

This long analysis goes out to Ngame & Seddm. But I want others to see it too because I think it's really important to understand everything about Starco's growth. I'm going to break down a few specific lines and phrases said in Here To Help, explaining why they fit perfectly with what's happened in the first two seasons. Obviously, Season 1 was written way before Daron even knew she was going to get four seasons. But I don't believe the writer's included these lines and phrases in Here To Help as a lazy way to rush getting Starco together near the end of Season 4. I honestly think it puts a lot of things into perspective when looking back on past events. So the first two lines/phrases I want to talk about are Marco saying ***"I've felt like this since the beginning."*** & ***"-they were intense from the start-"*** Ngame & Seddm already addressed what he really meant. He wasn't saying he wanted to smooch & cuddle Star as soon as he met her. This is why Marco also says ***"I know you don't fall in love at first sight."*** What he WAS saying is that despite the rocky start they got off to at the beginning of Star Comes To Earth, he felt a **special connection** between them after the first fight with Ludo. Something clicked. That's why he said ***"That was amazing! I was amazing! You were amazing!"*** and smiles when she hugs him for the first time after changing his mind about her staying with his family. Then we get to another line from Here To Help saying, ***"The way I feel has gotten more intense since we first met"***. Let's go back to Season 1. Mewberty is the first episode where Marco realizes how important Star is to his life. When she flew away with Oskar's car, he was **CRYING** because this was the girl that brought him something he never had before. She gave him excitement, wonder, and constant adventure, which was integral to getting him out of his "Safe Kid" shell and broadening his horizons. He didn't want her to leave or be taken away from him. Notice how from this episode onwards he doesn't mention Jackie once until Freeze Day, because after the Mewberty incident I believe he started to feel something for Star subconsciously at least. Some new feeling was growing inside of him. He first thought she would leave him because of her

Mewberty incident & in Sleep Spells she was almost taken away by someone who wanted to steal her face. And the latter incident takes place **RIGHT BEFORE THE BLOOD MOON BALL EPISODE**. This is the episode where I think some slight romantic feelings started to appear for Marco. You don't need blushing to imply romantic feelings (I see people say things like "he's not even blushing, there are no feelings!" a lot). Acting jealous after Star practically ditched hanging out with him for Tom, saying she looked amazing in awe, saying her name in a soft tone with lidded eyes during the dance and truly enjoying the dance with her were good signs that he was feeling something more. A bestie with only platonic feelings doesn't act this way. Also remember that the past two incidents were recent and made him think she'd be snatched away from his life, so it makes sense that he was at his most protective in this episode. Now she was about to be snatched away again by a literal demon whom he didn't even know. So he karate chops Tom's hand wanting to protect her. He might have even caught Tom holding her bridal style, which could've also triggered some jealousy as well. After Star said during the balcony argument ***"I don't need a hero. I need a friend."*** Marco must've taken it the wrong way. When he said ***"You're right. I should've trusted you. I'm sorry for ruining your night."*** he might also be thinking about her never liking him romantically & that he's lucky to even be besties with a cool otherworldly princess. Thus burying those feelings that might've started to show up after Mewberty. Let's look at this from Marco's perspective since one of his flaws is insecurity (especially in Season 1 & 2). To him, Star is this amazing magical princess who's confident, funny, pretty, strong, & popular. In Marco's opinion, he's just some insecure & safe dork who knows some karate. He isn't royalty like her, he's just a "boring human with no magic". He feels inferior. The episode before Blood Moon Ball (Sleep Spells) he says something kind of like this when Star asks why the "Saving Each Other" tally is such a big deal to him. Marco says ***"Uhhh... I don't know. I guess you're this magic princess from another dimension, and I'm***

just..." I don't think it's unreasonable to assume that after the Blood Moon Ball balcony argument, that Marco might've felt that Star was way out of his league even compared to Jackie. That there's no way a magical princess could love a plain human like him. To be clear, this is what **MARCO** is thinking. Star thinks he's an awesome/amazing/cute person and she's happy knowing that they'll always have each other's backs (as said in Sleep Spells). Still, it's no coincidence that right after episode 8A (Blood Moon Ball) Marco finally mentions Jackie again in the next episode, 9A (Freeze Day). And Star pushing him to finally stop nodding at Jackie & actually talk to her probably confirms in his head, ***"Yep, she definitely doesn't like me that way. I'm lucky I even have such a cool best friend. May as well put more effort into the girl I've been pining over since Kindergarten."*** Now let's talk about Storm The Castle (The Season 1 Finale) and the Starco argument at the beginning of the episode. Again, let's go back to Marco's perspective during that argument and why Star saying ***"It makes me wonder why we're even friends."*** both hurt him and made him angry enough to lock himself in his room. You see, he probably already convinced himself at this point that Star would never like him romantically, but now she was even starting to question their whole friendship? We know Star didn't mean it and that she was just mad, but that hurts a lot. They did makeup pretty quickly later (especially since Star sacrificed her wand for him) but this perfectly explains why in S2 he was so dense & why he buried his own **SUBCONSCIOUS** feelings for Star until Sophomore Slump (he didn't become **FULLY CONSCIOUS** of his feelings until Lava Lake Beach). The latter connects to the phrase ***"-and I know it's in the way."*** from Here To Help. He buried the feelings because he thought they were ruining his friendship with Star. They were in the way. I'll be bringing this line up again later. But yeah, being dense is the main reason he didn't notice Star's budding feelings for him in Season 2 until the finale (Starcruised). Feelings that I believe started to show up after Marco nearly died in Storm the Castle due to a silly argument over a

sandwich. This is where **SHE** realized how important he is to her, and that she'll give up anything (even her wand or in Season 3's case, her own life) to keep him safe. And you can be sure Marco would do the same for her. Anyways, despite putting more effort into pursuing Jackie during Season 2 (with continuous words of encouragement from Star), he still spends more time with Star and still prioritized her when things got serious. He's ditched Jackie multiple times to check on Star, interrupted his first kiss with Jackie because he felt Star was in danger & even leaving his awesome adventuring life in the Neverzone for her (Running with Scissors). When Song Day happened in Face the Music he was obviously shocked & just as shaken up about it as Star, making both of them avoid each other. He's thinking ***"There's NO WAY Star has feelings for me."*** He's still stuck in the mindset after Blood Moon Ball of not being in her league. When they finally talked on the stairs near the end of Starcrushed, he was still in disbelief over Star being in love with him according to Song Day, asking in a hesitant tone ***"But... but do you have a crush on me?"*** and later when Star actually confessed, he froze up in disbelief and couldn't even form a coherent sentence. It took until Star ran away to realize his worst nightmare was happening. Star was about to disappear from his life and when he finally chased after her up the stairs it was too late. He was absolutely crushed/depressed after she disappeared until reuniting with her in the episode Toffee. What's funny is from the episodes Return to Mewni up until Club Snubbed, Star goes through what Marco did after Blood Moon Ball. Now let's look at things from her point of view. Due to him not addressing her confession immediately as well as being with Jackie, she thinks Marco could never like **HER** romantically now. Just like how Marco thinks the world of Star, she thinks the same of him. To her he's this adorable/handsome/thoughtful guy who always looks out for her, cleans up her messes, always tries to cheer her up, gives her good advice, and most importantly ***accepted her for who she was***, saying things like ***"-you're gonna run Mewni your way, no matter how destructive."*** in

Mr. Candle Cares. He makes her a better person by keeping her grounded and being her support in the same way she makes Marco a better by getting him out of his Safe Kid shell. Just like how Marco felt inadequate compared to her in Season 1 after Blood Moon Ball, she feels inadequate as a person compared to him early in Season 3. Star has her own insecurities after all. Thinking about her being exiled to Earth for being a burden on Mewni, losing the Book of Spells, her magic being a mess, always getting herself into trouble causing Marco to bail her out which puts him in danger, and running from her problems. Why would he ever love a failure like her, right? If only she knew. He did leave Earth to come save her from Butterfly Castle's dungeon after all. He wasn't ever letting her go for long. They're like magnets that always manage to find each other eventually. So we know how things go from here but I'll summarize. After dealing with Toffee, Marco goes back to Earth but is still obsessed with Mewni & Star (wearing his cape given to him by King River ever since) leading to Jackie breaking up with him. He pleads with her saying he can make things work and that she's his best friend but Jackie calls him out, saying ***"We both know that isn't true."*** His subconscious feelings for Star come back after this and he literally drops his entire life on Earth to return to Mewni and her (again, this isn't something someone would do for a silly crush. This is something that a person **IN LOVE** would do) only to find out that Star rebounded with Tom. This strains their friendship but he becomes her squire after they make up (the squire vows are pretty much wedding vows). A few episodes later he becomes fully conscious of his feelings for Star after a painful talk with Tad, plus seeing Star and Tom kiss in Lava Lake Beach. The tables have been turned and now we have Marco in pain from unrequited feelings instead of Star. Instead of Jackie x Marco happening and Marco being dense towards Star's feelings for him, we have Tom x Star happening and Star being dense towards Marco's feelings for her. Then Booth Buddies happens, where Marco vaguely confesses his feelings for Star even though she's still dating

Tom, stating that he didn't deal with her confession the right way. Then he said he feels things are different for him, making Star realize he's confessing his feelings for her. She comforts him since she understands the pain of unrequited love. Then they accidentally kiss in a moment of emotion causing Star's subconscious feelings to return in the S3 Finale. There's already a much deeper analysis on Season 3 by Ngame and Seddm but that's the summary. Then to summarize Season 4, the situation is still the same, but Tom x Star (despite seemingly falling apart) gets prolonged in Lake House Fever due to both Star and Tom being scared of change and not properly addressing what the Booth Buddies kiss meant to Star and Marco. Then in Curse of the Blood Moon, Marco is sick of the feelings for Star getting in the way of supposed "feelings" for his "break up buddy" Kelly, but also once again being in the way of his friendship with Star. This is where that line from Here To Help comes up again ***"-and I know it's in the way."*** leading him to fully confess his feelings to Star in front of Tom and Star confessing to him but blaming it on the Blood Moon after Tom brings it up. Both blame their feelings on it now (even though Marco clearly had feelings before it) leading to them breaking the bonding of their souls and thinking everything is back to normal (placebo effect). Then in The Knight Shift Marco tells Star he's going to return to Earth soon, making her depressed, but at the end of the episode Marco cheers her up by promising to always visit. He also gives her a present basically saying that he'll commit to her for the rest of his life. The events in The Knight Shift leads to Marco reconsidering what he really wants in life, thus breaking things off with Kelly due to it only being a relationship used to comfort his unrequited feelings for Star (makes no sense otherwise) and leads to Star sympathizing with Eclipsa missing her life partner (Globgore) by saying, ***"I know what it's like to miss someone when... when you love them. You do crazy things."*** she hesitates which means she's obviously referring to her love for Marco making her do crazy things in the past like destroying her wand for him, using dark magic to spy on him, dipping down because of him, and

even chasing after/smelling his dirty hoody when he left early in Season 3. After Cornonation, Star herself becomes unsure of what she wants from life now that she's free from being a princess and not knowing where she wants to go with Tom. This leads to her going straight to Earth to visit Marco after an upset Tom decides to go on a trip by himself. Tom returns a couple weeks later to see she's on Earth with Marco and breaks up with her since he isn't dumb and knows she's here because she's naturally drawn to Marco. He mentions he wants to date someone who **HE** can be best friends with, which **ALMOST** removes the placebo effect from Star (she said she understands where Tom is coming from). Then the next day Tom tells Marco that he wouldn't be mad if Marco and Star became more than best friends. Marco tries to deflect this by bringing up the Blood Moon Curse being broken, but once again Tom isn't dumb and knows it was never the stupid curse. This fully snaps Marco out of the placebo effect. Then Marco confesses his love to Star later in the Realm of Magic due to it removing all his mental barriers but he forgets. This fully snaps Star out of her placebo effect since she heard him say it out loud before losing her memory. Star addresses Marco's confession in Here To Help and Marco admits the Blood Moon Curse didn't cause his feelings. He states that he felt something special early on in their friendship and the feelings grew over time. He also admits he thinks they are in the way because the feelings are bad if she doesn't feel the same. Star gets tired of him being down on himself since she still thinks he's awesome and the most important person in her life, asking if they can kiss to shut him up. This confirms that even after Blood Moon Ball, her feelings during and after Season 2 weren't caused by the curse either despite them budding a bit later after the event. And even before that Star felt that same **special bond** between them early on as well thanks to an excerpt from "My Thoughts On Marco" in the Book of Spells. She stated when she and Marco are together he embraces the chaos in the world with her and that she ***"-never connected with another person in that way."*** She wrote this before Blood Moon

Ball happened. So at this point, they finally admit they love each other and that they both want each others' love because it truly makes them happy. That about sums everything up. This long analysis was mainly to convince people who doubted Marco had feelings for Star early in their friendship and to also break down what both he and Star were probably thinking as their relationship grew and changed throughout all 4 seasons. It's been a massively bumpy ride but they both finally admitted that they make each other happy and make each other better people.