<uSeaGM> ***Group 4 Session 117***

<uSeaGM> It is the day after their dinner with the princesses, and the party has gathered outside Fluttershy's cottage on the edge of the Everfree Forest. Red Mage and Lucky Stars have joined them, while Whisper and Prism remain in Canterlot.

<uSeaGM> The party's mission is to reach the Castle of the Two Sisters deep within the Everfree Forest, and to find a book from the princess's old library. The book's Olde Equestrian title has been committed to memory, which, in Modern Equestrian would read: 'A Treatise on The Primaeval Wars and Magicks'. A compilation of Ancient Zebra texts translated into Olde Equestrian, including a ritual to restore Watch Tower.

<uSeaGM> Thick mists envelope Everfree, causing the tree trunks to resemble thin black spectres amidst the gloom. Dark heavy clouds race and swirl through the sky over the forest, in stark contrast to the sunny, cloud-free Equestrian skies. Everfree's weather was as wild as its woods. Untamed and free.

<uSeaGM> *Session Begins*

- <uSeaGM> Fluttershy skitters nervously, looking from Everfree to the group and back again.
 "A-are you sure you want to do this?" she asks, with a small bag on her back.
- * Watch was a little late to the meeting. He was a little distant the evening after they returned...,but in good spirits. The title had him wonder about the origins of the masks...and the implications it made. Had Equestria gone to war multiple times with the zebra?...
- * BerryBack is now known as Berry
- * Red_Mage nods. "Yes miss. It is of great importance that this tome is recovered."
- * Lucky_Stars prances around in place. She was wearing some athletic gear she borrowed from the school, and had her baseball bat with her. "Exactly. We need to get this show on the road."
- * Berry is sure she will make new friends in the forest! "i want to make all the friends!" also, lights up the street pass on her gamecolt 3D
- <Watch> "I am sure...,but..." He looks to his friends. "You are still welcome to stay.." Honestly that was more to the new friends then the old...they'd probably relish the return to old.
- * Red Mage smirks. "And miss out on such a grand adventure? I think not."
- * Milia was dressed in a familiar outfit, to those she came here with. The hoodie was gone. Now she was dressed in her armor, cloak, and knight's helmet. The glasses stayed, though... she liked being able to see clearly, dang it! "We'll be fi~ne," she sing songs out. "We just gotta stick together!"

- * Berry is dressed in her usual armor. nothing at all! plot in the air and armor of optimism
- * Watch was staying naked.
- <uSeaGM> Mercy nods from her customary place on Milia's barded shoulder. "Yeah!"
- * Berry is also trotting to the forest already. she thinks she has seen interesting movement and is checking!
- * Milia calls out urgently. "Berry, sweetie! 'Stick together' means not going off on your own!"
- * Berry frowns "but mooooom!"
- <uSeaGM> Fluttershy passes over the small bag she had been carrying. "There are some apples and sandwiches inside... oh, and some banana nut duck bread."
- <Watch> "I...can't guarentee those will make the trip back." He smiles warmly.
- * Red_Mage adjusts the hat on his outfit. Rarity had outdone herself in creating such an exquisite piece on such short notice.
- <Watch> "looking sharp Red."
- <uSeaGM> The shy pegasus notices the odd looks she was being given. "Um, I call it duck bread because the ducks like it so much. There isn't any duck in it."
- * Milia sternly mom-glares™. "'But mooooom' nothing, young lady! The forest is dark and full of grosso monsters of varying temperamants! You gotta stay with us so you don't get lost, okay?"
- * Red_Mage nods. "Thank you. Truly, for as well as Miss Rarity crafts clothes her wares would be cheaper double."
- * Watch giggles. "noted no ducks in the duck bread"
- * Berry sighs and trots next to strict and so responsible stripeymom
- <Watch> "I can imagine...I feel a little guilty that we keep getting some much of her work..."
- * Milia leans down and patpats Berry. "There there, sweetie... we'll get moving in just a minute, we just need to make sure we're all ready to go."
- * Berry is already nomming all her lunch
- <uSeaGM> Lavender Dream smiles at Watch. "She seems like the kind of pony who is happiest when she's helping friends."
- * Berry "it's good!"

- * Watch nods and blushes a little. "she really is."
- <Red_Mage> "Truly fit for her station as Element of Generosity."
- <Watch> "I think I definitely want to try and help her back though..."
- <Red_Mage> "I plan to do what I can by wearing her designs when possible. Perhaps some of the other students will decide to go see her for their formalwear."
- * Milia then looks up and down Lucky's outfit. "...Ahh... yo, Lucky... wanna switch outfits? Not that I'm /doubting/ the baseball gear or anything... it just might not be the best thing to have if something's trying to gnaw you in half."
- * Lucky_Stars blinks. "But what about you?"
- <Watch> "well...the prom should help there..." He smiles. ",but...I think it might be something I can discuss with Fluttershy and Rarity upon getting back..."
- * Red_Mage nods.
- * Berry flapflaps and lands on milia's back "mom doesn't need armor! she is invincible pony!"
- * Milia waves a hoof. "I've got the cape and the helmet still..." she lifts up her nose all snooty. "And as Rarity will tell you, accesories are the /true/ stars of a good outfit!"
- * Red_Mage glances between Berry and Milia, noting Mili's many...many scars. "I am sure, Berry, but let's not make her life harder than it needs to be, yes?"
- <Lucky_Stars> "Well...all right then."
- * Milia 'oof's as Berry lands on her back. She was neither invincible OR a pony. "...Yep... that's me!..."
- * Berry smiles even wider everything is easy peasy for mom!
- * Milia giggles and sets her daughter down onto the ground. "Sorry, love... it's hard to take armor off with a daughter on my back. Gimme juuuust a second..."
- * Milia then sheds her armor and hoofs it over to Lucky. "Just washed it! Uh, don't... don't mind the bloodstains." She adds in a mumble, "...Those are hard to get out."
- <Watch> "come to think of it...I don't even think I know a spell that gets them out" Watch chuckles
- * Red Mage looks slightly askance at the bloodstains, but says nothing.
- * Berry licklicks a bloodstain. it doesn't go away. is disappoint

- <Watch> "that said...if things come to it try and stay behind me...alright?"
- * Milia looks down at Berry. Not even her tongue could get rid of them!
- * Berry shrugs at mom. she did her best
- * Milia nods in approval. She gives the donkey a kiss on the forehead.
- <Lucky_Stars> "Noted." She takes off her own athletic gear and hoofs it to Milia, and dons the combat armor. "I've never worn actual armor before."
- * Red_Mage sobers a bit. "Oh, trust me. I don't plan on getting in close unless I must."
- <uSeaGM> A gust of wind howls out from between the trees, quickly losing power as it leaves the Everfree Forest. Fluttershy 'eep's and shivers.
- * Berry points a hoofie at the woods "ADVENTURE!"
- * Red_Mage takes a deep breath. "Yes. Adventure."
- <Watch> "I am still not really concerned this will be too dangerous..."
- * Berry "mister roachie, quick! grab my tail!"
- <uSeaGM> "Ohm and um... if you hear the Beast singing, don't listen!" Fluttershy yelps, before dashing back inside her cottage and closing the door. You hear the sound of a wooden bar being put in place.
- * Milia looks down at the baseball gear, and then over at Mercy. "Wear the gear, or go naked?"
- * Red Mage blinks. "The Beast?"
- <Watch> "The beast?"
- * Berry "singing!"
- * Watch trots to the door and knocks gently with her mane.
- <Watch> his*
- <uSeaGM> "Naked." Mercy answers immediately.
- <uSeaGM> Lavender blinks. "The Beast?"
- * Watch would have had a comment for Milia, but Fluttershy's comment took priority...
- * Milia snickers. "I /thought/ you'd say that."
- <uSeaGM> "No-pony is home!" The door replies to Watch in Fluttershy's voice.

- * Milia then tilts her head at the rest of the group. "...The beast?" What, everyone else was saying it!
- <Watch> "It seems she's barred the door..." Watch says. "Excuse me Fluttershy...if there is anything you know that might help us come back safely...please share it with us...we won't make you come with us..."

<uSeaGM> "I-I'm sorry, but there's no-pony to take your call at the moment. I-if y-you'd like to leave a message..." Fluttershy gives up. "J-just beware of The Beast. Don't listen to his singing!"

- <Watch> "What is the beast?"
- <Watch> "I mean how do we know who not to listen to?"
- * Milia blinks over at the cottage. Watch Tower seemed to be getting info... so instead she turns to Lucky. She looks up and down the mare, now in the armor. "Well... hopefully this'll be one of the only times you actually /need/ to... but hey, better safe than sorry, right?"
- * Berry has large ears, will listen. it's a fact, already happened
- * Artifica admires Berry's adeptness.
- <Watch> "umm...l guess...maybe we should get earplugs or something..."
- * Berry wants to adventure, not to earplug!

<uSeaGM> There's the sounds of hooves running upstairs and a bedroom door being closed. You don't hear the next bit, but you imagine a mare hiding under her bed covers.

- * Watch sighs softly if he wasn't worried about his friends he might find that adorable.
- * Watch trots to the others. "I'd recommend getting earplugs or something...because she isn't talking""
- * Berry is trying to push mommy into the forest
- * Berry mommies

<Lucky_Stars> "Yeah! I'm not to be underestimated though. I'm fast, sneaky, good with the baseball bat, and if you need anything lifted, I'm your mare."

<uSeaGM> Lavender hmm's. "Perhaps she meant don't do what it says? If it were dangerous just to hear it I'm sure she wouldn't have let us go."

- * Artifica laughs good-naturedly as Berry helps her along.
- <Watch> "oh...in that case we're fine..." Watch chuckles.

- <Watch> "Our group is probably the worst at following instructions."
- * Milia frowns. "We didn't bring any... can't we drown it out with our own music? If there's one thing we're good at, it's being loud and-" Wait why was everypony getting further away and why was the forest getting so close.
- * Watch seems relieved
- <uSeaGM> Lavender blinks at Watch, and then nods her head, giggling.
- * Milia looks down. Oh, Berry was pushing her!
- <Watch> "Well we can drown it out...maybe sing some tunes?"
- * Lucky_Stars follows Milia.
- * Watch begins to trot toward the forest
- <uSeaGM> Mercy grins at Watch and Milia. "Ohh, I like that idea! We could sing our own song!"
- * Red_Mage sets off with the rest of the group.
- * Artifica nods. "Berry could play guitar."
- <uSeaGM> Together, the party sets off. Vanishing into the misty woods.
- * Artifica idly notes, "Least salty mist ever."
- * Milia giggles. There were two things she would do literally at the drop of a hat: sing, and cry. And, since she wasn't currently /sobbing/...
- * Berry offers "i have a guitar!"
- * Berry now that everypony is moving, she curls on random mommy and naps for the important part
- <Red Mage> "Are mists supposed to be salty?"
- <uSeaGM> Trees quickly press in on all sides, strangling what little light there was from the overcast sky. The forest floor is dark and damp... but the party's spirits are high!
- <Watch> "I can...kind of sing a nice baritone..."
- * Watch 's voice doesn't sound quite that deep...,but he looks like he could...especially now
- * Artifica_ says, "I lived on an island in the ocean. The mists were salty."
- * Red Mage coughs and rubs his neck. "Ah, I fear I cannot carry a tune in a bucket."

- * Milia starts to quietly sing a pleasant tune as they descend into the woods. "J At night when the lake is a mirror J / J And the moon rides the waves to the shore J / J A single soul sets her voice singing J / J Content to be slightly forlorn J..."
- * Artifica_ pokes Red_Mage. "Just carry it in your heart. That will be enough."
- * Watch tries to get the lyrics before he started to sing along.
- <Lucky_Stars> "If I was good at singing, I would've joined glee club."
- <Lucky Stars> "I sing...badly, in the shower."
- * Red_Mage blinks. "Er, yes. Of course." He actually had no real idea what Artifica meant.
- <uSeaGM> "Kissing club," Mercy corrects. From experience.
- <Watch> "I sang fairly bad at first, but...I got a lot of practice during new hope...the ponies used to huddle togeather and sing sometimes to keep spirits up..."
- <Lucky_Stars> "Well, they sing too."
- <Watch> "You should have heard spike sing." He chuckles and then joins in with Milia
- * Red_Mage chuckles. "Yes, the Kissing Club, who occasionally sing."
- * Lucky_Stars is actually rather good at singing, but is really really modest (and nervous about looking bad while doing so)
- <Watch> "sounds fun~"
- * Red Mage waggles his eyebrows. "Oh, yes. It is."
- * Berry uhms at the sweet notes of the romantic waltz
- * Berry would gladly hug a frog
- * Watch looks around the everfree absolutely carefree
- * Red_Mage looks around, obviously just a bit guarded.
- <uSeaGM> Lavender (and Mercy) continue where Milia left off. "I A song rises over the liles (Waa-ooh waa-ooh) I / I Sweeps high to clear over the reeds I / I And over the bulrushes' swaying I / I To pluck at a pair of heartstrings I..."
- * Berry got a little better with the singing and the playing music, but is still a donkey in a world of ponies.

actually make any sense. It's just noise."

- * Milia glees at the added voices to the music! She continues, the song growing ever louder and ever more cheerful. "J Two voices, now they are singing J / J Then ten, as the melody soars J / J Round the shimmering pond all are joining in song J / J As it carries their reverie on~ J..."
- * Berry flapflaps in the eair, loops at the sound of music and smiles. this place wasn't scary at all! it made all her friends sing together! this place was better than a friendship spell!
- * Watch tries to finish off the song...not wanting to be left out. "FOver the treetops and mountains I /FOver the blackened ravines I /FThen softly it falls by a house near a stream I /FAnd over the garden wall I /FTO thee I "
- <uSeaGM> Lavender and Mercy smile at Watch and snuggle up against Milia's neck.
- * Watch smiles back happily.
- * Berry lands in a patch of grass and grazes some herbs. relaxing day out is relaxing
- * Milia beams a great big ol' smile and bounces along with the group. Not unlike a certain pink party pony might. "Singing always feels so /good/!... It's like a little tickle deep down in the soul."
- * Watch laughs softly."yeah."
- <Red_Mage> "I shall take your word on that."
- <uSeaGM> As if agreeing with Milia, another song wafts gently through the forest with a sonorous male voice.
- <uSeaGM> "Tralalala tralalala, come and have a twirl, my dearest! Come and have a turn with me I pray."
- * Red Mage 's face falls. "I think we should keep walking as we were," he says.
- * Lucky_Stars finds something to plug her ears with. "Better safe than sorry, I'm heeding Fluttershy's advice."
- * Milia giggles at Red Mage. "You should try it sometime... doesn't matter how good or bad you are. It's /fun/."
- <uSeaGM> Lavender Dream ear-flickers like a cat on alert.
- * Watch twitches a little and looks around
- <Watch> "Someone else is singing..."
- * Artifica__ agrees with Milia. "Singing is good for the heart. And the soul. It allows you to express emotions in a way mere words and body language cannot. You shouldn't let yourself

miss out."

- * Milia blinks, and she peers around, her ears flicking as the powerfully bassy notes strike her.
- "Well... the voice is deep enough... but that sure doesn't /sound/ like Zecora..."
- * Watch 's mane slowly curls into a fist before relaxing.
- <uSeaGM> The voice returns but it sounds like it's coming from even farther away.
- * Red Mage looks around, controlling his nervousness.
- <uSeaGM> "Tralalala tralalala, roam here to me, come here to me! I'm sure you can't say nay, today!"
- * Berry "a voice!" turns head towards the voice "friend!"
- * Watch grabs berry. "no"
- <Watch> "Remember Fluttershy...do not listen to the voice..."
- <uSeaGM> Lavender shivers. "Something about it gives me the creeps."
- <Watch> "Is...it a spirit?"
- * Berry is grabbed, ohnoes! "WHA! lemme go! LEMME GOOO!"
- * Watch gently picks her up. "Berry...we may not be home...,but this place isn't safe..."
- * Milia 's expression flattens. She mirrors the memory spirit's shiver. "That makes two of us, Lavender..."
- * Berry frowns "but she's singing! she has to be nice and kind! and if we dont' go meet her she'll be so sad!"
- <Red_Mage> "Berry, not all who sing are nice and kind."
- * Watch sets her onto his own back. "Berry...I've heard the siren song of a terrifying mare..."
- * Berry tries to hear the song again, maybe she wasn't so lonely, maybe?
- * Lucky Stars facehoofs.
- * Watch 's mane was doing on the moving and grabbing for the record.
- * Berry "aw, who am i kiding! she is lonely and friend--less!"
- <Watch> "Berry...some are friendless and lonely because they do terrible things to their friends..."

- * Red_Mage nods seriously.
- * Berry "i hurt mister roachie and i was a terribad friend but i changed! everypony can change!"
- * Berry gasps "or.-.. or i STILL am a terribad friend!?"
- <uSeaGM> Lavender shakes her head at Watch's question. "I'm... not sure. I don't sense anything spiritual about it but..."
- <Red_Mage> "Berry, I am not worried if they /can/ change. I am worried if they /will/ change."
- * Watch softly says. "There was once a mare whose heart was made of stone...who ruled her subjects most harshly...She turned the ponies who got close to her into stone." He makes up a story about the stone hearted empress...,but she was horrible and he had heard singing...
- <uSeaGM> The memory spirit bites her lip. "Can we try singing again? These woods are making me feel a little uneasy."
- <Watch> "Yes...please"
- * Berry "yush!"
- * Red_Mage gulps. "So, do any of you know any songs you'd care to lead us in?"
- * Milia nods at Lavender. "Good idea, sis... "
- * Berry "when you're hoppin on down the donkey trail, the ponies all seem to look down. you're fuzzy and small, your ears are too tall, and good is what makes the world go round..."
- * Watch listens to Berry happily
- * Lucky Stars can't hear a thing. She has her ears plugged.
- * Berry ""/me has serious issues with the whistling part. it is mostly a spitting part.
- * Watch gently taps Lucky's shoulder and gives an okay gesture with his mane.
- * Milia giggles, listening to her daughter's song. "Well... it's certainly got /spirit/..."
- <uSeaGM> Mercy giggles and helps Berry with the whistling part.
- * Berry "cause i'm gonna be top of the woods!"
- * Artifica__ joins in the whistling.
- <uSeaGM> The party's path through the forest is long and winding, but eventually joins a dirt track that's wide enough for a wagon. Wheel marks in the packed dirt head deeper into the woods.

- * Milia pays little to no mind to the fact that this is like the third time Berry has said/sang something about ruling or conquering or oppressing others. It's a song! Songs are silly like that. And Berry is far too sweet to actually do anything like that. She's /positive/.
- * Watch looks at the marks. "huh...wonder what this is about..."
- * Red_Mage starts softly singing a slow melancholy song as soon as the current one ends.
- * Artifica__ suggests, "Possibly a cart. Or a wagon."
- * Lucky Stars takes out her earplugs.
- * Artifica__ sings happily, "La la la la la la la... ho ho ho ho!"
- * Red Mage looks at Lucky Stars, forcing a smile.
- * Milia leans down and squints her eyes to observe. She was checking if these tracks were fresh.
- * Milia hums out thoughtfully. "These are like... a few hours old, max. /Some/one's been through here real recently."
- * Artifica__ asks, "Zecora?"
- <Watch> "does it seem to be in the same direction as the castle?"
- * Berry "i have an idea!" flapflaps above the tree canopy and takes a look around
- <Red_Mage> "Isn't it hard to tell what direction wagon tracks are going on? They seem like they could've been made by somepony going either direction."
- * Watch watches her that seemed like a good idea.
- <Watch> "logically if one set is going that way...it is as good for our purposes."
- * Red Mage shrugs. "I suppose so."
- < Watch> "I mean it tells us someone headed to the castle...well if they are headed that way..."
- <Watch> "or from..."
- * Milia stands back up and shakes her head. "I don't think she takes her cart out this deep... I'm pretty sure she just uses saddlebags when she goes foraging." A pause. "...Granted, I've only visited her /once/, so... I don't know for /sure/."
- <Watch> "well...we'll know shortly..."
- * Berry comes back shortly "we're going towards a lot of trees!"

- * Berry feels so useful!
- * Watch laughs. "Well it was worth a shot"
- * Milia giggles at her daughter's appraisal. "You didn't see the castle, love?"
- <Watch> "hey wait...Berry did you try looking the other way to see if the cart is going the other way?
- * Berry "also, there is a lot of wind and rain up there, it's almost impossible to fly above the canopy"
- <Watch> "Wind and Rain?"
- * Milia looks to Watch Tower. "It sounds like she couldn't..."
- * Berry nodnods
- * Watch looks to the others frowning. "...I wasn't...aware it was raining..."
- <uSeaGM> The dense forest has done much to shelter the group from the weather above, letting only the occasional drip through the thick ceiling of branches.
- * Berry shrugs "bad weather is bad" goes grazing another patch of plants
- * Watch frowns, "the weather must have come in fast...it wasn't bad when we came in..."
- * Red_Mage narrows his eyes a bit. "Then we'd better get moving. Best to find some shelter more solid than these trees."
- <Watch> "Stay close..."
- * Milia trots off down the road, in a seemingly random direction. "Agreed!"
- * Watch continues along their way to their destination.
- * Red Mage stays close to the group, a careful eye scanning the forest.
- * Milia can't help but grin as their group trots along. "...I kinda like this place," she admits.
- * Red_Mage shivers. "I'll have to disagree."
- <Red Mage> "It's just so...strange."
- <Watch> "well I confess I've slept a few nights in the woods here..."
- * Milia playfully pouts at Red Mage. "Hey, it's cool in here! It's all like... dark and mysterious and /wild/. That doesn't do it for you?" she teases.

- * Berry "i like it! it's full of nommy grass!"
- * Milia looks over at Berry. "Sweetie... isn't /everywhere/ full of nommy grass?"
- <Watch> "And most of the animals keep their distance."
- * Milia adds, "Well... in the past, at least."
- * Red_Mage gulps. "This is...one of the most dangerous places in Equestria. So that impacts my opinion heavily."
- * Berry nodnods, in fact, she likes everywhere!
- <Watch> "it's a friendlier reminder of home
- * Berry "this place? it's a nice place. you don't want to see where we come from"
- <Red_Mage> "Well, we're trying to prevent your home time from happening in the first place. So if I may be so bold, I shall leave it out of my calculations on the matter."
- <Watch> "Even my home which was really nice compared to the rest of the wastes...was more dangerous at times then here"
- <Red_Mage> "Then I am confused. Why would anypony from such a dangerous place /prefer/ one of the most dangerous places here?"
- <Lucky_Stars> "Berry, there's a reason ponies are afraid to come into this forest."
- <uSeaGM> The group continues along the dirt track. Had it been an hour since they entered the Everfree Forest? Or two?
- * Berry nodnods and follows the road, sniffing at the tracks! this is a fun game!
- * Milia snickers at Red Mage. "Well, look at it this way: you can like, use this as bragging rights for all your magey mage noble friends."
- <Milia> "When you're at your mansion party to celebrate getting a mansion built on top of your mansion, you can totally bust out the story of the time you went into the Everfree Forest with your weirdo friends while the rest of the snooty snootersons stuff their faces with imported, gold plated hors d'oeuvres."
- * Berry "big bad would say that we are the most dangerous thing around this place..." says that nonchalantly, as if she wasn't even thinking about it
- * Artifica__ is amazed. There is a storm above, but the trail isn't muddy yet. "The Everfree Forest is weird."

- * Milia adds, "Also please invite me to that party. I want to see a double mansion."
- * Red_Mage raises his eyebrows. "I doubt I will ever be quite so rich, but I will keep you in mind if I am ever attending a double mansion party. Also, you are aware gold plated food is a thing for Canterlot's wealthiest residents, yes?"
- <Watch> "gold plated?"
- * Berry "i'd like food-plated food"
- * Artifica__ nods sagely to Berry. "We probably are." She wiggles her backside, feeling the lack of a battle saddle. "Although perhaps not right now."
- <Watch> "...Milia I want you to promise before I am turned back"
- <Watch> "I get to try that"
- <Lucky_Stars> "Gold plated hors d'oeurves would be hard to eat."
- * Berry "maybe chocolate-plated apples"
- <Red Mage> "It's a very thin coating, easy enough to, er, pass through the system."
- <Red_Mage> "So anypony can eat them.
- <Watch> "I thought you were joking..."
- * Artifica likes Berry's suggestion. "How about apple-plated chocolates?"
- * Berry "that too! served in a pancake plated dish made of cookies!"
- * Berry "with syrup!"
- <Watch> "I was just taking it literally because right now I could probably pull it off..."
- * Milia nods at Red Mage. "Well... I mean duh. Why wouldn't it be? What else do you do when you're ultra rich and have nothing to do all day but swim around in your riches? You eat it. It's gotta go somewhere, right?"
- * Watch pulls a bit from his pocket and bites it in twain.
- * Berry "if you go to a party where they serve you gold plated food for the first time this will make you a..."
- * Red_Mage nods. "Indeed, Milia. It's a status symbol, just as bragging about coming here would be. It's just that gold plated food is generally 'earned' by having other ponies do the work for you."

- * Berry whisper very lowly
- * Berry "gold noob?"
- * Red Mage winks at Berry. "The noobiest."
- * Watch goes ahead and chews the rest of the bit for now.
- * Milia comments over to Watch Tower, "Just hang around Canterlot enough... I'm sure you'll get a chance to devour some priceless metal sooner or later."
- * Watch chuckles. "I've actually developed a little bit of a taste."
- <Red_Mage> "Oh? And what's your favorite metal, Watch?"
- * Milia 'thbbbbbbt's at Red Mage's explanation. "I'm starting to agree with Luna..." She does her best imitation of the moon princess' eyeroll and accompanying snort, before drawling out, "/Nobles/."
- * Watch blows a bubble in the chewed up bit. "I think Copper...,but whatever bits are made of aren't bad..."
- <Watch> "I want to try a gemstone...,but I think spike might not approve" he chuckles
- * Red_Mage chuckles at Milia. "You and I ought to get along well with an attitude like that."
- <uSeaGM> There is a light up ahead. The woods open out into a clearing where the lights of a tavern shine through the gloom and the rain. Constructed from old, roughly mortared stone it is nevertheless a welcome sight. The sign hanging over the door calls it: 'The Slumbering Princess' and has a picture to match.
- <uSeaGM> http://gyazo.com/9366409077e04a85bbb062ea37220367
- * Berry smiles "a place!"
- * Milia 's eyes widen. "A place?!" she echoes in disbelief.
- * Red_Mage blinks. "Who would have an inn here in the woods where nopony goes?" he mutters.
- <uSeaGM> Under a small covering outside in a wagon. The driver is presumably inside.
- * Milia looks confused. "I swear we were keeping steered in the castle's direction... why did nopony tell us there was a friggin' bar or whatever out here!"
- * Watch tries to figure out which princess it is.
- <Watch> "So...do we go in...or shall we continue?"

- * Red_Mage shakes his head. "We should keep going. This doesn't feel right."
- <Lucky_Stars> "I agree with Red."
- <uSeaGM> Lavender frowns. "... Maybe we're lost. Were we supposed to find this place on the way?"
- * Milia raises an eyebrow at Watch Tower and Red Mage. "Really. /Really. We come across a mysterious tavern thingie out in the middle of the Everfree, and you're not even gonna investigate it?" She points at the cart. "There, look! That's probably the cart whose tracks we saw!"
- * Berry is knocking at the door
- <Red_Mage> "No, I don't think we should investigate. As I said, we're in a very dangerous forest known for being mysterious as well. We've already been warned about a singing 'Beast'."
- * Berry -CLOP!- -CLOP!-
- <Red_Mage> "We should keep on towards our intended destination."
- * Milia beams at Lavender. "Exactly! We are lost!" She turns to Watch Tower and Red Mage. "There! See? We're lost. We need directions. So, we should go ask for some!" She is inching toward the door where Berry is. "...In the tavern."
- * Red_Mage frowns. "Very well then. But no eating or drinking of their food. And we are /not/leasing any rooms, for /any/ length of time."
- * Lucky_Stars groans. "This is an idiot move."
- <uSeaGM> A mare with a round face and a poofy bonnet covering her mane opens the door for Berry. She has a thick apron and sensible well-worn clothes. Her skirt is hemmed by the day's dust. "Well hey there, peach pie, what are you doing around here? Please come into my tavern. Can I get you something to eat or drink?"
- <Watch> "..." Watch looks at Berry sternly well in advance.
- * Red_Mage steps forward. "No thank you miss. We're merely travellers looking for directions, if you would be so kind."
- * Milia beams a wide grin, trotting towards the entrance. "Look, dude. /You're/ the one who said you weren't looking to miss this 'grand adventure'. Well, I got news for you! Adventures aren't very grand if you just ignore all the interesting stuff!"
- * Berry smiles at miss cakes and licks her "hi! i'm berry!"
- <uSeaGM> Inside the tavern it is warm and light. A fire crackles in the hearth and half a dozen ponies fill the chairs at various wooden tables. Another small group of ponies sit on a slightly

raised wooden stage playing instruments or simply whistling. The music is fairly sombre. A large shaggy-haired dog snoozes on the floor near the fire.

- <Lucky_Stars> "Adventure isn't falling for obvious traps and getting everyone killed."
- <Watch> "seems comfy..."
- * Milia 'ooooh's. "Cozy~..."
- * Milia comments over to Lucky. "You're right. It's /escaping/ those traps."
- * Red_Mage doesn't enter the building. "If you could point us towards the ruins of the Castle of the Two Sisters, we would be much obliged ma'am."
- * Lucky_Stars is also not entering the building.
- * Watch stays out as well.

<uSeaGM> The Tavern Keeper chuckles at Red_Mage. "Oh, no. You shouldn't be heading there. Not in this weather. Come in out of the cold." She leaves the door open, picking up a broom and getting back to sweeping the wooden floor.

- <Watch> "in general...most traps tend to spring and be over...you don't escape traps..."
- * Red_Mage smiles gently. "I assure you we're capable of handing ourselves, miss. We haven't time to spare, I'm afraid."
- * Milia counters, "Ambushes count as traps. I've /totally/ escaped ambushes. And have you ever seen somepony wire an entryway with a bundle of grenades? You can totally escape one of those if you're guick enough."
- * Watch sighs and gives Red and Lucky a sympathetic look. "That is because those are poorly done..."
- <Watch> "well...worst comes to worst I can break through a wall..."
- * Berry if not stopped, trots inside
- * Red_Mage whisper to Watch. "Not if they incapacitate you first."
- * Artifica__ nods to Milia. "Cozy," she echoes. "And not creepy at all."
- * Red_Mage clears his throat. "Ah, miss? If you haven't any clear idea of the way that is fine. We'll just be on our way, then."
- <Watch> "what do you think Arti?"
- <uSeaGM> The Tavern Keeper is busy keeping her tavern.

- * Red_Mage sighs and looks to the others remaining outside. "I really think we should skip this tavern. Something about a tavern in the middle of the forest nopony ever wants to enter just doesn't feel right."
- <Lucky_Stars> "I'd be pretty bad at being a Rainbow Squirt if I fell for this. I'm gonna look for a path."
- * Milia will head in to keep an eye on Berry. As interested as she was, she was going to make sure the filly didn't start eating strange things from strange ponies.
- <Watch> "more accurately...a well populated tavern...with the only tracks being the wagon ones..."
- * Watch sighs and watches berry and then Milia enter.
- <uSeaGM> Mercy blows a raspberry. "Where would a tavern be more welcome than in the middle of a scary forest!"
- <Watch> "Guess the choice is made by Berry"
- * Milia pipes up to the tavern keeper while she watches Berry out of the corner of her eye. "So... hey, can I ask you something, miss?"
- * Red_Mage nods. "I'm going to stick with Lucky. Best nopony is left alone."
- <Watch> "I'll wait outside...not like the cold and rain can do anything to me."
- * Berry curls on stripeymom's back and naps. it's cozy and warm here. good for resting
- < Watch> "Arti...take care of Milia" he says pointlessly. He knew she would
- <uSeaGM> The Tavern Keeper looks up at Milia. "Yes dearie?"
- * Artifica__ frowns. "I'll take care of Milia."
- * Artifica__ adds, "And I think the same thing the rest of you do." Trap. Trappity-trap with trap trimmings.
- <uSeaGM> Lucky_Stars finds the path they came from and several others heading out from the tayern in different directions. Some look more used than others.
- <Watch> "if you need anything. Make some noise. Fire a round and I'll be in like the kool-aide mare."
- * Milia glances up and down and all around and just... takes it all in. "Okay, well, first things first... what's with this place? Kind of an odd location for a tavern, innit?"
- * Artifica__ notes to Watch, "I left my battle saddle at home." Largely because it was entirely

dismantled. And she had no way of replacing the bullets.

- * Watch searches his bags and gives her Berry's old Magi pistol.
- * Red Mage looks at Lucky. "So, which path do you think?"
- * Artifica__ looks at it. "Normally, I'd admit that I have no idea what to do with that. But I think I can hit /air/... if I aim."
- <Watch> "Here use this...I doubt you'll need to hit anyone..."
- <Watch> "the noise should be enough to get my attention...and scare anyone..."
- <uSeaGM> The Tavern Keeper tilts her head. "Odd? We're between the hamlets and Ponyville. Travellers like a nice friendly place to stop over in this forest. It can take longer than you think to get where you're going."
- * Artifica__ looks dubious. "Take care yourselves. The tavern isn't the most alarming thing here."
- * Milia raises an eyebrow. "Hamlets? Woah, you mean like... other towns and stuff?"
- <Watch> "I'm perfectly safe, but will do"
- * Artifica__ shakes her head. "I don't think so." She looks up, "We've been traveling for some time under a fierce rainstorm that nobody knew was there until one of us tried to fly up out of the trees. Even now, the ground is not muddy and I am not wet."
- <uSeaGM> The tavern mare nods. "Towns on the other side of the forest. And a few houses here and there within the woods, too."
- * Artifica__ adds, "You fear what you might be stepping into if you enter the tavern. Honestly, whatever it is, I suspect we are all /already/ in it."
- * Milia blinks. "Woahhhh... ponies /live/ in here? Isn't it dangerous? What about all the wild monsters and weird, untamed weather?"
- * Artifica__ notes, "Possibly the most alarming thing about the tavern is that they know about the storm."
- * Berry has an idea. jumps off mommy's back and looks outside the window

<uSeaGM> The tavern mare shrugs. "What about it? Did you want anything to eat?"

- * Red Mage shakes off some of the rain as he and Lucky examine the paths before them.
- * Berry patpats at the window to get watch's attention, then put her tongue on the glass and

starts making faces at him. mature berry is mature.

- * Milia barks out a laugh. 'What about it?' "No, no... that's cool. I'm not hungry. And I'm broke, anyways." She casts a glance to the rest of the tavern, making mental note of Berry. She was just looking out the window. Good. That was good! And safe. A safe activity. "So, do you like... get regulars all the way out here? You must know everypony who passes through here by now."
- * Berry then, suddenly here eyes widen and pure terror fills them. the filly screams and screams and screams
- * Milia winces when her daughter screams and her blood runs cold. She doesn't wait for a response from the poor tavern mare, and gallops over to the window. "Berry?! What's wrong?!"
- * Berry hugs mommy tight and screams in her mane. looks pretty scared

<uSeaGM> The Tavern Keeper looks alarmed. "What is it? What's going on?"

- * Milia looks positively shellshocked as she hugs the donkey tight. "Berry, sweetie!... Shhhh... it's okay!... It's okay!... Sweetie, why did you scream like that?"
- * Berry is mostly shaking like a leaf. "eyes! big evil eyes! in the dark!"
- * Milia petpets Berry as she casts a look out the window, herself. "Evil eyes?..."
- * Milia casts a look to Mercy and Lavender, if they were inside as well. "Do either of you see anything?... /Did/ either of you?"
- * Lucky_Stars assists Red_Mage.
- * Berry realizes that the others are still outside "our friends!" the filly tries to zip oustiside
- * Red_Mage gestures to the path that looks least used. "Perhaps this one? We'll just go down it a short ways, to see if there's anything there. I doubt anypony goes to the castle ruins much, so the least used path seems most likely."

<uSeaGM> Mercy and Lavender shake their heads. They look worried.

- * Milia is bowled over as Berry *fwoosh*es out of her embrace. "*Oof!*"
- * Berry calls to the others outside "come in! come in! bad eye lurks outside! come in quick!"
- * Milia , from her position on the floor, looks over to the tavern mare. "...Evil eyes? Know anything about that?"
- * Watch was giggling at Berry's faces until she screamed and made a fearful face...he had immedaitely turnde to look for the cause!

- <uSeaGM> The Tavern Keeper gasps. "Evil eyes? The Beast!"
- <uSeaGM> The tavern becomes hushed.
- * Red Mage looks up as Berry speeds out of the tavern. "What? WHat's the matter?"
- * Watch is now searching around for evil looking eyes from the outside
- <uSeaGM> Watch sees nothing except the dark forest around the tavern's clearing.
- * Milia sits up and rubs her head. "The beast?..." she repeats. Wait, Fluttershy had said something about that. "Okay... this is getting ridiculous... /what/ is the beast? We heard another pony flip her shhhhh-tuff about it, and when we were coming here we heard this weird, bassy singing in the distance."
- * Watch assaults a suspecious looking bush but that is all
- * Berry "bad eye! he's in the trees! he was going to get watch! come in before he tries again!"
- * Milia trots up to the counter as she asks this.
- <uSeaGM> The Tavern Keeper nods at the musical ponies, and then begins to answer Milia.
- <uSeaGM> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRYjQdg_V0M
- <uSeaGM> "He lurks out there in The Unknown."
- <uSeaGM> "Seeking those who are far from home,"
- <uSeaGM> "Hoping never to let you return."
- <uSeaGM> "Oooh, better beware"
- <uSeaGM> "Oooh, the Beast is out there"
- <uSeaGM> "Oooh, better be wise"
- <uSeaGM> "And don't believe his lies~"
- * Milia goes wide eyed. Woah, okay, singing was happening!
- <Watch> "What...did you see Berry?"
- * Red Mage walks back a bit towards Berry. "Bad eye? What are you talking about?"
- * Berry "scary big eyes! watching from there!" points a hoofie "and then they were gone!" is still scared, but is braving the dark to warn her friends
- * Watch pummels the nearest bush to that area and trots over to Berrry. "okay...we will get

- closer...I'm still not...quite going inside..."
- <Lucky_Stars> "I am not going in there."
- * Milia plops down to her haunches and shrinks back a bit. The tavern mare had gotten RIGHT up in her face as the song progressed. "A-ahhhh.... okay, /wow/... that was... slightly more intense than I was expecting."
- * Red_Mage looks where Berry is pointing. "I don't see anything."
- * Berry at watch's resolve, berry gasps, then makes a hard decision. "then, i'm staying outside too. even if it is rainy, cold and soggy." berry doesn't leave pones behind
- <uSeaGM> The Tavern Keeper returns to Milia, looking very serious. "If you and your friends insist on travelling now then you best hurry. Take the least travelled path and then the third fork on the right later on. Make sure to count them. That will bring you to the castle."
- * Berry is wet, scared and cold. is also crying, probably. hard to tell in the rain
- * Milia grimaces, closing her eyes and rubbing her forehead. "So, let me get this straight... there's a monster out here with evil eyes and a gorgeous singing voice, and he preys on ponies who aren't from around here?"
- * Milia takes careful note of the directions. She looks up to Lavender. "You got that, sis?"
- * Artifica__ hugs Berry. "Stay here with Milia. I'll go protect Watch!" She dashes outside.
- <uSeaGM> Lavender nods at Milia.
- <Artifica > (or is already outside. where-ever Berry is)
- * Red_Mage lights up his horn, sweeping it over the treeline.
- * Artifica__ (correction) hugs Berry in the rain. "Stay here with Milia. I'll go protect Watch!"
- <Watch> "I'm...fine." He says. "get berry inside where it's warm and dry." He didn't really feel the cold...the wet sure..., and he did miss the cryptic warnings about the beast...
- * Berry frowns "no! if mom stays outside, then i don't go in." okay. this was it. they were not hiding. good. berry didn't want to be a burden, so, she rubbed her eyes for a bit and smiled back at her mommy
- * Berry "it's okay. i stay outside too! it's all right!"
- * Artifica__ shakes her head. She floats off her cloak and levitates it over Berry like an umbrella.
- * Milia returns Lavender's nod. Her mood had sobered, but she still smiles. "Thanks. You're a life

saver." She then turns back to the tavern mare. "And thank you, too, for the directions. And the... err... musical accompaniment. Maybe we'll stop by on the way back, yeah?"

- * Artifica__ notes to Watch, "And you are not fine. You were almost eaten by a grue and you didn't even notice."
- <Watch> "I was watching Berry make faces..."
- <uSeaGM> The Tavern Keeper nods. "Go safely."
- * Milia chuckles. "Always!"
- * Watch sighs softly. "here...I'll at least help with the rain..." He raises his mane and flatens it out to serve as a sort of umbrella.
- * Red_Mage puts out his horn. "I still can't see anything in the woods."
- * Milia then trots out of the tavern to rejoin her friends. "Good news, everypony!" she calls out over the falling rain.
- <Red_Mage> "Well, good news is certainly welcome. What is it?"
- * Watch frowns softly and looks over. "Good news?"
- * Milia casually lights herself on fire. Screw the rain! She could beat rain! "I got directions! And I learned a bit about whatever this 'Beast' thing is!"
- <Red_Mage> "Excellent. I propose we start moving again and you fill us in on the way."
- * Berry waves hoofies "yay! did they sing a song?"
- <Watch> "yeah...that sounds like a good idea."
- * Milia nodnods eagerly at Berry. "They /did/, love. Wanna hear it?"
- <Lucky Stars> "Yeah, I'm not going to believe anything that comes from that place."
- * Berry "i knew! if there was a song involved, it is an adventure!" nodnods "sing it! sing iiiit!"
- <Watch> "mysterious inns are probably a good place to hear about mysterious beasts..."
- * Milia looks up to her two spirit sisters. "Can you do the backing melody? It wouldn't feel right without it."
- <Red_Mage> "I'm not sure we should discount the information out of hoof, Lucky. Just perhaps take it with a grain of salt. Or a whole block."
- <uSeaGM> Mercy grins. "We sure can, Milia!"

- * Milia beams a grin. "Sweets."
- <uSeaGM> Lavender smiles slowly. Something nice would come from this at least.
- * Milia then, with the acapella accompaniment of Mercy and Lavender, repeats the song for everypony's benefit. Yes, she gets really into it, and yes, being on fire probably isn't helping it be less intense as she skulks around and gets all up in her friends and family's faces.
- <Lucky_Stars> "I'd be the laughingstock of the Squirts if I fell for it." She rolls her eyes.
- * Red_Mage is sitting up ramrod straight by the end of the song, his eyebrows raised. Flaming zebras getting up really close during unsettling songs tended to do that.
- * Milia then readjusts herself, standing up straight and clearing her throat. "...I think that's how it went, anyways."
- * Red_Mage coughs. "Ah. Well then."
- <Watch> "oh...dear..."
- * Berry smiles "this huy seems quite a decent guy! maybe he just wants friends? maybe he doesn't have evil eyes, maybe it's just a condition?"
- * Watch admittedly felt extremely far from home...
- <Watch> "Berry...were you listening to the same song?"
- * Berry smiles and nodnods
- * Milia frowns at Berry. "I'm /pretty/ sure he wants to kill us, sweetie."
- <Red Mage> "Yes, it does sound very much like this creature intends us harm."
- * Watch sounds more sulking then annoyed
- <Watch> "two hundred something years and an extremely long way away..."
- <Watch> "In an alternate time line...yup...that classifies as far away from home..."
- * Berry "who doesn't? but in the end we become friends! if he doesn't have chitin and eats moms and train drivers, that is"
- * Milia 's frown stays firm. "...You /do/ remember what happened to those gryphon mercs who attacked us, don't you?"
- * Berry "soooo... where now?"
- * Berry "nope?"

- <Red_Mage> "Griffins?"
- * Artifica__ smiles, "I may be far from where I was born, but home is only a hoof's reach away." She reaches out and hoof-nudges Lavender to show.
- <Watch> "well...if he wants to kill us...at least that means I can just beat it up...,but if it has some sort of magical curse like trap to prevent us from going home..."
- * Watch frowns as Arti's reminder of how close her home was only really served to remind him how far his was...
- <Watch> "lets...just get going"
- * Milia shakes her head. "Oh, right... yes. 'Take the least travelled path, and then the third fork on the right later on. And make sure to count!" she stresses that last bit.
- <uSeaGM> Lavender smiles, holding Artifica__'s hoof for a moment and rubbing her cheek against it.
- * Berry merrily trots wherever the less traveled path is
- * Lucky_Stars grumbles. Everyone was going to follow that advice, so she does so as well...keeping her distance though.
- * Red_Mage stays next to Lucky.
- <uSeaGM> Red_Mage and Lucky_Stars had already discovered which was the least travelled path.
- * Berry for the second time tonight, wishes she had a frog to hug. still she has a roach. that's good too
- * Milia turns to Red Mage. "We met some gryphons, once. They tried to kill a bunch of us. They almost did. /Almost/."
- * Artifica__ smiles at Lavender. Out of the corner of her eye, she see's Watch's expression and says, "Watch, you're like family to the rest of us, in spirit if not in fact. I'd like to think, after all we've been through, that we are close enough to consider each other an extended family. You are not as far from home as you feel."
- * Berry ohnoe! she notices a lot of puddles! what a waste! starts jumping from puddle to puddle along the road. so much better!
- * Watch tries to keep ahead. "we've met a lot of griffons that have tried killing us..."
- <Red_Mage> "Are griffins unusually violent in the future you're from, or is that normal?"

- * Artifica__ answers, "Yes and no."
- * Watch looks to Arti. "You are..." The tone of voice sounded a little guilty. "it is...just would it be home for you if you didn't have Milia?...or if you left ponies behind?"
- * Berry from puddle to puddle, IS leaving ponies behind
- * Artifica__ says, "It would still be home. But there would be a hole... and it would ache."
- * Red_Mage looks confused. "What do you mean yes and no?"
- <Watch> "You guys are like family..." He looks at Lavender who he had the awkward feeling of feeling like she is psuedo daughter in a weird way considering spirit egg hatching... "it is just the hole for me is a big one then." He smiles a bit.
- * Milia keeps careful track of her internal compass as they travel. She would follow these directions, but she was also gonna pay attention to what her gut was telling her. This wasn't her /first/ time wandering aimlessly.
- <Watch> "if...nothing else when I can...I'm bringing as much of home back here as I can...the good parts that is..."
- * Red_Mage raises an eyebrow. "No offense, Watch, but pulling another entire family through time /on purpose/ this time seems...difficult, to say the least."
- <Watch> "we weren't really pulled through time..."
- <Watch> "More like a strange device brought us here..."
- <Watch> "that I don't think I could ever do..."
- <uSeaGM> As you trudge along the path the damp dirt gives way to mud as more rain seeps through the thick ceiling of branches.
- * Berry trots and sings a song she heard from the radio a lot of times "i could see that lone star from thousands miles away, calling me back home though i've venturer far away, when i see that beacon shining for me all along, it calls me to equestria and a home!"
- <Red_Mage> "My point is that I would be interested to know if you have a viable idea for time travel on the scale you are talking about."
- <Watch> "Time gateway was up and running where we were...and well I think my folks could in general handle their way into the place it was...,but honestly I doubt most would go..."
- * Watch frowns. "Still...we'll figure that out later..." He smiles again...honestly just talking with them was helping him remember...home wasn't that far...
- * Milia frowns. She was actually mulling over that plan, and something struck her about the

logistics. "So, um... I might not be understanding this whole time travel stuff quite as good as everypony else... but the gate was set to a specific time and date. And, if our future is still around, and we're in an alternate past... if you go back to get your family, and then go /back/ through

- * Milia the gate..."
- <Milia> "...Would it then make a third Equestria? Or would it pop you back with us somehow?"
- * Red_Mage leans over and whispers to Lucky. "Good idea on hanging back. If our directions were a trap, we might have time to react."
- <Watch> "I hope VERY expressly...not."
- <Watch> "or rather the ladder..."
- * Milia rubs her head. "Time travel is confusing..." she groans.
- * Watch ponders. "if it made another loop though...I think it wouldn't be too bad...,but I'd miss you all..."
- * Berry is leading. and singing. and not really checking her surrounding, past counting thre roads
- * Watch closes his eyes and considers. "I think now that you mention it...it might help working with the spell that sends me back actually..."
- <Watch> "the way it was described...maybe I could get a teather back to this time..."
- <Lucky_Stars> "Yeah. They'd rather believe a creepy old tavern in the middle of a forest ponies don't go to than a Rainbow Squirt. I don't want to be out in front." She mutters.
- * Watch wasn't believing anypony...he was sulking...
- * Watch smiles. "Thanks Milia I hadn't considered that." WAS was the important word there...these ponies were like family...they had a way of cheering him up.
- <uSeaGM> The path continues, winding onwards. The party reach their right turn and take it. Trudge trudge trudge.
- * Berry changed a lot of songs at this point. is going new pegasus at the moment "i've got spurs, that jingle jangle jingle!"
- <Watch> "umm...hey Berry I've got one..."
- * Milia shakes her head and chuckles. "I'm known to have a worthwhile thought every now and again! I'll leave the actual deets to the much smarter magic-y ponies, though..."

- * Berry smiles at watch "you want to sing? go on!"
- * Watch smiles at Milia. "you've got a lot of worthwhile thoughts...you and Arti both....,but for now~Ilf you go out into the woods today."
- * Berry sings along, trotting with the others and spashing puddles
- <Watch> JYou're sure of a big surprise J
- * Red Mage hums along, the tune to the song coming with surprising ease.
- * Watch still sang in a deep voice but it was surprisingly soft and fit the slightly spooky atmosphere
- * Lucky Stars puts the earplugs back in.
- * Watch frowns as Lucky doesn't enjoy his singing...
- * Lucky_Stars was just in a bit of a foul mood.
- * Berry is also carrying a donkey now

<uSeaGM> And then, success! The trees end and the group find themselves on the edge of a ravine. A rope bridge connects to the other side, leading to an impressive castle of dark stone. Tall turrets surrounded by a protective curtain wall. The castle looks... intact. And imposing. A pair of figures in pull plate mail stand flanking the open main gate.

<uSeaGM> But, from the forest behind them, another song floats on the breeze...

* Red_Mage stops and blinks. "Everyone, we were sent to find /ruins/, yes?"

<uSeaGM> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZUH ZGI1U8&index=7&list=PLQeG2hHTBNZw1sykwH0z75hRoeNSSs9kT

<uSeaGM> "Come wayward souls,"

<uSeaGM> "who wander through the darkness,"

<uSeaGM> "there is a light for the lost and the meek."

<uSeaGM> "Sorrow and fear are easily forgotten"

<uSeaGM> "when you submit and leave what you seek."

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