher: Although she was upset that the actress who played her was a little on the chubby side. She's kinda self-conscious.

"She did not see that play as something mocking her and the evils he did,

Crazy56U: Because fuck it, Luna is now transgendered.

Mono: Or an apache helicopter.

SC276: ["Celestia"] "The mere fact that an attempted murder was met with *grounding* proves that no one is capable of taking fillies seriously."

but telling the story of how my student and her friends helped my sister escape from what she had become. Gave her a chance for her and I to truly be loving sisters again.

"But..." Celestia continued, the gentleness in her voice over the memory of the spring play being quickly replaced with firm seriousness.

Crazy56U: You say "firm seriousness", I say "the type of stupidity that ensues when one drinks paint".

SC276: ["Celestia"] "And now to formulate a random stupid reason to cover for the fact that the Canterlot Archives have nothing on this pony that I could store in my databases."

"If I know Luna, she would bear of all this on her own shoulders. She was hold herself responsible, since it was she who became the original Nightmare Moon.

Crazy56U: (glances at *Do Princesses Dream of Magic Sheep?*)

SC276: So I'm not the only missing season 5.

Mono: *BUT SHE OF ALL PONIES WOULD KNOW! USE YOUR BRAIN, SUN-BUTT!*

"I... I choose to keep this as secret from her simply because I feel Luna has suffered enough for that mistake, and that she doesn't need be troubled by this.

Crazy56U: (glances again at *Do Princesses Dream of Magic Sheep?*) ...sure, keep telling yourself that...

If I can fix this without her ever knowing... then I have done my duty as an older sister.

SC276: Yeah, sure, siblings keep secrets from each other all the time that *aren't* related to fetishes.

Crazy56U: ...or you can duty your duty the *proper* way and *just fucking tell her like someone who isn't addicted to paint...*

I will not let Nightmare Moon take Luna away again, physically or metaphorically."

Crazy56U: Would you settle for hypothetically?

Mono: Or figuratively?

Dragonborne: I'd settle for literally, in this case.

Topher: What about metaphysically?

"What are you going to do then?"

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "(shrugs) Play it by ear? ...usually how I do things..."

"This is actually why I came to you Spell Nexus.

SC276: ["Celestia"] "I need a psychological profile of Nightmare Moon, and I can't ask my sister, so I'm sending you to the moon."

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "And there is no way whatsoever this *won't* be a good idea! (takes another swig of paint)"

Despite the filly's benign nature, the risk of her being Nightmare Moon is too great. The truth has to be ascertained.

Crazy56U: Princess Celestia is deciding to trust the obviously fucking obvious cult leader. Yes, this is the actual plot.

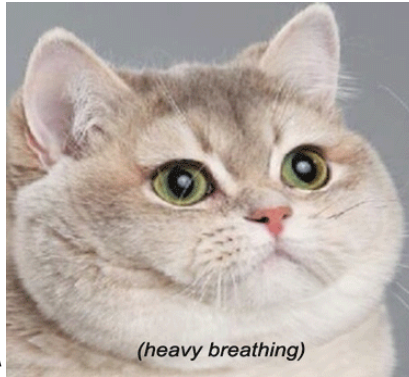
"So," Celestia continued, "I've come to you, my trusted magical advisor and the pony I've placed in charge of my school.

SC276: ["Celestia"] "And yet dumb enough that I needed to list out all your titles."

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "And why I didn't consider someone else for this, someone less sketchy? (takes another swig of paint) I have no idea."

If I were to bring the filly to you, do you believe you could determine whether or not she is Nightmare Moon and whether or not she means Equestria harm?"

Mono: Ask the- fuck it. The part's almost over and I lost my ability to care for this shitfest last part.



Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] “

“I... believe so.” Nexus offered, licking his lips as he had to choose his words carefully.

SC276: [“Celestia”] “Why did you lick your lips like a serial killer?”

[Nexus] “Uh, there was some orange juice on them.”

[“Celestia”] “Do you have *any* part of your personality that’s not orange juice?”

[Nexus] “Um... no?”

[“Celestia”] “(dead-eye glare)”



Calico:

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] “Huh, that was slightly creepy.meh. (takes another swig of paint)”

“But to ascertain that kind of truth through questioning alone will not suffice. It would require a spell, one that would allow us to view the filly’s true nature.

SC276: [Nexus] “And totally not the one that would finish the cult’s spell disguised as the spell I’m describing.”

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] “Yes... No fooling... (shifty eyes)”

I would need time to research and prepare such a spell.”

Crazy56U: Eh, five minutes on Wikipedia is all you need, Epic.

Topher: Let me guess, the spell is going to patch up the cracks in the original spells, turning Nyx into Nightmare Moon?

Crazy56U: (gives Topher a trophy with “I would answer, but spoilers.” etched into it)

SC276: I don’t even care if it is or not.

“Take what time you need, Nexus. For the moment the filly poses no threat. Even if she is Nightmare Moon her powers are too weak to even attempt moving the moon or holding it in place in the sky.

Mono: But strong enough to use powerful magic.

SC276: Still don’t know why Celestia couldn’t just keep the sun up anyway and dare her to keep an eclipse going.

Crazy56U: Tea cups, though? *They don’t stand a chance.*

I fear for the safety of my student, but at the same time I know that if Nightmare Moon is just trying to bide her time then she will not risk hurting Twilight without reason."

SC276: ["Celestia"] "Believe me, I understand that evil all too well..."

Crazy56U: Paranoia: it's the spice of life!

"It will take some time, but I will tell you when I have the spell prepared." Nexus assured.

"Wonderful! I knew I could trust you Nexus. You were yourself, after all, once my faithful student."

Mono: "Until I disowned you after that superhero incident."

SC276: ["Celestia"] "Even though you're stupid enough I need to remind you. Again."

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "But then you had to go and make that meth lab..."

Nexus laughed a little, getting up from his chair. "Yes, but this faithful student is now the headmaster of your school and your advisor, and I advise you to go back to the castle and get your rest. You do have a sun to raise in the morning."

Celestia chuckled a little, getting up from the cushion. "Of course. you always were one to remind me of my duties, Nexus."

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "I mean, come on, I should've remembered what my fucking job is. Man, what is wrong with me lately... (takes another swig of paint)"

SC276: ["Celestia"] "Yes. Raise the sun. That is totally a thing I do even though it violates all principles of science."

"I do it out of concern and nothing more, Princess."

SC276: [Nexus] "Namely, concern that you'll attract paparazzi."

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "(mentally laughs)"

"I know, and thank you for assisting in this matter." Celestia offered as she and Nexus drew close to the door, the butler Proper Etiquette

SC276: As opposed to the chef Proper Etiquette. They're all named Proper Etiquette.

Crazy56U: Or, as he is actually called according to me, Dork.

opening said doors for the princess as her guards snapped to attention, ready to move out.

Topher: [Guards] "We just need someone to help us with the couch!"

Crazy56U: [Guard] "You promised us a trip to McDonalds!"

"I will send word via letter when I have completed research on the spell you requested.

SC276: ["Celestia"] "And your stupidity continues to astound me that you can't even remember five minutes ago."

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "No, fuck you, you tell me in person, or you don't tell me at all."

I don't imagine it will take me very long, considering my special talent is creating new spells." Nexus offered.

Topher: Along with a minor in exposition.

Crazy56U: And a BA in woodcarving.

"Now, I wish you a pleasant evening Your Highness."

"And a good night to you too, Spell Nexus.

SC276: Good night, ominous triangle at the foot of my bed.

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "Try to not stay up all night, insomnia is a motherfucker."

Don't stay up too late, my faithful student." Celestia offered as a final farewell.

Crazy56U: [Princess Celestia] "See you next week for Canasta, fuckhead. (tosses can of paint over her shoulder)"

Nexus returned it with a laugh and a wave of his hoof before slipping back into his study. He moved to the window, smiling gently as he watched the courtyard below. Celestia flew off with her guards a few minutes later.

SC276: You literally have nothing better to do than *watch her leave*?

Crazy56U: *He has no TV, I have made this clear! (ball drops in the background)*

It was only when Celestia was out of sight that Nexus closed his eyes, opening them a moment later to reveal the slate gray orbs had returned to the turquoise color that marked him as a member of the Children of Nightmare.

SC276: ["Celestia"] "Oh wait, I left my purse back there."

[Nexus] "(thinking) *FUCK FUCK FUCK WHY DO I KEEP LEAVING MY TRAITOR MODE ON*"

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "This never stops stinging like a motherfucker..."

His gentle grin turned menacing, and the dark blue unicorn had to fight the urge to laugh out loud.

SC276: And failed miserably.

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "(burps) ...gotta cut back on the orange juice."

Mono: Maniacal laugh! Maniacal-just end already!

Dragonborne: This is me right now.



Horn glowing, Nexus began pulling books off his study shelves.

Topher: [Nexus] "DAMMIT! I always forget which one is the secret lever!"

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "Now, to make a stop at the pawn shop..."

Yes, he would need time to prepare, but now he had all the time he would need. He had no fear of Celestia acting, for the princess was waiting for him to help her act.

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "No, no, no! For the last fucking time, it's 'Alas, poor Yorick', you dumbass! YORICK!"

[Princess Celestia] "(is waving the skull) And I'm telling *you* his name is JIMMY!"

A second opportunity, a second chance to complete the spell, had been laid in his hooves by none other than the sun tyrant herself.

SC276: It was so perfect, it was like he was in a terribly-written story.

Crazy56U: The paint did *wonders* for Epic's bullshit plan.

It was like fate and destiny were on his side, that the world itself worked to help him bring back Equestria's true queen.

SC276: Oh, spoke too soon.

Crazy56U: ...nope, it was paint. Stop kidding yourself Epic, this is only happening because Celestia was hitting the paint.

"Celestia, you have become a contributing architect in your demise."

Crazy56U: ...so she's now an episode of "How I Met Your Mother"? ...I always pegged her being a Twilight Zone episode...

SC276: Could we watch one of those instead of reading this?

Nexus offered, the one bit of gloating he allowed himself before diving into the work that laid ahead of him.

SC276: [Nexus] "Now if only I can figure out what 2+2 is..."

Crazy56U: [Epic Failure] "Now, let's see... 'The'- (passes out)"

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I do not own the intellectual properties this fan-fiction is based on.

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Crazy56U: Whelp... ..we've reached the point of no return. I kept building it up during this riff, kept alluding to it, hinting at it, acknowledging it, so on, so forth, and what have you... and in part five... we get to it. While this fic has had a *lot* of iffy points throughout, they pale in comparison to what I wholeheartedly believe is the absolute *worst point* of the original edit. It hinges *so much* on blatant assholishness, dickery, and character bastardization, that I fucking *despise* it. I may wind up being the only one who feels that way, but fuck it. It's still that bad to *me*. Next time on "Past Sins".....Chapter 10.

Mono: Well, thank fuck this is over. I just want this bullshit to end!

Dragonborne: How did this become a classic? Just... how? I'm still struggling to understand HOW.

Topher: I mean, it's not AWFUL, definitely an interesting concept, but there's SO LITTLE going on, it keeps trying to be an epic fantasy and a slice of life both at once and it just doesn't work! Oh, and before I forget, *grabs Crazy, chucking him into a conveniently-placed woodchipper* That's for kicking me in the shin!

Crazy56U: ...you grabbed the wrong guy.

Topher: *continues to throw people in the woodchipper* I'LL GET YOU EVENTUALLY!

Crazy56U: (sees Topher grabbing and throwing nothing) ...sure you will.

SC276: Maybe it's because it's fresh on my mind, but that last scene just shows one of the main failing points of the story: the main villain is getting *any focus at all*. Would we be so willing to call Celestia stupid if we were just in the dark as she was, with nothing but appearance to go by? ...Well by appearance, yeah, we probably would because what non-evil pony looks like that in Bad Fanfic Land, but the point stands. The villains continue to be the worst part. I mean, come the fuck on, some anonymous member that doesn't even get a fucking name that just so happens to be in Ponyville *and* just so happens to accidentally tip off Pinkie Pie *just so happens to have the exact supernatural ability he needs to avoid being caught immediately*. It makes it as blatant as ever that Pen made this up as he went. And Spell Nexus being the head of magical advisement just makes me furious, because the only time in my memory of pop culture where the royal vizier is evil all along and it's spelled out to the audience at the beginning is Disney's *Aladdin*, and that worked because Jafar has fucking *style*. The Nexus scenes do nothing but remind us of the old group's memes and allow the author to repeat information incessantly, not just about the main plot, but *about the characters* that we got from *all the other previous pointless scenes*, to make up for the fact that he is *out of anything interesting to say* and/or *thinks his viewers are fucking goldfish*. As for everything else, I don't give two shits. I've already forgotten it all. Nothing about this story is fun. I'm better off reading the *comics*.

Topher: *chucks SC in the woodchipper*

Calico: Oh good, the part's finally over. Would give a thorough analysis, but let's face it: I'm tired, I'm out of time, and I can't be bothered. See ya next week.