

And Then They Were Ponies

Chapter One: And Then They Were Ponies

“Well, here we are... My new apartment. I’m really grateful you guys decided to help me move in. This would have taken forever to do by myself.” Said a raven haired young woman as she opened the door to the apartment and entered placing the suitcase she was dragging into the room. Her friends knew her as Kitone, a stubborn and crafty woman who did what she wanted when she wanted. Her black hair hung about her shoulders and her bangs covered one of her eyes.

“Yea, yea. We’re glad to help but could you move out of the way, this couch isn’t exactly light you know?” said another girl who followed Kitone into the apartment, holding up one end of a couch. She was one of Kitone’s close friends and went by the name of Athemis. She was a few inches shorter than Kitone but this could be attributed to the fact that she was a year younger than her. She was always kind and cheerful, except when she wasn’t. Her hair was cut shorter than Kitone’s, just barely long enough to frame her face.

Kitone stepped to the side allowing Athemis to pass. “How you holding up back there big guy?” Kitone asked the man that was holding up the other end of the couch.

“Couch. Heavy. Barely. Holding.” He replied moments before he set his end of the couch down in tandem with Athemis dropping hers. He stretched the fatigue out of his arms. “I’ll survive. I’ve helped move worse.” He said as he leaned coolly against the chair. Another one of Kitone’s close friends, he simply went by the moniker of Captain, or Cap if you preferred. He was dressed in his typical blue t-shirt and jeans and his brown hair was a bit shorter than normal, thanks to his recent haircut. Cap tended to be a man of few words, unless you brought up a subject he was interested in

The morning rolled on rather quickly and by midday the trio had managed to get all the furniture Kitone had up into the little apartment and had started on unpacking all the boxes. The three of them were busy in the room: Cap was busy reassembling a computer desk that had to be taken apart to fit onto the truck with everything else, Athemis was organizing books on the small bookshelf that was in the room and Kitone was busy unpacking her clothes and deciding what would go in the dresser instead of the closet.

“You know Kit, I think you’re the only person I know who would have turned down that other apartment just because the street that this one is on happens to be ‘Equestria Way’.” Athemis said, bending to grab the last few books out of the box.

“Ath, you came with me to see that other apartment. You know that the pipes were leaking, there was a termite problem and the front door looked like it had been forced open more times than a girl’s legs in a tentacle hentai.” Kitone said, smiling to herself when she practically felt Athemis cringe at her last metaphor, “But yea, the name of the road sorta did have a big influence on why I decided not to look anywhere else. Plus it was practically a steal at the price the old lady was renting this place for.”

“Hey, Kit...” Captain said, “I hate to interrupt you and all but does your closet have a light in it?”

“No... Not that I know of...” Kitone said, turning to look at the closet. Sure enough a bright blue light could be seen flickering from beneath the frame of the door.

“K-kit... What is that?” Athemis said, slowly making her way over to Cap’s side.

“I dunno Ath, but there’s only one way to find out.” Kitone said bravely as she pulled the door open, jumping back as she did. On the other side of the door, floating just above the ground was a shining blue portal. The center was pitch black but the edges were a bright blue that almost hurt the eyes. “Hmm...” Kitone said, looking into the abyss on the other side of the portal, “I guess it could be worse.” Suddenly she felt herself being pulled towards the portal. Quickly Kitone grabbed onto the bookshelf as she felt the suction get worse. “Like that! That definitely made this situation worse!” Kitone shouted as she felt her grip on the bookshelf loosen and soon she found herself, and her friends, being sucked into the portal.

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“AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!” Athemis screamed as they fell what could only be described as downwards. All in all, none of them were sure which way was up anymore.

“Ath.” Kitone said calmly.

“AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!” Athemis kept screaming, rolling head over heels as they plummeted.

“Ath!” Kitone said forcefully.

“AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!”

“ATH, SHUT THE HELL UP!” Kitone finally shouted over her friend’s scream. Kitone ‘sat’ in the air and rubbed her face with her palms before talking again in her normal tone, “I’m sorry, but if you kept that up I was going to grab you and snap your neck.

Athemis had calmed down a little, mostly because she was caught off guard at Kitone’s outburst. “I’m s-sorry Kit. I’m just a little shaken up right now... How are you so calm?”

Kitone shrugged, placing her hands behind her head, “I dunno... I guess because there isn’t much in this void besides us I’m not really afraid that I’m falling to my death. I mean, take a look around, its darkness, blackness and nothingness as far as the eye can see. Take a look at Cap, he’s gotten over the whole ‘portal to a plane of non-existence’ thing pretty damn fast.” True to her words Captain was busy flipping and doing loops and twirls as they fell. When he noticed the sudden silence and saw the two pairs of eyes that stared at him he slowed to a stop.

“What... I got bored... and plus, we’re practically sky-diving.” He said, returning to his routine.

“Yea... Sky-diving somewhere with no sky...” Athemis said, taking a look around. A bright flash from below caught the attention of all three free-fallers. “Umm... you guys see that too right?” Athemis

asked, pointing at the glowing thing that had suddenly appeared.

Kitone stared at it for a few seconds. "Yea... We are talking about the glowing yellow cloud-like thing right? Just wanna be sure."

"Uh-huh... Guys, not to be pessimistic but how do we know that that's as soft as it looks?" Captain said as she fell ever closer to the cloud barrier.

"Athemis..." Kitone said calmly as she turned her back to the cloud.

"Yea Kit?" Athemis asked.

"You may scream for both of us now." Kitone said as she closed her eyes and covered her ears, just in time to dampen Athemis's loud screams.

It took a few seconds for them to reach the cloud. Thankfully it was just that, a cloud. It filled their nostrils with an acrid metallic scent and as they passed through it; the scent was accompanied by a loud sound that could only be described as sparks of electricity but they were so loud they temporarily drowned Athemis's screams out.

Once they passed through the cloud however her screams came back singing a different tune. "OH MY GOD!" Athemis exclaimed, "WHERE DID OUR CLOTHES GO?!" Kitone's eyes shot open and a quick glance down confirmed it, passing through the cloud had, for the lack of a better word, liberated them of their clothing. Kitone laughed nervously, crossed her legs tightly and folded her arms in front of her chest; Athemis, in her frenzy to cover herself, started spiraling out of control and Captain's face had taken on an almost beet red as he lowered a hand to his nether region.

"I am now one hundred percent sure this couldn't get any worse." Kitone said sarcastically, only to be proven wrong when another flash brightened the darkness around her, casting the trio's shadow on the bottom of the cloud layer. "Me and my big mouth!" Kitone shouted as she felt herself gaining speed.

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Kitone closed her eyes reflexively when she turned to look at the second portal, the light it radiated was almost blinding. Shortly afterwards she landed painfully on something solid and then Cap and Athemis collapsed on top of her. "Oww.." Athemis groaned, her sentiments echoed quickly by Captain. "Where the hay are we?" Athemis asked.

"Where the hay? Ath, have you been brony-ing up behind our backs?" Captain asked, grunting as Athemis shifted her weight on top of him.

"Heh..." she said sheepishly, "I dunno, it sorta just rolled off my tongue."

"That's nice and all, but... CAN YOU TWO GET OFF OF ME?!" Kitone shouted.

With a bit of work the two of them got off of Kitone who was getting to her feet in a daze. "Oh my gosh,

you're a..." Athemis said, her voice trailing off as she neared the end of the sentence.

"Holy..." Cap said, going quiet as well.

Kitone closed her eyes and rubbed her head in an attempt to stop the world from spinning. "Kit... you're not gonna believe this..." Athemis said softly.

"Ath," Kitone said dryly, "we just fell through a portal in my bedroom closet, what's not to believe?"

"Ath, trust me when I say this, when she realizes that she has a hoof to her face she'll probably think it's the best day ever." Captain said jokingly.

"Wait... What?!" Kitone exclaimed as she pulled her 'hand' from her face and true to Captain's words, it was a hoof. "Waitwaitwaitwait... wait a sec..." Kitone said, turning to face her friends. Standing behind her wasn't the friends she'd come to know but a dark green unicorn mare with an aqua blue mane and a blue earth pony colt with a short brown mane. Kitone silently raised a hoof to her head and when she didn't find a horn protruding from her forehead she drew a deep breath in and turned to look at her slate gray flank and there, just above her shoulders, was a pair of Pegasus wings. "Yes!" Kitone shouted, jumping into the air, floating unsteadily as she flapped her wings with as much gusto as she could muster up.

Athemis sighed as Captain pointed and said, "See, what did I tell you. Best day ever."

"Kit, what the HECK IS WRONG WITH YOU?!" Athemis shouted at her. "I'm sorry but how the heck is this a good thing? We're in a strange land and we're freaking ponies! We have no idea how to get back home!" Athemis kept shouting angrily and as she vented her horn began glowing furiously.

"Ath..." Kitone said warily, "you might want to calm down a lil."

"CALM DOWN?!" Athemis shouted furiously, "YOU WANT ME TO CALM DOWN?! ARGH!" When Athemis shouted out a beam of light shot from her horn and wrapped around Kitone. Kitone quickly found her wings pinned to her sides and no matter how hard she tried they wouldn't budge. Without her wings flapping to keep her aloft gravity quickly pulled Kitone crashing to the ground. Kitone squirmed painfully on the ground as Athemis's magic tightened around her.

"Athemis!" Captain said as he ran to her side and put a hoof on her shoulder. "Ath, you need to calm down, you're hurting Kit. I know you're angry and scared but this isn't Kitone's fault. Just take a deep breath and let Kit go." Athemis looked at Kitone, her glare softening as the seconds passed. Slowly her magic waned allowing Kit to move freely again.

"I... I'm sorry Kit, I'm just-" Athemis began, interrupted as Kitone placed her hoof on her lips.

"It's okay Ath, you were just overwhelmed by all this and I'll admit that my reaction was only slightly below how any sane pony... erm, person would react." Kitone said, turning to face the sun in the sky. After measuring the distance between the sun and the horizon with her hoof she spoke again. "Okay, assuming this works the same way it does on earth we should have about an hour and a half of sunlight

left and judging from the terrain around us I'd say we aren't all that far from a town. Lemme just have a look see..." With a powerful flap of her wings Kitone took to the sky, her flight was unsteady but the other two had to admit it was pretty good for someone who got wings mere minutes ago. They watched as Kitone scanned the surroundings from her vantage point and cringed as she came in to land. "Okay, gotta work on that part." Kitone said as she got up for the third time in the span of five minutes, "The good news is there's a town about a mile to the west, the path leads right to it. I also have a pretty good idea about which town it is."

"How is that even possible Kit?" Captain asked, raising an eyebrow curiously.

"I happened to see somepony I know." Kitone said, motioning over her shoulder. Athemis and Captain gasp softly when they saw the unicorn that was making her way down the path towards the town. The unicorn that was walking towards them was unmistakable, her purple coat and dark blue mane and tail with the pink and purple streaks down them was firmly cemented in their memories. Twilight Sparkle walked up the path looking absentmindedly downwards, obviously lost in thought, and only took notice of the three ponies when she heard them step aside so she could pass.

"Oh! I'm sorry, I was a bit... um... lost in thought." Twilight said sheepishly as she looked at the three ponies that stood beside her. "Umm..." She asked Kitone specifically, noticing the light layer of dust that spotted her coat, "are you okay?"

"Huh?" Kitone asked before noticing that she was covered in dust. "Oh, this stuff..." Kitone said, giving herself a brisk shake and sending the dust flying, "Just a bit of a rough landing from surveying the area."

Twilight nodded, "Makes sense I guess. Well, I'm sorry for almost bumping into you ponies but if you'll excuse me I have to get back to Ponyville before it gets dark and write down what Zecora told me before I forget..."

"Actually..." Athemis interrupted, "there is something you could help us with. You see, my friends and I are a bit lost and, I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say this, we'd like to spend a night with a proper roof over our heads. So would it be a problem if we followed you into town?"

"It wouldn't be a problem at all. In fact," Twilight said happily, "I wouldn't mind the company at all. My name's Twilight Sparkle, and you are?"

"I'm Kitone," Kitone said whilst pointing a hoof at herself and then pointing at her two friends, "and that's Athemis and Captain. Or Kit, Ath and Cap if you prefer."

"Kitone?" Twilight asked as she pointed at the three ponies, "Athemis? And... Captain?"

"Yes ma'am." Captain said as the four ponies started down the path towards Ponyville.

"So, where are you ponies from?" Twilight asked nopony in particular.

"We're from... Mareica?" Athemis lied, looking at Kitone out of the side of her eyes for some sort of confirmation. Kitone knew Athemis was lying but there was the slightest flutter in her mind that told her

otherwise. Kitone shot a glance past Athemis and Twilight Sparkle at Captain, he looked ahead lost deep in thought. Kitone nodded to herself, she'd have to speak to him later.

Had anypony looked back down the path they would have seen the hooded pony slowly making their way out of the nearby bushes and galloping towards the Everfree Forest.

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The sun was just beginning its slow dip below the horizon when the four ponies finally made their way into Ponyville proper. They followed Twilight to the library, earning an impromptu tour that pointed out the places they passed in the process. The tour ended with the four ponies standing outside the library's front door. "...And this is the Ponyville Library, I also live here." Twilight said, wrapping up her tour. "I don't think Ponyville has an inn, it's never occurred to me to check for that sort of thing before today. If you want you can come inside and we can find a map of Ponyville which might be of help." Twilight pushed open the door and stepped into the pitch-black library. "That's strange... Spike, why are all the lights off? Did you fall asleep early or something?"

"Hmm... I think I know where this is going." Captain said softly as they followed Twilight inside.

"What are you ta-" Kitone said before being cut off by a loud cry of "Surprise!" as the lights came on revealing the decorated room full of ponies.

Captain heard a soft yelp and felt something at his rear and when he turned to look he stared into the dark green eyes of a slate gray Pegasus who had taken shelter behind him. "You can relax Kit, it was just..."

"A surprise party?" Twilight Sparkle asked the pink pony that hopped out of the crowd towards her. "Pinkie Pie, why are we having a party? And of all the places you could hold this party why is it here in the Library?"

"Well..." Pinkie Pie said in her usual cheery tone, "I felt like throwing a party, but I didn't have any reason to throw one and everyone knows I can't have a party at Sugarcube Corner if I don't have a good reason to throw the party. So I asked myself, 'Pinkie Pie, where would be the bestest, most super-awesome-tastic place to throw a party?' And after I answered Sugarcube Corner I asked myself where the second best place would be and then it hit me. Well, it didn't hit me, it was more a moment of realization but I realized that having a party here would be the best idea." It was then Pinkie Pie noticed the three ponies standing in the doorway. "Twilight! I don't know these ponies!" Pinkie said with a gasp as she hopped past Twilight to the new guests, "And if I don't know these ponies..."

"Then they're new in town." Twilight finished. "Well they are new, I met them when I was coming back from Zecora's earlier. The unicorn's name is Athemis, the earth pony is Captain and the Pegasus hiding behind him is Kitone."

"Well it's nice to meet you guys!" Pinkie Pie said, shaking each of their hooves in turn. "OH! I just had the bestest idea ever Twilight! We should make this party their 'Welcome to Ponyville' party! Can we

Twilight, pretty please with sugar and ice cream and strawberries on top?”

“Pinkie Pie, you know I can’t agree... with you... having...” Twilight said to Pinkie Pie in a serious tone that faded quickly as she looked into the smiling face of the pink earth pony. “Fine... We can have the party for them.”

“Woo hoo!” Pinkie Pie exclaimed. “Hey everypony listen up!” Pinkie Pie shouted to the crowd in the small library, wasting no time in introducing Ponyville to the newcomers.

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The introductions proceeded rather swiftly and soon the trio found themselves taking a break from the festivities to talk amongst themselves. Kitone stealthily made her way onto the library’s balcony with a slice of cake. “Whew... Never thought I’d get out of there with you intact.” Kitone said to the cake happily, “I really hope you’re worth it!”

“It took you long enough to get the stupid cake.” Athemis grumbled as she levitated her cup to her lips, draining it of its contents. “Cap and I have been waiting for you for quite a while now. I thought you were the one who wanted to talk so urgently.”

“Yea, yea. Don’t lose your cool again, we don’t want a repeat of earlier.” Kitone said jokingly. Athemis said nothing as she calmly placed her cup on the railing, making sure it wouldn’t fall of before releasing her magical grip on it. “I’m sure you guy’s know exactly what I wanna talk about.”

Captain, who had been leaning on the railing staring silently at the sky, turned to face the two fillies and said, “I’m guessing it has to do with what we’ve been telling these ponies.”

“Exactly.” Kitone said between mouthfuls of cake.

“I’m a bit confused here, care to fill me in.” Athemis said to Captain.

“It’s like this,” Captain said, “We haven’t had the time to even begin to formulate any sort of backstory behind ourselves and yet we all have this shared knowledge that matches up perfectly. We’re from a place called Mareica, we’ve known each other from we were little, and we each know about each other’s life. It’s like we’ve always existed here.”

“I’m sure you’ve felt it Athemis, that nagging feeling in the back of your head that says that the lies we’ve been spouting all night aren’t completely false.” Kitone said. “Take my outburst when I met Rainbow Dash. If there was anypony... anybody here I’d be brutally honest with it would be that rainbow Pegasus. Yet somehow when I met her I totally had the biggest fan-girl moment ever. I told her that I had practiced her routines! I got wings only a few hours ago! I’ve spent about three minutes tops flying from we got here, and yet...” Kitone placed her plate on the railing and took a few steps back from her friends and in a blink of an eye took to the air. Athemis and Captain gasped in awe as Kitone flew with the natural grace of a Pegasus who had been flying all her life. She flew tight corkscrews, elegant loops and nosebleed-inducing dives without even so much as looking remotely troubled. She landed back on the balcony just as gracefully, without even creating a breeze to rock the plate and cup that were on the

railing. "And yet, it doesn't feel like I was lying at all."

"That was amazing Kit!" Athemis exclaimed in a hushed tone, trying not to get the attention of the ponies just beyond the door. She quickly regained her composure and magicked the glass into the air, twirling the empty cup in front of her. "You're right though, I feel more in control of my 'abilities' now and when I told Twilight Sparkle we were from Mareica it just sorta happened, it felt right, like how we keep saying anypony and everypony and somepony." Athemis noticed that Captain had returned to leaning against the railing and looking at the stars. "What about you Captain? You 'remember' anything new?"

Captain turned and looked at the two fillies once more, the slightest of smiles moved his lips. Kitone felt her wings tense involuntarily when she noticed the smile and her quick reaction to her wings wasn't missed by the blue stallion who broke into a full smile. "Yes. Yes, I did remember some things but they're sorta hazy, like when you try to remember a dream you had after you've woken up. Anyway," he said, returning to all fours, "We have a more pressing problem. Ponyville has an inn; unfortunately we don't have the bits to pay for it so unless either of you lovely ladies has a plan, we'll be roughing it tonite."

"Actually..." Kitone said, a twinkle in her eyes, "What's the one thing we knew about this place before we even fell through that portal? Ponyville is pretty much one of the nicest places around, no exceptions." Athemis and Captain nodded in agreement, you couldn't argue with that. "Well, there's a certain rainbow pony inside who's ego's gonna need a bit of a massaging if I plan on getting a room for the night, if you catch my drift."

"Kit!" Athemis gasped, "You can't mean to say..."

"As awesome as that would be, no, I'm not planning to find out if she's a fillyfooler or not. I'm actually just gonna see if she'll let me sleep on a couch or a guest bed or something and then we could do some training tomorrow morning. Regardless of what's going on here I won't be passing up an opportunity to practice some tricks with *the* Rainbow Dash." Kitone said before flying back inside before Athemis could react.

"Hmm... She does have a point though, we could just ask somepony if they could put up with us for a few days. I'm sure we could make it worthwhile by helping them out somehow." Captain said as he sauntered over to the door. "I guess I'll ask Twilight Sparkle if I can stay here tonight, it would be in bad taste for a gentlepony like me to leave a lady with such a party to clean up by herself. Besides, I wanna do some research on something." He stopped in the doorway and looked back over his shoulder at Athemis. "Oh and Ath, if you take a deep whiff of the breeze you can smell apples so I'm sure there's a special pony with a special chore who could benefit from another helping hoof."

"Yea, I get it." Athemis said as she followed Captain inside, "We should meet up tomorrow to decide what our next move is. How about we all gather for lunch at Sugarcube Corner?"

"That's not a bad idea Athemis, let's try and tell Kit before she disappears." Captain said.

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The normally soft footfalls of hoof on stone echoed loudly in the cave. The pony walked without saying a word, the hood of his cloak hung around his neck. He didn't need to protect his identity, not here among friends. His ochre coat made his silver mane stand out garishly. He disliked his mane, fillies always thought he was much older than he actually was. "Why have you entered my chamber?" came a stern female voice from the darkness at the end of the room.

"I'm sorry for intruding Mistress but I bring important news." The pony said whilst he bowed, affixing his gaze on the edge of the darkness. Suddenly a pair of candles magically lit themselves with a quiet poof, illuminating the bed and the unicorn that lay in it. He could see the bottoms of her legs as she made her way out of the bed and walked over to him.

"Rise and speak pony." She said, looking down at him.

"Yes Mistress," He said softly as he rose, "The spell... it was a success. They were brought here." He looked at the unicorn he and the rest of the group simply called Mistress; she was large for both a unicorn and a mare. She was easily taller than the large red stallion that worked in the apple farm but her slender frame made it unmistakably clear in anypony's eyes that she was female.

"Excellent." she said happily, her tone sending shivers down his spine. "Where are they now my little one?"

"Mistress, I am afraid that they met with one of *those ponies*. They followed her into the town." He said.

"I see..." she said, her tone quickly souring.

"Also, Mistress," he added, cringing when she glared at him for speaking without permission, "It seems they were changed in their summoning here. They... They've become ponies Mistress."

"Is that so?" she asked rhetorically, "It matters not, they were simply test subjects for the spell anyway. Eventually they'll find their way to me, and although I'd rather them in their true forms I won't turn away anypony who can understand that the ingrates who parade themselves as gods among ponies aren't fit to rule Equestria. Anything else you wish to say?"

"No Mistress." The pony replied, bowing again as the unicorn made her way towards the bed again.

"Good." She said as she settled in amongst the many pillows that adorned the mattress. "Tell the other ponies it is time we moved again. We've expended far too much magical energy here and it's only a matter of time before Celestia's bloodhounds catch our scent again." The pony nodded silently as he rose and left the chamber. The unicorn watched him leave before outing the candles and disappearing into the darkness once again.