MSCT3K

EPISODE 6

PART 1

Hello, everyone, it's supercomputer276! Sure been a hot minute, hasn't it? The "experiment" I promised at the end of Episode 5 was alright in concept, but I ended up falling off it. Wouldn't be the first time.

But I do have another experiment instead!

TONIGHT'S OFFERING:
My Brave Pony: Starfleet Magic Season I
by Dakari-King Mykan
Chapters 0 - 4

Don't run, I know what I'm doing.

I have little comparative experience with specifically Mykan's Starfleet work. I've only read MLU and the (first?) two Starfleet Humans (and I guess also that AU thing where Mykan proved he literally cannot come up with a fourth villain type). Most things about this guy piss me off, including the times he threw insults at me through anonymous reviews on FF.net (while also insulting himself by putting them in the name field, because he also hates himself I guess), so I opted to settle with a life well-lived as the best revenge and leaving him to death-spiral himself. To death.

("So what about Episode Y?" you may be asking. Long story short, it's on indefinite hiatus. I got to about midway through chapter 15 when my *Yu-Gi-Oh!* hyperfixation of the time faded. I've since looked at spoilers about the story, and I have *thoughts* but it seems pretty unlikely I'll pick it back up anytime soon. I have a *lot* of notes in my incomplete end rant for it, both about that fic and Mykan's writing in general; let me know if you're interested in seeing that and I could make it a journal.)

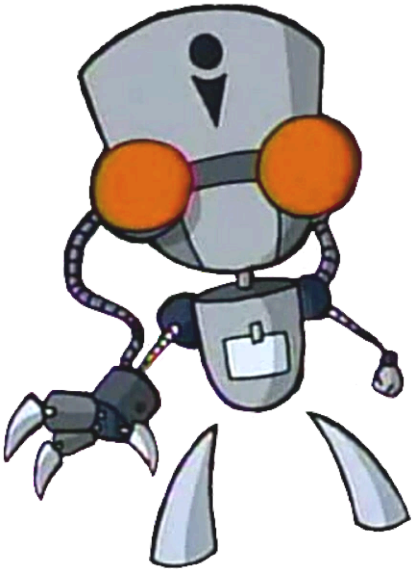
But if the Moron's become such a berserk button for me, why am I riffing another of his fics? Why, to put it simply, *for science*!

Something that's well-known about the first season of Starfleet Magic is that it's a rewrite of Mykan's first MLP hatefic, "My Little Unicorn: Magic is Believing." But "rewrite" is debatable, since anecdotally so much of it reads the same. I saw a Rage Review ages ago, and literally the only thing I remember being different in any meaningful way from the original was all the main characters showing up to announce they're ripoff Power Rangers. As if that was a secret.

But how different is it *really*? How much of Starfleet Magic season 1 is new and unique to this iteration, and how much is recycled spaghetti-thrown-at-the-wall slop?

We're going to find out. That's the experiment.

Gentlemen, behold: C.O.R.N.!



The *C*ompositing *O*veranalytic *R*ecorded *N*arrator!

This robot I made using my tape recorder, two boxes of orange Tic-Tacs, and a robot I stole currently has the first part of the riff of "My Little Unicorn" I participated in in 2017 in its memory. While going through Starfleet Magic with me, it will play back any of my riffs from that doc *verbatim* if the context for that line to stand as a riff of this story exists. The only things that will be different from the original doc are fixing typos and equating changed terms like the original "unicorns" and the new "Space Alicorns" because that is literally just a find-and-replace (which, according to this Memo from the Future, is more than Mykan did updating this). At the end of each part, we'll see what percentage of my old lines it played back, showing just how much of this story is so much the same as the original draft, *I don't even have to come up with new jokes to make fun of it*.

C.O.R.N.: ***You read that title right, boyos. You know EXACTLY what we're getting into.***

So buckle up, everyone! We're going to the one place that hasn't been corrupted by capitalism: *SPACE*!

C.O.R.N.: ***~Mykan style, Mykan grace, Mykan bullshit in your face~***

START!

Prologue: How it all Began

Author's Note:

Let's get a couple things straight

1: This ISN'T Magic is believing

SC276: Well that's what we're here to determine, now aren't we?

(I have told people numerous times to get off that kick. That story has since been re-written and revised into THIS, but if you refuse to understand and accept that (and prefer to continue mocking and being rude) that's not my problem, it's yours

SC276: The way you keep bitching about it, it certainly doesn't seem that way.

2: Yeah, I know, it's gonna get mostly down-voted deliberately by mockers, haters, and flamers who prefer to be rude and conceited (Just down-vote it like that BECAUSE I MADE IT, without even looking at it and saying it automatically sucks)

SC276: Gee, it's almost like if you've seen one Mykan fic, you've seen like a third of them.

…Well, doesn't stop me form post it,

SC276: I don't know why you'd want to shapeshift into a pile of Post-it notes, but you do you.

or at least a FEW people liking it.

SC276: Like your fangirl.

3: This is MY fanfic, and MY world, so when you read under MY roof, you read things by MY rules and MY preferences.

SC276: *Wow*, you are a terrible host. Good thing that this is *my* roof then, and I got the fic with a web script I wrote to format it better for riffing, so I basically took a copy of your manuscript home to read at *my* pace. Not that you'd care, given how you vandalized my E-QUEST riff and I still have the photos of the damage you did to prove it.

PROLOGUE/INTRO

the story began to be told as pictures on a very large and old tapestry went by, depicting how it all happened…

SC276: Do you like six-year-old blog posts? I like six-year-old blog posts.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myQE-3sI_UI

Far off in the distant reaches of the dimensional universe,

SC276: Which looks roughly like this:



is the magical world of Unicornicopia, home to a race of genetically altered humanoid-shaped ponies known as the Space Alicorns.

> **SC276: By the people who look at the sky for a living that don't notice a lot of shit. *ding!***

All were under the watchful eye of their leader-- The Tri Horned Alicorn,

> **C.O.R.N.:** `"-who doesn't have an actual name yet because I can't be bothered to think of one."`

who unlike most unicorns had three horns instead of one. All of which were gold colored,

> **C.O.R.N.:** `Someone's overcompensating…`

but even he himself did not know the reasons of this astonishing phenomenon that was he.

> **SC276: Makes you wonder how this ill-described tapestry knows this then. Was this thing woven by the Fates? Is this a crossover with *The* fucking *Catch* now?**

Still, he kept a very watchful eye over his subjects.

Some of the alicorns lived in peace while others would train to become powerful warriors and join their Grand Ruler in his never-ending struggle against the forces of evil-- To become members of ***"Starfleet Magic!"***

> **SC276: "The second word was added after they were sued by Gene Roddenberry."**

Trained well, and skilled with powerful weapons and magic-- Thanks to Starfleet and its warriors, the worlds had been protected from many evil forces…

> **SC276: Even the ones that hadn't fucking asked.**

However, there was one evil force that seemed almost too powerful for even Starfleet to handle-- A powerful hooded sorcerer who sought to destroy all that was good and decent, and rule the Dimensional Universe with hatred and chaos beyond imagination.

SC276: *So.* If this sorcerer wants something *beyond* imagination, would that not make it… *opposed* to imagination?
C.O.R.N.: `So, the Shadow Line from *Ressha Sentai ToQger*, but less interesting.`
SC276: *Yep, it can also respond to lines if I can MAKE the context.* And it's valid because the original lines are from a collab riff! (slaps knee, double finger guns) "Overanalyical" for the win!

The sorcerer eventually attacked Unicornicopia.

C.O.R.N.: `I can't fucking believe Titan is the most relatable character in this fic.`

Starfleet tried to stave him off but proved to be nearly no match against such terrifying magic.

SC276: They ran away from a shadow of what they thought was a giant rabbit.

Fearing for the safety of his people and the Dimensional Universe, The Grand Ruler fought against the sorcerer

C.O.R.N.: `How considerate of you to wait until the *last minute* to help your subjects when their *lives* are being threatened.`

and with the power of his golden horns, unleashed the mysterious magic of ***the uniforce***

C.O.R.N.: `Especially when it's just been established you could literally win this at any time.`

and was able to render the sorcerer weak, but was not strong enough to effectively destroy him.

SC276: As opposed to actually destroying him.

So using the last of his available strength, The Grand Ruler sealed the sorcerer away on a distant dark planet,

SC276: I guess there weren't any black holes available.

so that he might never again recover his power and threaten the worlds with his evil.

SC276: …Now I'm kinda wishing I played *Honkai Star Rail*. I would have *so* much material to advance this gag.

For one-thousand years, the threat was long forgotten and only remained in the memories of the past,

SC276: And also this ripoff *Zelda* opening.

but The Grand Ruler struggle against evil continued and Starfleet always would remain on guard for any new or recurring threats to ever rise

SC276: Like the protests about how an unelected billionaire seizing the government's financial data is bad.

This story was passed down for centuries as detailed on the tapestry.

SC276: Yes, the one that, as we will see shortly, is not publicly displayed.



SC276: Behold, the *real* reason Mykan joined FIMFic!

Lightning Dawn was a white humanoid alicorn with a short brown mane and a golden horn, but as he was genetically altered, more than eighty percent of his body was human-shaped.

SC276: "Genetically altered?" So, what, he's a SHOCKER combatant?

He stood up straight, and had shoulders, arms, elbows, hands, knees, feet, toes.

SC276: What, he didn't have them before he stood up?

He wore a white armor vest with a code ***"AO0C"*** printed on it just below the planet's insignia.

C.O.R.N.: `(makes a weird mouth motion)`

He also wore a pair of white pants and black boots.

SC276: [the author] "Y'know, in case you're too blind to see big pictures, but not so blind that you can't read small text."

He was just standing in his room of the royal palace,

SC276: -menacingly.

gazing up at the tapestry that told the story of the Grand Ruler's battle with the sorcerer, a-thousand years ago.

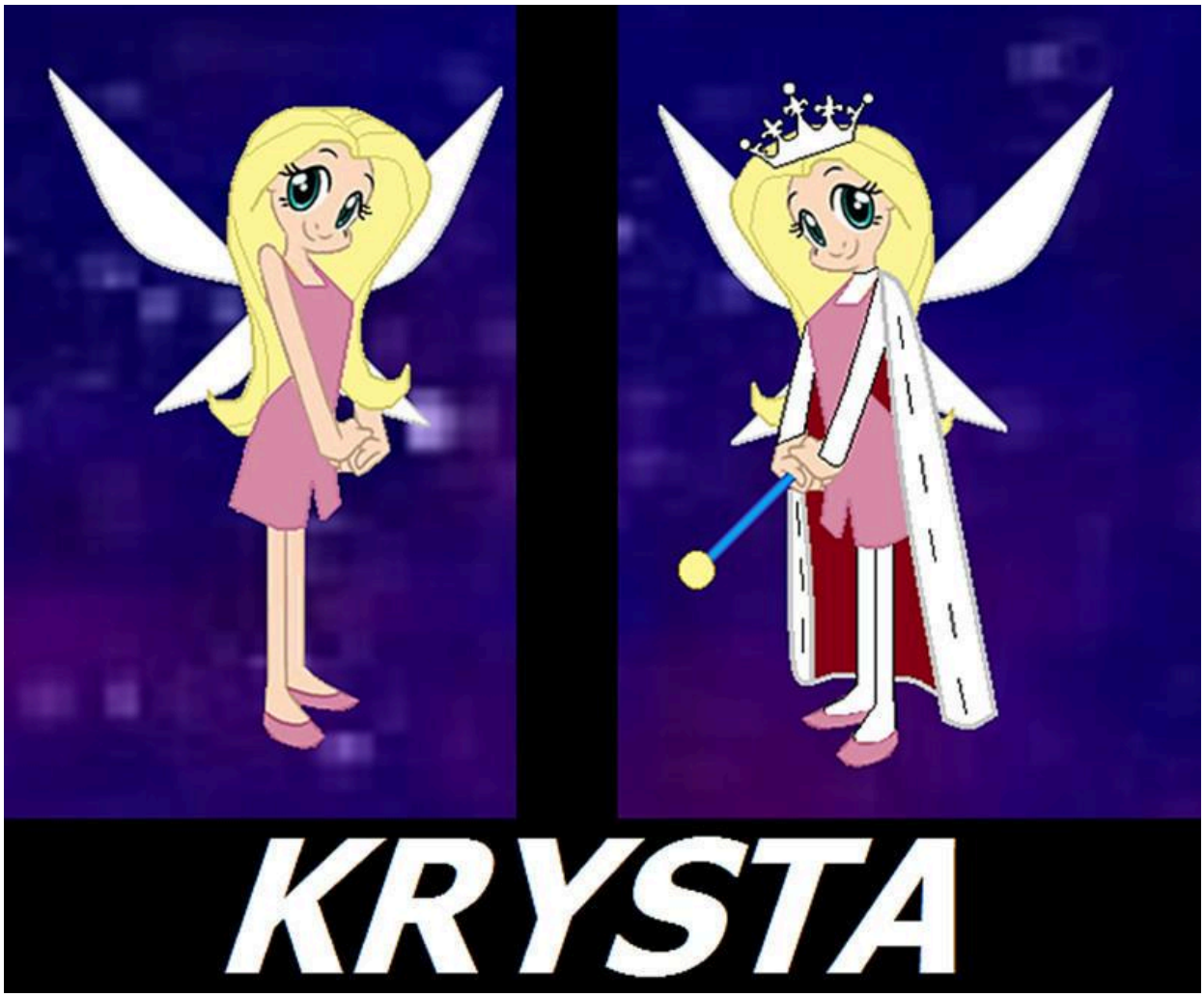
SC276: You keep the tapestry presumably containing the only known copy of this world's history in your *bedroom*? I thought this was a nation of alicorns, not the *British Empire*.

It was one of his most favorite stories to hear and tell himself over and over as it really fascinated him.

SC276: Because he can't read and that's the only story he's memorized.

"Lightning...?" someone said to him. "Are you still staring at that tapestry?"

SC276: [???] "It's been five hours, did you have a stroke?"



SC276: [the author] "This story is not the original draft. Here's spoilers for over halfway through the original draft."

Lightning turned and saw his best friend and lifelong companion; a small little fairy, about nine inches tall. She had long blond hair, and she wore a pink simple pink skirt and blouse, completed with cute slippers on her tiny feet.

C.O.R.N.: **When I first read the original riff, I saw this character as the lead fairy from *Ferngully*. That is not going to change.**
SC276: Either that or Navi. Come to think of it, what's that character named again…? (Googles)





…I don't know what I expected.

"I can't help it, Krysta." said Lightning "Besides, it helps keep me calm.

SC276: You calm down by staring at a picture? Mykan, you know the pictures on televisions *move*, right?

Remember, today's the day we start our new lives on the surface. We've both been living here in the palace for a very long time, and we've only seen SOME of the world below."

Krysta nodded and was eager to go, but she herself was still confused by many things, "I just don't get it; you've been training for over ten years and you still can't do normal magic."

SC276: Sounds like you forgot to take magic training. Invest your skill points better on your next character.

It was true;

C.O.R.N.: **Yeah, right. I wouldn't put this guy being as bad a liar as… whoever LTD's lead was again, last week hurt my brain.**

though he was indeed an alicorn pony,

SC276: *I thought he was a "Space Alicorn."*

unlike alicorn ponies, Lightning could not do magic. He could neither levitate things, transfigure objects, use telepathy, or teleport... or pretty much anything a normal alicorn could do.

SC276: Yeah, I kinda figured that from the sentence before it.

"Krysta, you know perfectly well why I can't use magic... and I'd really rather not talk about it." He sounded rather sad and downhearted, as if he were struggling with a deep emotional pain.

SC276: But *is* he sad and downhearted, or does he just *sound* like it, like how a corpse-eating bird in *Made in Abyss* just sounds like a person crying for help?

"I'm sorry..." Krysta said "I didn't mean..."

"It's okay..." Lightning said "Besides, sometimes I wonder why Grand Ruler took Me as his personal apprentice above all the others,

C.O.R.N.: **Well gee, the guy with the super-powerful magic that sealed evil away had golden horns, you have a golden horn… Some things never change, don't they.**

SC276: Sure, the narrative hasn't mentioned the golden horn yet for some reason... *Good thing there's pictures now!*

...

...Wait, why did he capitalize his pronoun as if he was referring to himself as God?

but at least he gave us both a home for a long time."

So for many years Lightning lived with his master in the royal palace, which floated in the skies high above the surface of Unicornicopia,

SC276: Where the peasants can't bother him.

and he learned and was taught how to do things without the use of magic.

SC276: ...Y... You mean with his *hands*?

He was especially trained in the art of combat and was exercised immensely in physical training.

SC276: We'll see how the rock monster chapter mark II agrees with *that* statement.

Now Grand Ruler felt that Lightning was old enough and mature, and was sending him to live on surface below; to meet new creatures; make friends and most of all, to finally make a new life for himself after all that had happened.

SC276: Read: Lightning's turned 18, and Grand Ruler is telling him to get out of his house and get a fucking job.

However, but he was to continue his studies and his training.

SC276: [Grand Ruler] "I'm the leader of Starfleet, you know this, and you are my apprentice. I am not enrolling you into Starfleet as a rookie immediately because the season of *Power Rangers* the author is ripping off had a rookie red ranger."

He had complete and total faith in his student and knew he would do well.

SC276: Which is why he set him off by kicking him off the edge.

Lightning took one last look at his bedroom in the palace, knowing he wouldn't see it again for some time.

SC276: Grand Ruler's going to throw his stuff off the other edge after he leaves. Including the room itself. Don't ask.

"Well… I guess we better get going."

Krysta nodded and they both flew off together, ready to start their new lives.

MY BRAVE PONY
(Starfleet Magic)

(Opening Intro would be something like this)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XD-9NZsYCQw

SC276: Author, originality is *hiding* your sources.

Episode 1: Evil's Return: Part 1

> **C.O.R.N.:** **Mykan, we know you're here. You don't need to tell us. We figured it out ourselves.**

EPISODE ONE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09BzvCKT-f0&feature=emb_logo

There were many different countries, cities, and other places on the planet of Unicornicopia;

> **SC276: Like (points in a nonspecific direction) that place.**

and the world's main populace consisted entirely of alicorns, genetically altered giving them human-like bodies;

> **SC276: So... an entire world run by SHOCKER?**

Space Alicorns. There wer eno Earth Ponies, no Pegasi, not even regular Unicorns... Just alicorns

> **SC276: (digs through his collection of light novels, pulls one out and flips through it) ...Ah, here: "By the way, from a human's perspective, all dwarf women were lolis." ...Don't ask why I have this volume.**

Each and every one of the alicorns had their own specific ID-Code printed on their clothing near the insignia like Lightning had; sort of like having a citizen number or a alternate name to make you identifiable.

> **SC276: So, do they have to get this code printed on every bit of torso-wear they own, or does everyone have only one shirt?**

The alicorns themselves usually went on with their daily normal lives-- Children went to school, and played with friends, while the adults had jobs and things to do.

> **SC276: [the author] "I don't know what adults do because I refuse to be one."**

Some ponies wore outfits like Lightning did, but others wore casual clothing; all a matter of choice.

> **SC276: why did you feel the need to point that out**
>
> **Also, since everyone has to have their shirts customized to them in order to get their database key embroidered on it, getting a new one would be an entire red-taped affair that would probably discourage most people from ever getting new shirts at all. If people can't meaningfully *act* on their choice, it's not really a choice.**

Some even wore an armor vest under their casual clothes.

> **SC276: why would they feel the need to wear concealed armor**

The planet itself was also a tightly control police state,

SC276: *Boy, did I pick the wrong fucking year to riff this.*

but a benevolent one and not tyrannical.

SC276: According to the propaganda machine.

The streets were always kept clean. Petty or harsh crimes would not be tolerated and subjected to small sentences-- a week of community service, or a night in small prisons, things like that.

C.O.R.N.: `...Well I know what comparison came into my head.`
SC276: Public littering? Prison. Jaywalk? Prison. Not saluting the image of Grand Ruler? Prison. Keep in mind, *jails* are short-term incarceration facilities; prisons are long-term. *When Topher had Grand Ruler sending everyone to gulag, that was a FUCKING JOKE.*

Then there were VERY serious crimes that usually were handled by trial,

SC276: "Greg Sargent, you and your men stand accused of... parking in a restricted area?" The Inquisitor paused and flipped to the next page, "Failing to vacate in a timely manner?" he flipped farther, "Loading or Unloading a Vehicle in a No-Loading Zone? Really?"

but that was hardly the point.
Still, it wasn't a bad place to live at all.

SC276: Yeah, for the chosen citizens of the clearly superior species.

Many places to go, much to do, low taxes, and highly advanced forms of technology to help make life easier, and the environment was always kept a nice 75 degress,

SC276: This fic is cause for "degress."

not to hot, not too cold. so it was practically like Springtime all yearlong.

SC276: [the author] "Fuck weather. Have the weather version of astroturfing."

Lightning was settling into his new house in White Village-- a quiet, soft suburban area, with white houses and simple roofs, but just because it was called "White Village" did not at all mean that only white ponies lived there. All the countries and villages of sorts were named after colors,

C.O.R.N.: `Because [SPACE ALICORN]s have no creativity whatsoever.`

but many different alicorns of many different colors and sizes. There were no restrictions of where they could chose to live.

SC276: ...OK, so I'm just going to fucking say it. Mykan tried to create an alternate world to stand above MLP, and the end result is a *fascist ethnostate gestapoing the*

***universe*. (double facepalm, doubles over onto desk, groans loudly) Jesus fucking Christ on a pogo stick, this man did not think through the implications of his fucking worldbuilding in the *slightest*.**

Lightning just finished unpacking his things, with Krysta's help. Even though Krysta was small, about seven inches tall, she was able to lift up to 3000 times her own weight. Since she weighed 4 whole ounces, she was able to lift upwards of 750 pounds!

SC276: Which is twenty times more than Lightning can pick up.

Lightning's house was built on the Grand Ruler's orders to have a special, smaller house built for Krysta, like a mouse-hole near Lightning's bed. Just perfect for one her size.

SC276: The ethnostate comparison doesn't exactly get disproved by having the one person in this story that's not a Space Alicorn so far be *living in the walls like vermin*.

"Well, that's all of it." Lightning said, but as tired as he felt this was no time for them to rest, as he remembered his instructions from the Grand Ruler before they left the palace…

SC276: And couldn't be shown there, because the author thinks he can trip up C.O.R.N. by putting things out of order. Like with most things, the author is wrong.

"The time has come for you to socialize with others who are more like you. Once you settle into your new home, I want you to venture out and meet some of the populace. They have all been notified of your arrival

C.O.R.N.: `[Grand Ruler] "I have pre-selected your friends because I have no faith in your social skills."`

and are anxious to meet you. It will help you get off a fine beginning.
Good luck my student."

SC276: [Grand Ruler] "You're gonna need it."

So, Lightning and Krysta were off. Krysta couldn't fly as fast as Lightning so she simply sat on his head and held onto his golden horn.

SC276: As per her slave status as a lesser species in glorious Unicornicopia, one of her frequent duties was rubbing his horn.

Soon, they arrived at their destination. The central town at the very center of the kingdom was Rainbow City Central, the biggest and busiest city in the entire dimension.

SC276: *I thought this was a planet.*

Tall buildings, and business places were all around, and many, many unicorns were all going about their business, going to work and walking their children to school.

SC276: Just that? Don't these people have any hobbies?

Krysta and Lightning couldn't stop admiring the view, but they didn't know where to stop first to talk to anyone or what to do for that matter. As they walked through a quiet area of the city, where there wasn't as much noise,

SC276: Neku had cleared out most of them already.

they suddenly spotted a large garden with all kinds of plants, vegetables, and beautiful flowers. "Wow!" exclaimed Lightning as he gazed at the lovely flowers. "Double wow!" added Krysta as she fluttered around sniffing the many sensational smells.

C.O.R.N.: **And all the petunia's putrid pusses of prepared… parliment.**
SC276: "Triple wow!" barfed the riffer as he dealt with the repetitive sentence structure.

"Mmm…! Smells like… like…" But then her little nose began to twitch, "Ah… Ah…!"

C.O.R.N.: ***~Want your bad romance~***

"Krysta…?" cried Lightning "Krysta, No!" but Krysta had already sneezed "AH-CHOO…!" and even though she was just a little fairy, that single sneeze caused the flower she sniffed to keel over and lose all its petals.

C.O.R.N.: ***TIMBERRRRRR!***

"Oh! Oh my!" cried Krysta.

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "How the fuck did *that* happen?!"**



That's when a red alicorn came dashing over. "Oh, no…! Not again?" he groaned as he gently began to scoop the fallen flower into a pot.

C.O.R.N.: **Yeah sure, it's only lost its petals, separate it from its *home soil*.**

Krysta apologized but the red unicorn said it wasn't her fault. "They're called *Keelilies,* they have a tendancey to keel over whenever anyone sneezes near them.

C.O.R.N.: **[Buddy Rose] "They're assholes like that."**

Not to worry, I can fix it. There's no finer gardener than me on this planet."
Lightning was amazed. "You mean, you grew all this?" he asked.
The other alicorn nodded, "My name's Buddy Rose; ***Code-Number: FT5H.***

C.O.R.N.: **That smells FT5Hy.**

I'm the caretaker of the community garden. I can handle any flower, tree, weed-- anything that grows."

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "I'm growing. Could you handle me?"**
[Buddy Rose] "...are you trying to *flirt*, or…?"

and sure enough, in no time at all, the flower Krysta had ruined was standing upright again, and Buddy didn't seem to use any form of magic but rather ordinary gardening.

SC276: And so Lightning is impressed by, of all things, learning flower sticks exist.

C.O.R.N.: **I know Mykan's just trying to discredit magic, but all this accomplishes is proving he doesn't know how gardening works. ...Or how Earth Pony magic works, but mostly gardening.**
SC276: Not to mention that these flowers are now *meant* to keel over when sneezed on, and given how natural selection works, they wouldn't become plentiful enough to get their species named if this threatened their lives. Granted, Mykan is pretty solid evidence natural selection is a *myth*...

"Huh!" remarked Lightning. "That's amazing. Oh, by the way… I'm…"
"Lightning Dawn…? I know..." said Buddy "His majesty, the Grand Ruler, told everyone to expect you."

C.O.R.N.: **[Buddy Rose] "That way no one has to listen to your serial code a hundred fucking times."**

"He did?" Lightning asked,

SC276: Guy forgot his own mentor's instructions already, and he hasn't even been out on his own for a fucking *hour*.

and Buddy Rose explained that his majesty wanted to ensure Lightning's first day be a pleasant one. So he notified others to expect him, but not to treat him strangely.

SC276: Interesting that he felt the need to *make* everyone not tease him.

"We were all strangers ourselves once, and we know what it feels like to come to someplace new."

SC276: (X) Doubt

Suddenly, Buddy remembered an errand he had quite forgotten to do, but he still had far too many planets to look after desperately.

SC276: He's in charge of the agricultural department of Starfleet. His job is to terraform all planets until they're like Unicornicopia.

"Oh I'm sorry to impose, but could you do me a really big favor?"

C.O.R.N.: **[Buddy Rose] "And by 'really big favor,' I mean you need to pay me back for all the produce you killed."**

"Um... sure... I guess." said Lightning, and he was given a medium-sized crate of vegetables.
"Could you take these to the Rainbow Dish Inn, when you go through town, please?"

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "What do I look like, Red Riding Hood?"**
[Buddy Rose] "You look like an entitled asshat with no common sense."
[Lightning Dawn] "...So, I *do*."

"Uh... sure... I'll do that."
Buddy smiled "Thank you so much, and it was nice meeting you." then he went off to tend to his other plants.
"Well… that went well." joked Krysta.

SC276: Mykan seems to have moved away from using ellipses to mark section breaks and instead has a bunch of spare enters. Of course he gravitated towards the lazier choice.

Lightning had to carry that crate all over and got a lost a few times. Even though his great strength from his training allowed him to lift it up with ease, lugging it around for a while did lead to weariness.

SC276: Buddy, I run non-conveyable boxes to pallets at work all the time. Have you ever had to carry full boxes of copy paper? No sympathy for you.
C.O.R.N.: `Too bad he doesn't have telekinesis magic so he can carry heavy things without having to strain himself.`

"I should've asked for directions first." he groaned. Though he had studied maps of Unicornicopia and all of it's sights and locations,

SC276: Read: he stared at a globe for an hour.

he had only seen so much on field-trips with his mentor, and therefore he didn't really know his way that well around.

SC276: Dude, you're still in the same city.

"Why don't you sit and rest?" Krysta suggested. "Good idea!" Lightning panted and slumped down on a bench by a fountain, almost dropping the basket.

SC276: *I thought it was a crate.*

"Oh! My arms are so tired..!" It was times like this Lightning hated the fact he couldn't do magic as it meant he couldn't simply levitate the basket to carry it more easily, but then again that would be an insult to why he had arms and hands at all.

SC276: Because Mykan can't make one story without ripping off anime?



"Excuse me…?" someone said. The voice belonged to an orange alicorn,

C.O.R.N.: **`Let me guess: the [SPACE ALICORN] after this is going to be yellow?`**

wearing a red artist's hat, just up ahead who was painting on a canvas. "…You kind of walked into the way of the scenery."

C.O.R.N.: **`[Artie] "Asshole."`**

"Ugh!" groaned Lightning, but then the other pony caught the sight of Krysta. "Is that a…fairy…?" His eyes lit up like the sun. "Hold still, please!" he said with excitement. Krysta felt confused, but did as she was told,

SC276: Being of the lower caste, this was natural for her.

and in almost no time the artist showed her and Lightning his painting.

C.O.R.N.: **`[Artie] "Careful, it's still wet-"`**
`[Lightning Dawn] "`*`TOUCH.`*`"`

"I shall call it Fairy in the Park."

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "No, <u>Pearlie</u>'s my second cousin."**

Krysta thought it was incredible. It looked so real almost as if she was staring into a mirror. Lightning thought the same thing. "Who are you anyway?" he then asked.
The alicorn introduced himself as Artie Bristles; ***Code-number: HV7J***.

C.O.R.N.: **Strain 7J of HIV? I'm sorry.**

He was a fine artist who loved to paint, draw, and sculpt; some even said he could turn anything at all into a work of art, even garbage.

SC276: Ah, so he made that goat thing that Crazy hates!

"You should come to my art gallery sometime, both of you."

C.O.R.N.: **[Artie] "The fairy can come in, but the jerk will get arrested at the gate. So yeah, both of you."**

Krysta's eyes lit up, "We'd love to." She said.

SC276: Lady, you didn't in the first draft, you're not going to this time.

"Yes… but we have an errand to." Lightning quickly said as he scooped Krysta in his right wing "Let's go, Krysta!" and he ran off with the basket of vegetables,

C.O.R.N.: **Which are now light enough to not encumber him because the bench had been eating the veggies.**

much to Artie's confusion, but he couldn't wait to tell all his viewers that he had just seen and painted a real-live fairy.

C.O.R.N.: **He runs a weekly video podcast.**
SC276: He couldn't wait to tell them all he had proof of *spasms wildly* *FAIRY GODPARENTS!!* *collapses panting* Jesus Christ, how did Topher *do* it…?!

Krysta thought that was rude of Lightning. But Lightning thought Artie was a little too eccentric, especially how the way he acted as if he had never seen a fairy before,

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "Because he doesn't have my exact worldview, I'm allowed to be as rude to him as I want!"**

but that was pretty much the case as Krysta was the only fairy on the entire planet, but that wasn't important now.

C.O.R.N.: ***FORESHADOWING!***

As they turned round the next corner…CRASH!! The vegetables were everywhere. Lightning felt the whole world spinning. "What hit me?" he groaned.

C.O.R.N.: `The collective fury of everyone with a brain that's read this story.`



SC276: Gold-yellow on yellow? Man, not only is his speech repellant, so's his looks! This pic would burn a phosphor CRT in like five seconds!

He got up and saw a yellow alicorn that didn't see them as he turned the corner and ran right into them.

C.O.R.N.: `Called it! Next one's gonna be green.`

He apologized to Lightning and Krysta… in rhyme.
"I'm very sorry to have run into you.
That was a very silly thing to do."

C.O.R.N.: `OH MY GOD, RHYMEY, SHUT THE FUCK UP`

Lightning apologized too, as he should have watched where he was going.

C.O.R.N.: **Yeah sure, apologize to him and not the artist. I've seen your biases.**

He then offered to help them both pick up the vegetables and put them back in the basket.
"I'll help you as part of my task."
Say! Are you Lightning Dawn, may I ask?"

C.O.R.N.: **Thank you, original riffers, for making the descent into insanity that is firsthand realizing Rhyme-boy's gimmick for us. (leaves out a cake for anyone that was in the original riff)**
SC276: (watches as the cardboard cutout of the cake falls over) ...I wanted cake...

"Uh… yes… I am…." answered Lightning "And this is my friend Krysta."
"Hi..."

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "I've known you for all of ten seconds and I already want to die in my sleep."**

The other pony bowed in greeting
"My name is ***X-L-7-Zed.***
But everyone just calls me Rhymey.

SC276: …I'm not gonna say anything. (points at the last two lines) You just need to *look* at that and have two brain cells to rub together to figure out what's wrong.
C.O.R.N.: **So called because he's an XL blowhard that gives people ZZZZZZZ's in seven seconds.**

I'm very pleased to meet you two,
I love when I meet someone new."

SC276: [Rhymey] "Those who've yet to flee for the border / or procure a restraining order."

Lightning and Krysta could hardly believe the way he was talking so perfectly in rhyme.

SC276: Including the one time he *very much did not rhyme like literally just now*.

"Um… do you always talk that way,
and rhyme no matter what you say?" asked Lightning,

SC276: *Shut the fuck up, Lightning.*

only to quickly realize he had rhymed juts liked them. "I mean… rhyme all the time?" he did it again.

SC276: Mykan's incompetency continues to juts out.

Rhymey chuckled and said…
"I love to make rhymes, you see…
And I love to sing and hear poetry

SC276: …But not *write* it?

My whole family speaks this way
It's our passion to rhyme what we say

SC276: Do you have two sisters named Mingy and Blobbelda? **Grunty's too good for this chump…**

My café, "Rhyme Time" is where I usually stay
But I had few errands to run today."

SC276: …So you're not *actually* a poet in this iteration.
C.O.R.N.: **`In my early college years, I wrote a whole lengthy poem about living stuffed animals entirely in limericks. Fuck you.`**
SC276: I had this whole bit planned where I'd throw a couple limericks in Rhyme-boy's face, but now it'd just be a waste. And oh yeah, since people asked last time, here you go.

Krysta and Lighting never knew anyone who spoke in rhyme before, but it seemed okay to them. It was just his special way of talking and there was nothing wrong with it a bit. They thought it was sort of neat.

SC276: According to the hastily-scrawled note by the author.

"I hope that again we may chat.
But I'm busy now, and I must scat."

C.O.R.N.: ***EWWWW!***

Then he flew off

SC276: If he needed to fly to get where he was going, why was he on the ground earlier?

leaving a much confused but amazed Krysta and Lightning. "Wow! He's pretty good with rhymes." said Krysta.

C.O.R.N.: **`Thank you, Commodore Krysta Obvious.`**
SC276: …I think I need to adjust its taste settings… (bops its head a few times)

"I wonder what he'll say the next time." added Lightning. Then he and Krysta realized they both just made a rhyme, again, and they were both felt Rhymey's speech pattern was starting to affect them.

SC276: *THE CONTAGNATION IS SPREADING!* (pulls out a flamethrower and sets everything around on fire) ……Wait, I'm not Topher.

Nevertheless, they carried on with their errand.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5mfEge5JaI&feature=emb_logo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8HzDWwBelA

SC276: …These are commercial bumpers. This man really cannot see fiction beyond the screen.

and soon they found the place they were looking for, a restaurant with a sign with a picture of a blue alicorn wearing a chef's outfit that read ***"Cookie Dough's Rainbow Dish Inn."***

C.O.R.N.: **`It used to be called something else, but then Rainbow Dash sued for defamation of character.`**

Lightning felt so relieved and couldn't wait to get rid of the basket of vegetables he had been holding for a while, especially

SC276: "-after it stopped being a crate."

combined with all the movie he had done that day.

SC276: He applied to be an extra in the movie adaption of *Handbook for Mortals*.

Since the Space Alicorns had human-like bodies this meant they required more proper sustenance unlike normal ponies. They had to eat meats and fish, as well as grains, fruits, vegetables, dairy, and all the rest of it to.

SC276: According to Buckeye Nutrition, horses (including ponies) eat roughly 2% of their body weight per day. Weights of a pony can vary, but PetMD puts the average at 722 pounds, which means they'd eat about 14.44 pounds daily. Humans, meanwhile, eat about three to four pounds a day. But maybe he's talking about a really light pony. Apparently Shetlands can get down to 298 pounds and still be healthy, so those would only have to eat… just short of 6 pounds.
And this is, of course, also ignoring that MLP ponies, which is the only *real* metric Mykan is using, are omnivorous and can eat chocolate, so reality barely applies to them anyway. The main takeaway is that Mykan decided his super-special-awesome race has exactly the same dietary needs as humans, because he's boring.

The restaurant was very busy. Alicorns were everywhere; some who looked as if they had already eaten were ordering seconds or just stuffing their faces with more food like an obsession.

SC276: Is this place being run by Queen B?

"They must've been really been hungry." said Krysta.

C.O.R.N.: **`They're actually being held at invisible gunpoint by the invisible staff.`**

Then, as she sniffed the air, she could tell why. The smell of so many wonderful foods… "Oh! Oh my…! It smells so good."
"Krysta, this is no time to be thinking about food." snapped Lightning,

SC276: Well unless *you've* been the one lightening your load, it's not like you've eaten onscreen.

but then his stomach growled. He had quite forgotten that he hadn't eaten lunch what with all the moving and distractions he had been having. "On the other hand…" he said.

C.O.R.N.: `[Lightning Dawn] "Why does it smell like swamp scum?"`

Just then, the big doors to the kitchen opened and several waiters and waitresses came out holding tureens and trays of delicious hot foods,

SC276: "Tureen" popped up in the original, but I still refuse to believe Mykan knows what it means.

fresh tossed salads, fruits and pastries, meats and then… all the customers rose out of their seats and applauded as the head chef came out.

C.O.R.N.: `Usually the floor show is done by people that know how to entertain. Which, given it's this author, makes sense that the owner had to do both.`



SC276: From here, the images actually get big enough I had to scale them down. I assume it has something to do with how they all start blatantly cribbing from official art from here.

It was that same blue alicorn from the sign on the restaurant.

C.O.R.N.: ***Skipping green is cheating!***

He wore a white chef's hat, apron, and his code-number was ***BP1D,***

C.O.R.N.: **He's with the Bacon Police, first dimensional.**

yet everyone cheered *"Hail Cookie Dough! Hail Cookie Dough!"*

C.O.R.N.: ***~So we Heil! Heil! Right in der Fuhrer's face~***
SC276: ***Not beating the fascist ethnostate allegations there.***

Cookie Dough graciously reciprocated the applause and cheers from the customers. "Honored guests… Your admiration of my humble fare is most appreciated. It fills my heart with joy to fill your stomachs with delight. Eat hearty, everyone!"

C.O.R.N.: **[customer] "But that would require us to go to a different resta- (is gunned down)"**

The customers all cheered and continued to feast, but Lightning followed Cookie Dough into the kitchen. "Um… excuse me?" he asked. Cookie Dough turned round,

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "What…? Did you not see the Employees Only sign?"**
SC276: Square Alicorns that Look Round

"Oh! You must be the new delivery boy,

C.O.R.N.: **What is this, the *Pokémon* universe?**

just set those vegetables down over there in the corner."

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "I know there's proper places for those to go beside the corner, but I wouldn't trust you to make me a sandwich."**

Lightning did as he was told but then said, "Actually, I'm Lightning Dawn."
Cookie Dough turned round again in near shock. "Uh…you mean The Lightning Dawn, the Grand Ruler's personal apprentice?"
Lightning blinked once "Yes…"

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "(arms assault rifle) Your reputation precedes you."**

and then his stomach gurgled again. Cookie Dough hated the sound of stomachs growling in hunger. "Oh my, I won't have this, not in my restaurant." he said

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "Not even the ruler's apprentice can survive a point-blank assault, especially from the Duchess SMG, the finest Royalist repeater this side of the Core. You will *eat*."**

[Lightning Dawn] "Where'd you even get that?!"

[Cookie Monster] "That's the thing about protecting all [PLANET]s - they're easier to loot."

SC276: OK, admittedly, switching "dimension" out for "planet" overall makes this make a little less sense... but *Steamworld Heist* ALSO takes place in outer space, so it could arguably fit *better*.

and before Lightning knew it, Cookie Dough had given him and Krysta a special table right there in the kitchen

SC276: If by "in the kitchen," you mean "out in the alley next to the two dogs sitting at a barrel half with a tablecloth over it."

and the two watched him skillfully mix, mash, slice, and chop up all the foods he would use to cook with into a perfect meal for them both. It was almost hypnotic to watch.

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "And if the mind-control doesn't work, coercion by gunpoint will!"**

Lightning was served with a well grilled, juicy rare steak a lovely baked potato, with a small pile of peas and carrots on the side, and Krysta had the same kind of meal, only since she was smaller, her food was smaller.

SC276: For a mob boss, Cookie Monster is amazingly considerate towards the slave caste.

"So, you're a cook, obviously?" asked Krysta.

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "(to Lightning) Your friend's about as dumb as you are."**

Cookie Dough shook his head and explained "To me, a cook is just isn't strong enough. I happen to be, if you will, an award wining master chef. You see, a cook feeds the stomach, while a chef nourishes the soul and educates the taste buds,

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "I don't think it counts if that 'education' is administered by gunfire."**

SC276: Also, as pointed out by - of all people - SuperAquaLuigi before, a cook is someone who cooks for a living, while a chef is in charge of the cooks. Which means of course Mykan hasn't seen *Hell's Kitchen*.

but try the food, you'll love it."

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "You know the consequences if you don't."**

Not wanting to be rude, Lightning and Krysta took a little nibble from their steaks, and their taste buds went crazy.

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "Oh good, you got the mind-control bit first. That makes this a lot easier."**

It tasted so incredibly wonderful; they just had to keep eating until not a morsel was left on their plates,

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "Why are we still eating these weights covered in vegetables?!"**

and by the time they were both finished they felt as if they could hardly move.

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "OK, boys, while they're weighed down: empty their pockets!"**

(rustle rustle rustle)

[waiter] "He's only got two paperclips and a rusty hacksaw on him."

[Cookie Monster] "What the fuck?! His robbery victim potential is worse than his attitude!"

It was no surprise that was what Cookie Dough was famous for. He could satisfy the appetite of anyone, even if they weren't even hungry,

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "How the fuck has Grand Ruler not caught you yet?"**

[Cookie Monster] "What part of 'mind control spices' don't you get? You'd be surprised how often he 'feels' like ordering takeout."

SC276: I don't think Mykan knows what "appetite" is, which would explain *way too much*.

customers just begged to have a single sample of his finest cooking.

Before Lightning and Krysta left, Cookie gave them an invitation he was meant to hand to them upon their arrival. It was an invitation to the town library and observatory, but exactly why or what for, it didn't say.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "And if we don't go?"**

[Cookie Monster] "(aims Duchess SMG) Why do you keep asking dumb questions?"

So they decided to head straight over, following the directions on the invitation, but as they went they passed by the hospital and someone called out. "You there…! Hold it!"

C.O.R.N.: Hold it!



Lightning turned and saw a white alicorn with a pink mane, wearing a doctor's coat and a medial-cap approaching him.

SC276: Cool that you changed the term trying to avoid legal issues. Unfortunately, that's still clearly a red cross in the image, *so*...
C.O.R.N.: `The interaction was then diverted entirely by the arrival of Red Cross's lawyer.`

Her ID was ***DR3F,*** but everyone knew her as Dr. Penny Sillon.

SC276: Middle name, evidently, Sisi.
C.O.R.N.: `She says "DREF" like how Pinky says "NARF."`

"Are you Lightning Dawn?" she asked.
"Yes, I am…" said Lightning.
"Thought so, come with me please." replied Dr. Penny as she dragged Lightning into the hospital, much to his protest. "Hey! What are you?"

SC276: An alicorn. What are you, blind?

Penny had also been told of Lightning's arrival, but what Lightning hadn't been told before leaving was he was to report to Penny for a physical.

SC276: Boy, for a totalitarian leader of a fascist ethnostate, Grand Ruler is *shit* at giving instructions.

It was his orders that every new comer to Unicornicopa had to have one, and that's exactly what Lightning went through.
Lightning had a normal physical,

C.O.R.N.: `-which the author doesn't know either-`

all A-Okay, but Penny also wanted test out how strong and how fast he really was. So she put Lightning on a treadmill to see how fast he could run,

SC276: I've actually run on a treadmill at a hospital. It's been awhile, so I'm fuzzy on the details, but it was to test my heart strength, not my running speed.

or flutter with weights on his back to see how much he could lift,

SC276: Which seems like a really awkward procedure when no one has any potential to be quadrupedal.

but when it came to the magic-test, which was like having a blood test

C.O.R.N.: `By impaling your arm on a spike?`

only different, Penny was most surprised. "What? You don't have any magic at all?"
"That's right, I can't do magic." said Lightning "Yet I'm fit as a fiddle,

C.O.R.N.: `Watarou will be the judge of that.`

healthy and keen--

C.O.R.N.: **(laughs disgustingly)**

Can I go now?"

SC276: This author respects doctors as much as Lancelot.

Penny saw no reason why he couldn't, but she wondered something else, about Lightning's golden horn and she began to wonder if maybe he was capable of something more.

SC276: [Penny] "...*Nah*, that's about as ridiculous as me being an Incubator."

Lightning was getting tired of running into so many new faces everywhere he went. "Couldn't I have just met them all in one place?" he asked

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "I mean, it's not like we're unreasonably mimicking some pilot episode that had a *reason* for everyone being in different places!"**

"I'm getting tired, and I would like some time to myself at least."
"Oh, come on, Lightning." Krysta reminded him, "You're still getting know the place, and that's what Grand Ruler said, right?"

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "He shouldn't be such a jerk to me! *I'm* the one that's supposed to be a jerk!"**

Lightning knew she was right, and so they continued on their way through town, and finally reached the library. "This must be it." He said as they ventured inside,

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "Better not be smuggling more swamp scum or guns for that two-bit fry cook."**

only to find everything was all dark. They couldn't' see anything, even when Krysta used her glow to make a little light. "This is getting creepy." she shuttered.

C.O.R.N.: **Wouldn't it be fucking *hilarious* if this just turned into a horror story now?**
SC276: She was then startled by the shudder door closing.

Lightning felt the same, and he got a sick feeling that they weren't alone. Then, all at once, the lights went on followed by the voices of many yelling *"SURPRISE…!"*

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "(yells and shoots up the entire room)"**

Balloons and decorations were everywhere as confetti fell from the ceiling, and big banner that read, "Welcome Lightning Dawn"



SC276: Y'know, funnily enough, Question-girl always rendered as more like Maud Pie to me.

The head of this party was the librarian, Inquerius.

C.O.R.N.: `Oh. It's you.`
SC276: I've been really busy being dead. You know, after you murdered Sentai.

Her number was ES4G.

C.O.R.N.: `She's getting 4G service in there?! That's better than` ***my*** `library!`

She was a grey Alicorn, and wore half-moon spectacles. "Are you surprised, Lightning?" she asked. Lightning was almost speechless. "I… uh… this… buh…?"

C.O.R.N.: `You broke before the villain even shows up?` ***Wimp.***

before he could say anything else, all the unicorns approached him introducing themselves, and offering him some refreshments, or to join a game, or even dance.

C.O.R.N.: **[unicorn] "Maybe if we suck up to him, he can get Grand Ruler to leave us alone!"**

"I think I'll just have some punch please." cried Lightning,

C.O.R.N.: **(puts on a boxing glove)**

who really needed to cool off from all the sudden buzz and excitement.
So much had already happened to him that day he hardly ever had anytime to himself or to rest, and every time he tried to excuse himself he would bump into another unicorn and find himself unable to get away.

C.O.R.N.: **Well then maybe don't go around telling everyone who you are then!**

"Krysta…! Help…!" he begged, but Krysta was a little preoccupied by her own fan-crowd of spectators who were amazed to see an actual fairy.

C.O.R.N.: **[[SPACE ALICORN]] "I think I saw up her skirt!"**
SC276: [Space Alicorn] "This sample is incredible! When do they become available on the public markets?!"

Then suddenly, all went dark, and the stage curtains at the back of the party lit up for the entertainment was about to begin. "And now everyone…" the announcer called, "The mystifying magic of… Abra-Kadabra…!"

C.O.R.N.: **Mystifying in that it probably makes no sense whatsoever.**



SC276: Everyone that's not a frontline unit having the same body type just makes the ethnostate worse.

POOF! A puff of purple smoke puffed and then, as if out of nowhere, appeared a purple alicorn, wearing a magician's outfit, hat and cape,

C.O.R.N.: `I put on my robe and wizard hat.`

and his number was ***CQ2E,***

C.O.R.N.: `Castle Quest, 2nd edition.`

sewn on his tuxedo. His actual name was Abraham, but every preferred to call him by his stage name, to which he preferred as well.

SC276: Grand Ruler would later demand he sacrifice his son to him on a hill.

"Thank you! Thank you!" he said with a kind English accent, to the cheering crowd. "And now… if I may have a volunteer to help me with my first fantastic trick, please."

C.O.R.N.: **So, for three tricks later?**

Since Lightning was the guest of honor, you can bet the crowd was urging him to go,

C.O.R.N.: **I *can*, but I *won't*.**

shoving him up on stage despite his protests. "Well, Lightning Dawn-- how wonderful I am to meet you." said Abra.
"Yeah…! Charmed…" said Lightning.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "Where do you get off, being more self-centered than me?!"**

The first trick was the old magic-box.

SC276: [Abra] "I got this one from *Yu-Gi-Oh!*"

Lightning stepped in. The door was shut. Abra tapped each his hooves twice. The door opened, and Lightning was gone. "Ooh…!" went the crowd and Abra then took of his hat, and gave it a tap, and plop. "Ah…!" Lightning fell out of it and onto the stage. The crowd cheered for both Abra and Lightning.

C.O.R.N.: **That's a weird way to say "they booed that Lightning reappeared."**

It was a good thing that, after which, everyone was so preoccupied watching the show and the entertainment, that Lightning and Krysta could finally slip off deeper into the library to have to quiet time instead of having to talk to someone new every ten seconds.

C.O.R.N.: **[Mykan] "Do you hear that, *Mom*?! Stop introducing me to your work friends!"**

I'm going to go book browsing.

SC276: *"Rewrite," my ass, the same error is still fucking here.*
C.O.R.N.: **Boy, the story's so terrible even the *author* doesn't want to write it.**

Krysta said. "Want some company?" Lightning offered. "No thanks. I'll be okay." replied Krysta as she flew off.

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "It's easier to set booby-traps when you don't set them off immediately afterwards like a bad *Bullwinkle* character."**

Lightning had a good idea of what Krysta was looking for and he hoped that she would find it.

C.O.R.N.: **Porn of herself. That's how you know for sure you exist.**

Lightning could only sigh, and then he turned to gaze out a window. The night has certainly come quickly,

> **C.O.R.N.:** **The sun was running away. Unfortunately, it's a stupid sun, so it'll wind up looping back around come morning.**

but then again he did have a very busy day so the time just flew by.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **Time flies when you're lugging groceries around and being mind-controlled by spices.**
> **SC276: …Come to think of it, in some ways, *Kamen Rider Gavv* makes my Cookie Dough bit even *funnier*.**

Lightning knew this was Grand Ruler's doing, he always brought in the most beautiful nights,

> **C.O.R.N.:** **How do you know? Do you have someone else's nights to compare them to?**

but Lightning's daydreaming was interrupted when a book fell down and landed right beside him.
"Huh?"

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[book] "Fuck, the kamikaze attack failed! *Abort! Abort!*"**

It was an ordinary book on astronomy.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **And not astrology because this fic and logic are star-crossed.**

"Is anyone down there…?" called a feminine voice from up a spiral flight of stairs. "Yes…?" Lightning called "Is this your book?"
"Yes! Could you bring it up please?"

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Starla] "I mean, I could just levitate it back up, but I'd rather make you work instead."**

Lightning flew up to the top instead of climbing the stairs, and emerged in the observatory on top of the library,

> **C.O.R.N.:** **Because someplace in the middle of a brightly-lit city is the perfect place to avoid light pollution.**

which was rather only but a single room, much like an attic.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **The love interest lives in an attic? We see Mykan's idea of ideal wife living quarters…**

"Oh, thank you so much." said the voice.



SC276: So Starla just ripping off Rarity's looks is something that's pretty well known (and would've made Lightning going to Equestria and mistaking Rarity for Starla something resembling funny, which is decidedly not a thing that happens when Rhymey went there). Something else I did notice just now, though, is Mykan is one of those idiots that ships by color. Both Lightning and Starla are white. Both Grand Ruler and Celestia are white. Both Rhymey and Fluttershy are yellow. Both Artie and Sunset Shimmer in *Starpops* are orange. This was a pattern we noticed with Mykan Jr, but I guess he got it from his Sr.
However, with the fascist ethnostate background coming up this time, this trend is now *infinitely more disturbing*. I *really* shouldn't have to spell out why.

Lightning turned round and saw the voice belonged to be *the most… beautiful alicorn* he had ever seen!

SC276: Not much of a measure, he's only seen, what, six?

She was white, and had a voluminous violet sparkling mane, long eyelashes which glittered when she blinked; her armor sparkled like the very stars themselves.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **...And that makes her look different from every other [SPACE ALICORN] in this city, *how* now?**
> **SC276: …Is that what that bunch of white dots around her insignia *only* are supposed to be?**

She was looking through her telescope, up at the night sky. Lightning felt all strange and soft inside.
"I, uh… I didn't see you at the party." Lightning said
"Oh, I didn't feel like it.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Lightning Dawn] "What a coincidence, neither do I, *let's bang*."**

I just can't stop looking up at the stars." said the young mare.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **Boy, there's more mind-control in this story than I remember.**

"Um… what's your name?" asked Lightning.
The unicorn looked at him and spoke softly. "My name's Starla-- Starla Shine; ***ID-Code: KY1M.***

> **C.O.R.N.:** **Hey, what did <u>Kynim</u> ever do to you?!**

Who are you?"
He hesitated for a minute as he found himself lost in Starla's eyes, "I'm Lightning Dawn; ***Code: AO0C."***

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Starla] "Arrange at Over 0 Celsius?"**

"Lightning…" Starla said softly "That's a cool name."
The two of them seemed to get along well for having just met.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **Considering literally everyone else was introduced to him by him either ruining their art or violating their rules, *what did you expect*?**

Starla explained she loved to look at the stars because to her they were just so mystical and held many secrets, almost like they could tell you a story or give advice.

> **SC276: I don't think a race called "Space Alicorns" should be thinking of *stars* as being supernatural.**

She kept all her sightings in a notebook she had with her and showed Lightning all the many constellations and outer systems she had discovered,

> **SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "...This has like two things in it."**
> **[Starla Shine] "Yeah, light pollution in the middle of this city is a *bitch*. I'm surprised the *moon's* visible."**

some that even dated back to the time when The Grand Ruler fought off the evil sorcerer one-thousand years ago and sealing him away. "Lately I've been trying to discover more constellations or something new." Starla said

SC276: [Starla Shine] "Considering the moving fees are so high you'd basically need to be Grand Ruler's apprentice to actually move, I'm doing my best."

"Well, what's out there tonight?" asked Lighting. Starla took a peek through her telescope. At first she saw nothing but the same old stars,

SC276: A sentiment I'm sure is a thing real astronomers feel about the cosmic infinity.

but then. "Wait a minute… what is *that?"* She spotted a strange sort of light, but it defiantly wasn't a star. It looked as if it was moving.

SC276: Oh, so it's a planet?

Lightning could soon see it with his own eyes. "Whatever it is… I think it's coming right this way." Suddenly, there was large tremor followed by strikes of dark lightning, with a very loud and a sinister laughing sound!

C.O.R.N.: `[Titan] "Oh, oh, Unicornicopia, it is good to be back!"`
SC276: Oh good, I was worried for a moment I'd have to cut the best running gag~

"What's happening?" cried Lightning. "Oh!" cried Starla. They could hear the other ponies screaming down below and dashed down to see what was going on. "Lightning!" called Krysta "What's going on…?"

C.O.R.N.: `Stop repeating the narrator.`
SC276: …So did the thing that was falling toward them ever actually *hit*, or…?

"Can this be…?" cried Inquerius "Are the rumors true…?" The doors flew open letting strong winds into the place as the windows shattered. Everyone was running about in panic as a large flash of lightning and big roar of thunder rumbled.

C.O.R.N.: ***`WIMPS.`*** `Dogs are less scared of thunder than you guys.`



Then… there… on the stage…

C.O.R.N.: **"...Line?"**

appeared a tall human-shaped figure dressed in dark robes, shoulder-guards, and a dark hood atop completely concealing his face within its shadows-- except his eyes, his red and evil eyes glowing in the darkness within the hood.

C.O.R.N.: **He was also much more triangular than the legends remember.**
SC276: OK, ever since I saw choopo's videos on *Wizard 101*, this just renders as Old Cob.

Lightning could barely speak as he just stood there, gawking at the evil creature as it spoke. "I… am… ***Titan!*** Lord and master of all darkness, and bringer of chaos and nightmares to the dimensional universe!

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "And I take it you're some kind of living ventriloquist dummy? Ha ha, just kidding, I know who you are, Lightning."**

Long have I waited for this day-- that I would finally escape my prison and return and finish what I had started!"
His appearance seemed familiar to Lightning, and that's when he made the comparisons to the old stories.

SC276: Because if Lightning could make connections, he'd be better at *Ghost Trick*.

"You…!" snarled Lightning "You're the one I've heard of from the stories.

SC276: Also the tapestry in your old room, but mostly the stories.

That same evil the Grand Ruler banished to the Dark Planet!"
Titan chuckle evil "Yes…! But alas, that seal could not keep me a prisoner forever.

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "That's what happens when you follow an evil muse and build a portal in your basement! Boy, Grand Ruler's an idiot! He was, like, *super* easy to remotely mind-control. You guys got one weird conspiracy going on if you have to mind-control your figurehead over a dozen times."**
SC276: [Titan] "Also, like, it was just a planet. Once I had enough power, I just had to go, y'know, up."

Your Grand Ruler should have finished me off when he had the chance! Now, his mistake shall be the beginning of your undoing as my first act of vengeance for being sealed away for all these centuries!"
He raised his monstrous hands up high unleashing powerful bolts of energy

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "Take that, sky!"**
SC276: This just in: Mykan doesn't know what electricity is. Film at 11.

everyone to further frighten everyone and his evil laugh echoed "This world… and all that reside here SHALL FEEL THE WRATH OF DARKNESS!!"

C.O.R.N.: **And then the entire world shall become part of the Shadow Line!**

To be continued…!

C.O.R.N.: ***~Cliiiiffhanger! Hanging from a cliiiiiiiff! / And that's why he's called Cliffhangerrrrr!~***

(Promo)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZAHy8ezolI&t=1s
In our next episode, Titan unleashes his wrath by kidnapping several ponies in attempt to use them to increase his power. Lightning tries to help, but his newfound friends, who are fighters of Starfleet, advise him to stay out of the way. Ignoring their warning Lightning sets off to prove that he is capable of doing more than he seems,

SC276: Interesting how the known apprentice of Starfleet's leader has to prove himself to Starfleet. Then again, they probably saw the leader of Starfleet not letting his apprentice immediately join Starfleet as a giant red flag.

only to run into more traps and tricks along the way.

Will Lightning and his friends be able to stop Titan before he does any serious damage?

SC276: Will the author still have the inserted song lyrics? I specifically told my friends not to tell me about this. *Fingers crossed~!*

Don't miss the next exciting episode of "Starfleet Magic!"
(Next Episode: "Evil's Return: Part 2)

SC276: I don't know like 25 anime with post-preview sign-off slogans off the top of my head to make a running gag of adding one at the end of each of these, but I assure you, I absolutely would if I thought I could pull it off. Before we continue, however, I need to do a little something real quick. (attaches a decal to C.O.R.N.'s head) *No fucking mercy.*

Episode 2: Evil's Return: Part 2

"Previously on Starfleet Magic…"
Lightning Dawn had settled into his new home, and had quickly so many new friends along the way. During a celebration of his arrival, Titan the evil sorcerer, whom had been sealed away by the Grand Ruler for centuries, appeared to crash the party and threatens to destroy all the ponies and their world with it.

EPISODE TWO

With his raging fury, Titan began to capture many ponies and imprisoned them

C.O.R.N.: `By turning them into stone and using them to make a throne to oversee his world-breaking party.`

in large bubble-like objects.

SC276: Specifically, that balloon from the Charmander episode of *Pokémon*.

Even Krysta was accidentally caught as well. "Lightning…!" she screamed.
"Krysta! No…!" cried Lightning.

SC276: [Plankton] "Krysta! Yes…!"

"Easy pickings!" laughed Titan.

C.O.R.N.: `[Titan] "Particularly after I shuffled the functions of every hole in their faces!"`

"Let her go!" Lightning demanded, but Titan only laughed and scoffed at him "You dare to command me?!"

SC276: [Titan] "You can't stand up to me, kid! I put my dialogue in the same paragraph as yours!"

He stretched out his hand unleashing a blast of shockwaves at Lightning, which blasted him hard into the wall,

C.O.R.N.: `So, it had the force of a light breeze.`

and before long, the library was a complete and total mess; bookshelves were knocked down; books scattered all over the floor along with the broken glass and ruined party supplies. All the other ponies began to run in panic, much to Titan's amusement.

SC276: So this is interesting. In MLU, "all" there is replaced with "A;". What I think happened is that before, Mykan typoed and hit the semicolon key next to the L key. So he retyped at least some of the original's lines. And yet he *still* didn't catch the missing quotation marks last chapter.

Lightning was furious! "What are you going to do with those captured ponies?" he demanded to know.

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "And also my property, but mostly the actual citizens."

Titan gazed at him and his eyes glowed.

SC276: [Titan] "I'm gonna do the best I can."
C.O.R.N.: `[Titan] "And after that, I just got to destroy your journal!"`

"That is none of your concern!" he hissed as he raised his hand and was ready to zap Lightning! "Hold it right there!" snapped a voice.

SC276: 

Titan looked towards the door, and Lightning saw some of the ponies he had met that day; Buddy Rose, Artie, Rhymey, even Starla. All four of were now wearing actual Starfleet battle-suits--

SC276: Sure hope those things weren't meant to hide their civilian identities.

Their armors looked shinier and stronger, and now they had on knee, elbow, shoulder pads and stomach gaurds,

SC276: Is *that* what you call that thing over their crotches? D... Do you not know what a codpiece is?

and they all wore cool visors across their eyes like cool shades.

SC276: Considering that for three of them their visors are the same color as their coats, how could you even tell?

"In the name of Starfleet… I order you to cease and desist." shouted Buddy Rose.

SC276: No, no, it's "In the name of the moon, I will punish you!" I don't even watch *Sailor Moon*, and even I know that!

Lightning could hardly believe it. His four new friends were all members of Starfleet too, ranked as lieutenants as well, meaning they were pretty much freshmen; newbies,

SC276: Your attempts at punctuation? I agree!

and Titan could hardly believe that Starfleet was still around after all this time,

SC276: [Titan] "I thought GR might've gotten bored with you lot about 326 years ago."

but he simply scoffed "You don't know what you're up against."
"You don't know what you're up against, Titan." snapped Artie.

SC276: [Titan] "Oh we're playing Copycat here. Alright then, copy *this*! (busts out sweet breakdancing moves)"

Rather than cause a real ruckus, Titan decided to test the warriors out. "If you truly wish to save your friends, I'll give the chance… but you'll have to find me first." Then he vanished in a cloud of black and purple smoke, taking his prisoners with him.

C.O.R.N.: `[Titan] "Remember reality is an illusion the universe is a hologram buy gold BYE!"`

"KRYSTA…!" cried Lightning. Feeling overwhelmed with sadness and anger, he angrily pounded the floor with his fists in frustration.
The others felt sorry for Lightning, but now they had to head off somewhere.

SC276: Where? The author doesn't know either.

"I'm going with you." Lightning said. "Lightning, No." Buddy Rose said "This is a job for Starfleet. You should get to safety. We know how you feel about Krysta.

SC276: [Buddy Rose] "Namely, that you can't get a new one."

We'll get her back. I promise."

Before Lightning could protest, the four warriors moved on out. Starla stopped at the door and gazed back at him, almost apologetically, but then she ran off to join her teammates. Lightning angrily pounded the floor again.

> **SC276: Because much like the author, he only knows how to repeat stuff. …OK yeah, I know, C.O.R.N., but it's a scientific instrument.**

The library was still in a mess, until Dr. Penny arrived with her team to help treat anyone who was hurt,

> **C.O.R.N.:** **Hey, no characters in the riff! Why does no one read the rules?**

and following her was an elderly green alicorn,

> **C.O.R.N.:** ***You're late*.**

wearing small round glasses and dressed in a smart looking-suit and tie, the code ***GU6I,***

> **C.O.R.N.:** **This fic needs 6 graphical user interfaces? What was wrong with the other five?**

and spoke in an English accent.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **What kind? Cockney or… not Cockney?**



SC276: I don't know why Mykan decided to make Brain old in this one. Teen geniuses are more Power Rangers.

"Mmm… I say! What's happened…?"
Inquerius approached him "Can you not tell?" she asked "Did you not feel the danger?"

C.O.R.N.: `[???] "OK, jerkass that won't answer a simple question, got it."`

"Didn't we all?" added Lightning.

SC276: Lightning, you're not exactly the best judge of universal experiences.

The green alicorn admitted that he did calculate the tremors,

C.O.R.N.: `[???] "I work in earthquake delivery."`

"But… I wouldn't have believed it possible that Titan has… mmm… eh… returned as it were."

C.O.R.N.: `[Lightning] "...You needed to manually think of the word 'return?'"`
`[???] "So my search algorithm isn't O(n log n), sue me."`

"Well that's fine and dandy... whoever you are." said Lightning "But it doesn't help find where he's gone or where he's taken the ponies he took, and my friend Krysta."

SC276: [Brain] "Is *that* what the youngin's are callin' the lower caste these days?"

The green alicorn kept his cool. "My name, good sir, is Brain;

C.O.R.N.: `[Brain] "I was taken hostage from an episode of Arthur the author didn't like and I went native."`

Professor Horatio I.Q Brain if you will,

SC276: I won't.

and as soon as I knew there was trouble I began to… eh… make my calculations, and confirm my theories,

C.O.R.N.: `So, you basically did nothing to immediately help.`

and I have come to tell you that I just may know where Titan has gone."

SC276: Lightning specifically, and *not* the Starfleet members.

Lightning's ears twitched. "Where, where have they gone? You have to tell me!"
Brain told Lightning to calm down and come to his laboratory house in Greenland.

SC276: …I guess the climate-lock is so people stop asking questions about what happens to inter-city travel if the weather's too bad to fly. And Mykan answered in the least interesting way possible.

It soon became clear that Brain was a regular genius and scientific inventor.

C.O.R.N.: `Just a plain ol' regular genius.`
SC276: Technikki would like to know your location.

He was no Starfleet fighter, but he was an unofficial advisor to Starfleet and developer of several of its modern-day technologies and tools.

SC276: If he's so important and useful, why wouldn't he have an official position? I mean, this organization can't be *so* stupid that it has only combat positions, right?

His laboratory seemed massively loaded with many strange and bizarre inventions, but that was expected as it was a laboratory. "Please do not touch anything." Brain warned Lightning "One little accident in a laboratory could cause massive trouble."

C.O.R.N.: **Like the author!**

Then Brain sat himself down at a strange contraption that seemed to be heating water.

C.O.R.N.: **But it was actually freezing solids. Which is redundant.**

Brain sniffed the steam. "Ahh…! Satisfactory…" he sighed "Most satisfactory."

C.O.R.N.: **This fic? Hardly.**

"What is that?" asked Lightning "Is it a device that lets you find Titan? Something that can beat him or get the ponies and Krysta back…?"

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "Because this looks like a bomb."**
SC276: …Hm, I guess the line still has context, even if the speaker doesn't. Well, I'm pretty sure my rant from Sunset in "The Brother's Adventure" was actually while she wasn't present in the room because I misunderstood the scene, so it's fine. Just imagine someone else in the scene saying it.

"What? Oh, don't be silly…" said Brain "This device is merely used to make me a cup of tea. I've finally perfected it you know."

C.O.R.N.: **British!**

"A cup of tea…?!" Lightning asked

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "And you reinvented the teapot into a bomb, *why* now?"**

in annoyance

C.O.R.N.: **That's because the narrator hasn't heard us yet.**

"I thought you said you knew where Titan had gone?"
"But I do…" snapped Brain.

C.O.R.N.: **[Brain] "I can tell you lack intelligence by your absolute lack of patience."**

He cleared his throat "Begging your pardon, if you will just hand me that map over there..." Lightning did as he was asked, and Brain unfolded the map and consulted his notes. "Mm, now, let me see. Ah, ha! Satisfactory…! Most satisfactory..."

C.O.R.N.: **How long have you been writing fics before this? You need to be aiming for more than simple "satisfactory."**

"What is it?" asked Lightning.
Brain explained that the only place Titan could have taken the captured ponies would be to ***Blacktop Mountain,***

C.O.R.N.: **[Brain] "It's the only place he doesn't owe money."**

which was located on the other side of ***Violet Swamp.*** "Then that's where we should be heading." Lightning suggested.

SC276: He says, as if there's anyone else going besides him here.

"Oh, good heavens, no!" snapped Brain

C.O.R.N.: **[Brain] "I owe a hundred bucks to one of his victims! Didn't you see the last fic? That's a lot of money!"**

"You know it's dangerous to be wandering through the swamp at night?

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "Then I'll just fly over it."
[Brain] "I wouldn't do that because... … … …huh, this draft at no point has me say why you can't fly over everything. Kind of a plot hole there."

It… eh… especially would not be bright considering… em… our enemy would be expecting you. That is what had said, was it not?"

SC276: No, from the looks of it, he was expecting *Starfleet* to show up.

Brain had a point. Violet Swamp was already a dangerous place even in daytime, as it was home to many creatures and dangers. The creatures got very hostile whenever they were disturbed or they felt their turfs were being trespassed on. Lightning would also be all alone and he had no magic or weapons to defend himself with.

SC276: *He was trained in combat, and GR didn't let him take any weapons when he moved?! WOW*, he really doesn't want Lightning involved in any fighting whatsoever!
C.O.R.N.: **Hell with magic, he doesn't have common sense enough not to walk out in the middle of a street!**
SC276: And that statement actually *applies* to this continuity!

"I don't care!" Lightning said "Krysta's in danger and so are all the captured ponies! I'm not just going to sit around and do nothing.

C.O.R.N.: **Well you *could* try contacting the guy that beat him *before*.**

Grand Ruler also trained me well. I know I can do this."

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "I'm the main character! That means I'm invincible!"

With that, he decided to fly out on his own.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "*Entitled asshole AWAAAAAAAAAY!*"**

"Oh, dear!" cried Brain "The poor chap; I do hope he thinks twice of this at the last moment."

SC276: *HA!* That would require him to think *once* first!

Blacktop Mountain

C.O.R.N.: **The middle is blue and the bottom is chartreuse.**

was the tallest mountain on the planet, and the upmost level of ground anyone could reach without having to fly so high.

SC276: Even ignoring the flying palace looming over all the citizenry like a malevolent god, considering this thing is climbed in the span of like a few hours tops while expeditions to climb Mt. Everest take about two months, this planet has some shitty mountains.

An old shrine lay on the mountaintop.

C.O.R.N.: ***Someone's*** **been hitting the Japanese folktales hard lately.**

Centuries ago it was used as a meeting place for Starfleet fighters of the past,

SC276: Still not what a shrine is.

and that was exactly where Titan was now.

SC276: He's worried about this intergalactic gestapo *that* little.

All the ponies he had captured were still trapped in their bubbles desperately trying to escape, but to no avail. Titan was most surprised to realize he had captured Krysta as well.

SC276: Took ya *this* long to notice?

"It's not every day one comes across a fairy." he hissed.

SC276: [Titan] "Kind of sad to see they found *another* slave race, really. But don't worry, you won't have to deal with that pain for much longer..."

Krysta tried with all her magic and might to escape, but the bubble simply wouldn't break. "What are you planning to do with us?" she demanded to know. Titan didn't mind explaining to her that he was planning,

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "This is the stuff, right here! And since the entire Zodiac is long dead, I don't have a thing to worry about! Since I managed to take over the Shadow Line from Zett in my spare time, might as well turn the world into my own weird railway! It's a hobby."**

and while he did he was interrupted along the way by the arrival of three other ponies; demoncorns Titan had created out of corpses, graveyard soils and fused with bits of his own magic to serve as his minions.

C.O.R.N.: **Would've been cool if you actually *showed* us, but this thing's already seven parts long.**
SC276: …So. Couldn't help but notice there's no images here. He couldn't be bothered to make image refs for the enemy generals. Which means he has no argument protecting him against *my* personal interpretations.
C.O.R.N.: **Time to thoroughly reference a *Super Sentai* series that never saw the States as *Power Rangers* and what are you going to do to stop me?**

They were ***Mysterious;*** a black shiny pony that was practically a living shadow, but had the force and might of a solid being.

C.O.R.N.: **Baron Nero, got it.**

The second was called ***Rep-Stallion;*** a tough and rather pompous but strong pony holding a double-bladed scythe.

C.O.R.N.: **General Schwartz, got it.**

The third was a female, named ***Dementia.*** She seemed rather attractive, but she was dangerous nonetheless,

C.O.R.N.: **Madame Noir, got it.**
SC276: Yeah, no, you don't get the honor of being called Pandora. Even though all of you are very clearly "gifted."

and her name Dementia was implied because she had the power to warp dimensional energies and waves around her.

SC276: Much like Mykan has a warped definition of what "dementia" is.

The minions had reported that the members of Starfleet were on their way but they had also spotted a white alicorn with a golden horn at the edge of the swamp.
Titan held both his hands together creating a ball of light he used to view the edge of the swamp,

SC276: Because of course he can do that, we can't have the potential for miscommunication ever be a plot point.
C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "Hi-def TV! It's gonna blow their *minds*."**

and he saw Lightning. "Why, it's that annoying little pest who tried to stand up to me."

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "And failed miserably!"**

Titan had heard stories of Lightning Dawn and how he had no magic to even do card-tricks, let alone anything spectacular,

SC276: Amazing what news can get to a sealed dark planet.

but he also knew he was the Grand Ruler's personal apprentice, meaning there was more to Lightning than at first glance.

C.O.R.N.: **Titan's colorblind, got it.**

When the minions asked if they should dispose of him, Titan refused. "Let him go." he simply said.

SC276: [Titan] "If he's too stupid to fly over a swamp, there can't be *that* much to him."

He wanted to see Lightning in action and hopefully find out any secrets that would be helpful.

SC276: Yep, totally that, and not that he's coated in plot armor.

"And what of Starfleet, my lord?" asked Mysterious. Titan merely turned to his minions and answered with his red eyes glowing madly. "You know what must be done."

SC276: [Titan] "Prepare... the *MACARENA*!"

Lightning stood at the edge of Violet Swamp, and Brain wasn't kidding when he warned him--it really did seem dark and creepy at night.

C.O.R.N.: **So do narrow alleyways, what's your point.**

Just a simple gaze through all the thickets and brambles was enough to send chills up his spine. Still, Lightning has come this far, and he knew Krysta and the other unicorns were in danger.

C.O.R.N.: **The journey of a thousand miles begins with falling flat on one's face.**

"Well… here goes." He said to himself. Then he took one step forward crushing a twig under his boot as he walked followed by all kinds of screeches and noises from within the swamp. He gulped nervously but ventured forth.
It was hard to see when there wasn't so much light,

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "Of all the times for my light-bearing slave to be captured...!"

but at least it wasn't so pitch dark you couldn't see anything at all. Lightning figured the best way to traverse the swamp was just to keep going forward in a straight line.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "Even if there's a tree in my way! The tree will see me coming and respectfully move aside like the lower life form it is."**

He would eventually reach the mountain trail for sure.
Jagged rocks, fallen logs and dangling vines seemed to trip him everywhere he stepped.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "No, the trees are supposed to fall *out* of my way!"**

He stepped in gooey mud "Yuck!" he groaned.

SC276: Hey, I don't react that badly every time I see *you*.

Suddenly, Lightning turned and thought he saw a monster, but it was only a tree in the shape of a monster. He saw a scary claw, which was actually just a long branch.

C.O.R.N.: **In most fiction, the explanation is the poor lighting. In this fic, the explanation is Lightning is just that stupid.**

Lightning took in a deep breath and counted to ten, then again, and felt better…

C.O.R.N.: **These days, if you can't calm yourself down by counting backwards from 5, you're worse than a preschooler with a talking cat.**

until he heard the sound of footsteps coming towards him. Quivering in fear, he ducked down, and peeped, "Who's there…?"

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "How dare you sneak in my presence!"**

The bushes shook and twigs snapped, but then a friendly voice called. "Lightning…? Is that you…?" Lightning peeked up and saw it was Starla. He sighed heavily in relief. Starla called out to the others who were all close by. They all came over holding flashlights and lanterns

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "...Oh. Those would probably work. I was planning to light my way with my sheer radiance."**

"What are you doing here?" asked Artie "We told you not to follow us. This is Starfleet business!" Lightning explained that he didn't follow them deliberately and came out here on his own.

SC276: Y'know, like an idiot.

"We realize you are in such worry.
But you must leave here in a hurry." said Rhymey

C.O.R.N.: ***SHUT THE FUCK UP, RHYMEY***

"Listen!" Lightning snapped at them all "You can tell me that as many times as you want, but I'm not leaving." The others could tell there was no point in trying to say no. So, despite it being against Star Fleet's code, they allowed Lightning to come with them.

SC276: Of course they did, he's the apprentice of their boss. Nepotism wins again.

So they all traversed though the swamp together. Rhymey even decided to make things easier.

C.O.R.N.: **By killing himself?**

His horn glowed, and he shouted, ***"WARD SWORD!"***

C.O.R.N.: **If you're trying to come up with a rhyme weapon name, try "BORED SWORD." Which I'm kinda close to feeling right now.**

causing a simple knight's sword

SC276: [the author] "'Longsword?' Well duh, otherwise they'd be daggers, *idiot*."

to materialize so he could cut and hack away at all the brambles and thickets, making a clear path through.

C.O.R.N.: **[Rhymey] "Everyone's so petty / to not bring a machete."**

"Follow me this way…
Hurry now. Don't delay."

C.O.R.N.: **SHUT THE FUCK UP, RHYMEY! ...Dang, that takes awhile to recharge.**

Everyone followed quickly, because all the things that Rhymey had hacked seemed to grow back almost instantly.

C.O.R.N.: **The swamp doesn't want them there either.**

Suddenly, Starla began sinking. "Hey!" she shrieked "Quicksand!" The others all leapt away before they got sucked in, but Starla couldn't seem to get out, and if the others moved to close, they would get sucked in too. "Starla…!" Lightning called "Don't struggle. You'll only sink faster."

SC276: [Starla Shine] "But then how else am I going to find F.O.W.L. headquarters at the bottom of the ball pit?!"

Starla remained calm, and then Lightning pulled a vine from a tree and tossed it to her.

SC276: Because Buddy Rose can't… make vines now, I guess.

Starla caught it. Then the whole gang pulled hard and yanked her out of the sand. Starla was okay, but they could all hear the sounds of heavy footsteps coming towards them. "What now?" Lightning asked.

SC276: More bullshit, probably.

He soon got his answer as monstrous shadowy images seem to jump right out from round the trees and open fire on them. "Look out!" cried Buddy Rose and everyone leapt out of the way. "Run!"

C.O.R.N.: ***"IT'S NIGHTMARE MOON! EVERYPONY RUN!"***

There was worse to come as those shadows seemed to be popping up all over the place,

SC276: OK, so there's no description of what's shooting at them or what they're shooting, so I'm going to assume they trespassed on the grounds of a native tribe that hid away from the rest of Space Alicorn society because they're the sane ones.

and worse, the trees were falling over as they had been slashed as if someone were trying to crush the gang, but finally, after running for a while and dodging all the traps they made it out of the swamp all in one piece

SC276: …You got out. Without having to fight anything. …Lame.

"What a nightmare!" Buddy Rose panted.
Lightning was glad to be out of there and now just before them was the starting trail of Blacktop Mountain, and it looked even more eerie than the swamp, sending chills up everyone's spines.

C.O.R.N.: **The swamp that sucks you in and doesn't release its dead is less scary than the mountain? *Someone's* never seen *Minecraft* before.**

Still, they all climbed, and resisted the urge to fly up the mountain, not knowing what traps lay ahead.

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "C'mon, you assholes, *fly*! How am I supposed to test these cool new anti-air cannons if there's nothing in the air?!"**

Not only we're there more monsters along the way, but booby traps as well-- Things like hidden pits, rock slides, falling boulders.

C.O.R.N.: **And repetition. That was a particularly deadly one. It made you twice as dead as the others.**

Even scary shadows, which only turned out to be the shadows of the gang all huddled against the mountainside.

C.O.R.N.: **I never saw chapter 2 of the rewrite, so I don't know if a bunch of trained space marines are also cowering at a swamp at night, but I wouldn't put it past him.**
SC276: Well, at a *swamp*, no…

"And you Starfleet guys do this all the time?" Lightning asked.
"Yes… we do." Artie said. "That's why we all joined, to help out."

SC276: [Artie] "You're our commander's apprentice. How do you not know this?"

Lightning had only read and heard stories about Starfleet while living with the Grand Ruler and had spent a great deal of his time studying the manuals and regulations.

SC276: [Artie] "…Again, how do you not know this?"

Titan was not the only evil they had ever faced, but there was always some bad guy or other evil forces out there causing trouble.

SC276: According to the absolute word of Grand Fuhrer.

So over the ages, Grand Ruler sent many legions of Star Fleet warriors to patrol areas of Dimensional Space and stave off any evil they could find. This was what inspired Lightning's new friends to join Starfleet; to continue the legacy and protect Unicornicopia and the rest of the universe as best they could so that evil might never be allowed to harm anyone.

SC276: And yet Mykan is allowed to keep writing.

Lightning began to wonder if maybe *he should join,*

SC276: (tumbles sideways) Stupid tilting room.

but he quickly became discouraged due to the fact that he couldn't do magic or summon weapons like the others.

SC276: No one knows how to make weapons *without* superpowers? That's just *sad*.

The others felt sorry for Lightning, and wished there was something they could do.
Soon, after a while of climbing they reached the top of the mountain

SC276: *...LAME!* Where's the song?! I was looking forward to dueting with effectively myself for the last like three days! (angrily kicks a padded cube labeled "Stress Box" and poutingly crosses arms) Stupid author, ruining my fun by suddenly making a good choice...!

and there was the old shrine temple just ahead as a flash of lightning and the booming of thunder made everyone wince.
"Well, here we are…" Artie said nervously.

SC276: *AND HERE WE ARE*

That's when the doors to the shrine creaked open, as if they were being invited in.

SC276: [Donald Duck] "Oh, automated doors! How convenient!"

"Gee! Do you think it's okay…
To go in that way?" asked Rhymey

C.O.R.N.: ***SHUT THE FUCK UP, RHYMEY***

"We have to." said Lightning "We didn't come all this way to just turn back now."

C.O.R.N.: **[Brain] "Speak for yourself! (bolts)"**

They all quietly walked through the open doors. It was dark and eerie inside. Nobody could see a thing. "Think we should announce we're here?" asked Buddy Rose.

SC276: [Artie] "...Why?"
[Buddy Rose] "...I don't know."

"How should we do that?" asked Starla
"How about… come and get us?" Lightning called out.

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "C'mon, kid, you're supposed to be the self-centered one. Have some damn confidence."**

That was when the doors slammed shut behind, and everything went pitch black. Everyone else screamed all at once. "…Although a bloodcurdling scream is just as good." replied Lightning.

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "It's certainly accurate."**

That's when a torch on the wall lit with fire. Then another torch lit, and another, and another, all the way around the shrine.

C.O.R.N.: **[invisible torch lighter] "(pants from exhaustion)"**

"Look!" cried Starla.
It was the Unicorns,

SC276: ***I thought they were alicorns.***

all sleeping inside magic bubbles, and "Krysta!" cried Lightning. He dashed over towards the bubble.
"Lightning, No…!" called Artie
"Don't go…!" rhymed Rhymey

SC276: ***shut the fuck up, rhymey***

Lightning reached the bubbles, but found his hoof could pass right through them. "These are illusions!"

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "That's impossible! He's too stupid to not keep the things he needs someplace secure!"**
[Krysta] "Lightning, that's you."

That's when all the bubbles vanished instantly, and sounds of laughter echoed throughout the shrine as Titan's minions appeared. "Well, hello there…!" hissed Mysterious.
Rep-Stallion and Dementia snickered cheekily.

C.O.R.N.: **[Schwartz] "Why are we laughing?"**
[Nero] "And you have a *better* idea for mentally handling our situation?"

"Who are you?" snapped Buddy Rose "And what have you done with the alicorns."
"…and Krysta!" added Lightning

SC276: It's hilarious how all this "and Zoidberg" wouldn't have to happen if they could be collectively classified as people.

"They're safe… for the moment." said Rep-Stallion. "And if you behave nicely, we just might make your fate less painful than theirs." added Dementia.

C.O.R.N.: **[Noir] "We won't make you read the author's *Teen Titans* and *Super Paper Mario* crossover!"**

The gang was starting to tell that these creeps were going to give them no end of trouble.

C.O.R.N.: **So the author planned out future chapters a *little*. Big whoop.**

"Don't get any ideas!" snapped Artie "When the Grand Ruler finds out about this…"
"Don't flatter yourself." snorted Rep-Stallion. "We can beat his magic with one hand each. Well, maybe two."

C.O.R.N.: **[Schwartz] "That's how *freakin' pathetic* author avatars are."**

The ponies stood poised for battle, and Rhymey held his sword tightly. Lightning, however, wasn't sure what to do. He didn't have any magic to use, no weapons, not even any super armor like the others.

SC276: why is wearing regular armor so normal in this society
C.O.R.N.: **Or even martial arts. Boy, for being a member of a warrior race, you sure suck at warrioring.**

So he ducked behind a column and watched as the others began to brawl!

SC276: *A brawl is surely brewing!*

Artie and Buddy Rose went after Mysterious. "Let's get him!" shouted Buddy,

C.O.R.N.: **[Artie] "Fucking *duh*!"**

and the boys charged at their enemy only to end up passing right through him.
"Huh…?"
"What…?"

C.O.R.N.: **Excuse me…?**

"Hm, mm, mm…! You missed me." Mysterious mocked at them.

C.O.R.N.: **[Nero] "~*Missed me, missed me, now you hafta kiss me!*~"**

The boys tried again only to repeat what happened. Then suddenly they realized.

C.O.R.N.: **Insert jab at Mykan here.**

Mysterious, being made of darkness, was able to manipulate his body.

SC276: So what? I can manipulate my body too. Watch. (flips the bird) ……Wait a minute, I'm not Crazy.

"Fools, you can't just reach out and touch a shadow." he mocked, and ran past the boys striking them with his horn. "… but perhaps the shadow can touch you!"
Even with their armor on,

C.O.R.N.: **Which doesn't really count for much, since they wear it all the time...**
SC276: Even here, the only differences from what they normally wear are long sleeves, a few accessory armor pieces, and eyewear that restricts their peripheral vision. They don't even have a helmet!

Buddy and Artie felt this would be harder than they thought.

C.O.R.N.: **[Buddy Rose] "He's basically attacking with only a dagger permanently attached to his head! We're doomed!"**

The others weren't having much luck either, as Rhymey and Rep-Stallion went at it with their weapons. Rep-Stallion was very skilled in wielding his scythe, but he was rather impressed by Rhymey's swordplay.

C.O.R.N.: **Well he's only existed for like five hours tops. Give it time.**

"I must say, you are rather good…"
"I have practiced for long, like anyone should." rhymed Rhymey.

C.O.R.N.: ***shut the fuck up, rhymey***
...With how often it's going to be said, I have to mix it up.

Rep-Stallion sniggered,

C.O.R.N.: ***And so it begins.***

and then pulled a cheap magic attack, ***"SCYTHE SHOCK!"*** and his scythe began to spark with electricity that gave Rhymey a jolt and knocked him back hard.

C.O.R.N.: **For either definition of "cheap," why didn't he do it before?**

He got back onto his feet snarling angrily…
"I've had enough…
It's time to get tough!"

C.O.R.N.: ***ShUt ThE fUcK uP, rHyMeY***

He spread his wings out and shouted, ***"DRILL QUILL!"*** and as he flapped his wings hard, he sent a swarm of sharp quill feathers from his wings at his enemy like missiles.

SC276: The part of Rhymey will be played by the Fire Vellumental.

Rep-Stallion got hit several times as sparks and small explosions hit him.

SC276: Y'know, like when people get hit in *Power Rangers*.

"So, you want to play that way? Fine then…!"

SC276: And so he responds with- oh wait fuck we have to look at someone else now never mind.

Meanwhile, Dementia and Starla stared each other down.

SC276: of course there's a catfight...

"Let's see what you've got." Dementia sneered as she charged forward. Starla leapt out of the way. ***"STAR SHOWER"*** and with her shout sent a cluster of small stars, actually energy-bolts,

SC276: Did someone *actually* complain about this?

straight at Dementia, nearly ruffling her mane and Dementia did not like it when someone tried to spoil her pretty looks,

C.O.R.N.: **So, I'm going to go out on a limb and say Starla didn't do any actual damage.**

and Dementia did not like getting her looks spoiled

SC276: But Dementia hated when her looks were being spoiled- *did we get caught in a while loop or something*.

She turned and glared furiously at Starla. "Oh…! Ye who messes my mane WILL PAY!!" she shouted

C.O.R.N.: **I am. I'm reading this.**

and charged at Starla with all her might, and using her power to warp the air around her negating Starla's attacks

C.O.R.N.: **Which is why she didn't do it with that first one.**

and mocked, "Like they say, a good offense is a strong defense!"

C.O.R.N.: **[Starla] "But then it's not the *best* offense!"**
[Noir] "*Please*, like I need to bring my best against a rank amateur like you."

Starla didn't care,

C.O.R.N.: **What a coincidence, neither do I.**

but as the fight was about to continue, Titan appeared

SC276: With all the aplomb of a randomly encountered Rattata.

and called his minions off. "That's enough." he said with an evil snicker. "You have done well, my minions. Return to the castle."

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "Castle Terminal was part of the Shadow Line's deed."**

The minions, though disappointed as they were having so much fun,

C.O.R.N.: **[Noir] "But we're winning!"**
[Titan] "Trust me, you'll have *plenty* of time to have fun once I've gathered enough magic to start the Shadow Line's expansion up proper.

Also, you guys clearly outclass every single one of these losers, so this is boring as shit. *I DON'T DO BORING.* Now skedaddle!"

obeyed their master and vanished into thin air.

C.O.R.N.: Having suddenly ceased to exist.

Lightning peeked from behind the column. "Oh, no!

C.O.R.N.: 

Not him…!" he whimpered softly. Having previously had a taste of Titan's power he knew Titan was going to be much tougher than the minions, maybe even too tough for the others to handle

SC276: He threw you into a wall *once*.

"Release those prisoners now!" Buddy Rose demanded.

C.O.R.N.: [Titan] "(aside) Boy, never a dull moment with these monotones, huh?"

"Never!" scoffed Titan "But if you insist on seeing them again, I'll be glad to let you join them!"

C.O.R.N.: [Titan] "Want to see my impression of you in about twenty seconds?! (screams and flails)"

and he fired a stream of magic at the ponies, most of them dodged the magic, but Starla got hit. "Uhn…" she cried and she was trapped in a magic holding-bubble.

SC276: Of course the *girl* loses first…

"Starla…!" shouted Lightning.
"Let's get him!" shouted Artie! and everyone fire their best attacks all at once…
"LEAF SWARM!" A cluster of razor sharp leaves…
"PAINT BOMB!" Artie fired blobs of paint that exploded on contact whenever it hit.
"DRILL QUILL!"

SC276: Could've had a better rhythm if those two used their spells during the previous fight, but nope.

Titan got hit from all directions, but he didn't even seem fazed. "Fools!" he laughed and then one-by-one, trapped each of them in more bubbles, ready to drain their magic and energies.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Titan] "You're all pathetic! You'd need to assemble the Zodiac to have a hope of resealing me without your precious Uniforce, but since all of you are a bunch of dull numbers instead of varied pictures, it's impossible for you to even *qualify*!"**

Lightning was horrified to see his friends in so much pain and suffering, as well as the prisoners, and he finally felt something inside of him snap,

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Lightning Dawn] "*I'm* the only one qualified to torture the peasants!"**

and he leapt out from behind the column shouting. "YOU LEAVE THEM ALONE…!"
Titan turned to face him.

> **SC276: [Titan] "Well well well, lookie what we have here. Mini-GR. The tagalong citizen that ran and hid the moment danger showed up! That's hilarious!"**

"Lightning, don't!" cried Starla.
"Get out of here while you still can!" shouted Buddy Rose, but Lightning refused.
For a moment, nothing happened. Neither Titan nor Lightning said a thing to one another or even moved.

> **SC276: Riveting television, Mykan.**

Suddenly, without warning, Titan fired a small projectile which Lightning barely dodged.

> **SC276: OK, I'll give credit for that, beats getting knocked to the ground all the time.**

"Stay out of my way weakling! I don't know why the Grand Ruler chose you of all creatures to be his student,

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Titan] "Actually, that's a lie. He chose you because you both have the same physical disability of having a horn that bends when you glance it! And the same *mental* disabilities as well!"**

but I'd say he made a poor choice."
Those words made Lightning furious and he clenched his fists angrily growling "Never say anything like that about my mentor in front of me!"

> **SC276: That he's… bad at choosing??? Like, he insulted *you* more than he did *him*.**

and he charged towards Titan roaring like a monster. Impressed with his courage, but annoyed by his peskiness, Titan continued to fire more shots at Lightning, only to realize that Lightning was pretty quick on his feet and dodged each and every shot as if they were coming at him in slow-motion.

> **SC276: [Titan] "Hey, stop ripping off *Viewtiful Joe*, I'm trying to give an insulting monologue here!"**

Titan growled and then fired one giant shot of power but Lightning leapt right over it and, with a fierce battle cry, he soared downward and managed to kick Titan right in the chest.

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "*RIDER KICK!*"

Titan hollered in pain held his chest.
The others, watching from their prisons were nearly speechless.
"Look at him go." exclaimed Artie.

SC276: [Buddy Rose] "Not like we can do a lot else."

"We were not able scratch him,
Yet he seems able to match him." said Rhymey

SC276: *shut the FUCK up, Rhymey*

"He's amazing." Starla muttered softly, unable to take her eyes off him.

SC276: [Starla Shine] "Why is the spot between my legs on fire?"

Lightning himself wasn't sure he could believe how strong he was, but began to realize that having been training with the Grand Ruler for more than a decade was the explanation.

SC276: You're telling me Mykan rips off DBZ all the time, and yet Lightning has *never* measured his power level?

Titan was most outraged. "You… dare strike me…?!" he thundered as his body began to glow with extreme anger,

SC276: [Titan] "Right, that's it. I'm gonna eat your sanity now."

and he flapped open the lower area of his massive robe revealing that he had no legs at all, and that it was all just black and purple smog.

SC276: Considering we're basically in *Kingdom Hearts*, this isn't much of a twist.



"What the--?!" snapped Lightning "How…? But what…?" and while he stood there stammering in confusion,

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "How can I, a being with wings, comprehend a being that can move without legs?!"

Titan saw his chance and unleashed a strong wave of extreme dark energy which hit Lightning with the force of a hurricane and seemingly knocking him down for the count.

SC276: …Are you telling me Titan basically *flashed* Lightning as a distraction? What age demographic is this damn cartoon for?

"…LIGHTNING!!" the others all shouted, and when the smog had cleared, Lightning lay flat on the ground and felt very weak and sore. Titan laughed hard and evilly and continued to mock at him, "And you call yourself an alicorn?"

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "You don't even meet your species' own standards! Next time he makes a [PLANET], ol' GR needs to get his shit together and make races that match the hype."**
SC276: …It still counts, because the others probably have enough idea of alien life that a guy having no legs shouldn't have distracted them *that* much.

Lightning struggled to get up, but he collapsed in near exhaustion and pain. Titan decided, "Well then, allow me to put you out of your misery!" Titan said as began to power up again for one final, really big blast.

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "I could machine-gun this, *BUT THIS IS MORE FUN*."**

The others could hardly bare to watch,

SC276: Especially since clothing damage revealed Lighting's bear back.

this truly looked like the end for Lightning…
"No…!" Lightning suddenly snapped, and he struggled, and struggled,

SC276: And struggled, and struggled, but struggled, or struggled, because struggled…

and he managed to stand back up, much to Titan lividness. "Good gracious, are you still thinking you can win?"
"I'm… not… thinking…" said Lightning

SC276: Finally, something we agree on!

"Magic… or no magic… I KNOW I CAN BEAT YOU!" That's when his golden horn began to glow with a mystical light

C.O.R.N.: **As opposed to a mundane flicker.**

that seemed to cover all of Lightning's body. He felt incredibly strong now.

"That… that glow!" growled Titan "…No! No it can't be…?!"

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "I should've seen this coming. You're basically a smaller weaker version of GR, so *of course* you have his one unique spell."**

The others all watched in amazement. "Is that what I think it is…?" asked Buddy Rose.

C.O.R.N.: **Probably not, given you'd probably conclude he's constipated. And probably wouldn't be wrong.**

"Without a doubt…
The truth now comes out!" said Rhymey.

SC276: *SHUT THE FUCK UP, RHYMEY!*

Titan was not willing to let it be so. "Say goodbye…!" he snarled as he continued to charge up,

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "*Man*, I'm rusty at this. I should've blown those minions away to warm up."**

but Lightning, still glowing, stepped forth

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "Be flashed, monster!"**
SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "Like you flashed me!"
[Titan] "Keep your damn pants on, kid."

and recited a chant, almost like being in a trance.

SC276: …I don't know where you're going with that, but it's not on my train. (points at door) Off.

"I summon forth a mystic power
To aid me in this darkest hour
Casting now upon my foe
I now unleash… this magical glow…!"

C.O.R.N.: ***SHUT THE FUCK UP, RHY-* wait.**

Titan roared loudly and fired his magic-stream, and Lightning shouted, ***"…UNIFORCE!"***
(skip to 0:38)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfqNH3FoGi0

SC276: So for those that know better than to click on suspicious links, it's a clip of the end of the Yugi vs Kaiba duel of the first episode of *Yu-Gi-Oh*, where Exodia uses Obliterate. So… the Uniforce is just Exodia using Obliterate. …*So*, meet the new running gag!
EXODIA, OBLITERATE!

He fired a large and powerful golden force of extreme magic which met with Titan's force sending it right back towards him.

"AAHH-Uh…? NO…!"
KAPOW! He was hit hard and seemed to explode in a ball of fire, leaving only his charred robe behind.

SC276: Y'know, like *Power Rangers* monsters when they're hit with a finishing move.

Lightning stopped glowing, and he felt extremely exhausted now as if he had just blown out every last bit of his energy.
The bubble cells holding all the prisoners had vanished now that Titan was gone. Lightning's friends were released from their bubbles

C.O.R.N.: **Unfortunately, they were near the ceiling. Many broken bones resulted, and no one was amused by Starla shouting "It's raining men!"**

while outside, the dark clouds lifted as the evil vanished from the mountain and the swamp below. Everyone shouted for joy,

SC276: Presumably, giving the NPCs aren't in the same room…

and Krysta was so happy to be free and so proud of Lightning

SC276: [Krysta] "I don't know for what, but I am for some reason!"

while the members of Star Fleet were amazed. "He did it." said Buddy Rose.
"But how…?" asked Arite.

SC276: I don't think you were listening earlier: because bullshit.

Lightning was slowly recovering his strength but he still felt a little woozy. "Wow!" he exclaimed "Was that... could it be?!"

SC276: No, it's not the end of the story, that'll be awhile yet.

"Lightning, you won!" cried Krysta "You saved everyone.
Lightning felt really shocked and amazed with himself.

SC276: OK, Krysta, you're not the narrator, close your quotation already.

It all happened so fast though.

SC276: Like the scene needed to meet some arbitrary runtime limit.

Suddenly, the doors to the shrine opened, as dawn began to break and the sun shined through, followed by a mystical glow and then… he appeared-- a handsome, tall white alicorn with a short dark mane with images of space flowing like a picture.

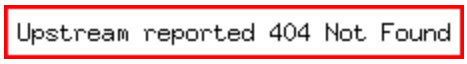
C.O.R.N.: **[Grand Ruler] "What do you think of my impression of Celestia appearing in the second episode as interpreted by someone incapable of higher thought?"**
SC276: [Grand Ruler] "Also, I styled my mane with the inside of Count Bleck's cape."

He wore jewel encrusted golden armor with doublets on each side into it, a red cape with gold markings fluttering on his back, even though there was no breeze.

SC276: His gold markings flutter in the breeze?

Golden Pegasus wings, black boots with golden edges round the feet, and atop his head were three golden horns, all shimmering like the stars

C.O.R.N.: `[Mykan] "See, it's like a crown because I have issues with authority-"`
SC276: OK, we knew that part from the prologue, you don't need to fucking repeat it. Also, come to think of it, haven't you been putting pictures *before* the description-



SC276: (breaks down rolling on the floor laughing) *OH MY FUCKING GOD HE DIDN'T EVEN MAKE SURE THE IMAGE OF HIS SELF-INSERT ACTUALLY WORKED*

The ponies all bowed, and so did Krysta.

C.O.R.N.: `She couldn't stop her momentum, though, and did a full somersault.`

Lightning's eyes lit up and he actually found the strength to leap for joy. "Grand Ruler, you're here!"

C.O.R.N.: `[Grand Ruler] "I thought the *fairy* was Commodore Obvious."`

He ran over to greet his mentor, and Grand Ruler was pleased to see everyone.

C.O.R.N.: `[Grand Ruler] "Oh good, you're still alive. That saves me a *lot* of paperwork."`

"Lightning, my boy, I am pleased you and everyone are safe, and I am very proud of you, for what you have done."
"You are, sir?"
His mentor nodded and explained he had. He explained

SC276: Explained explained, explained. Explained? Explained!

that he had witnessed everything that had happened; he didn't come to help because he knew that Lightning's training would pay off and that he could handle the situation.
Lightning and his new friends felt confused.

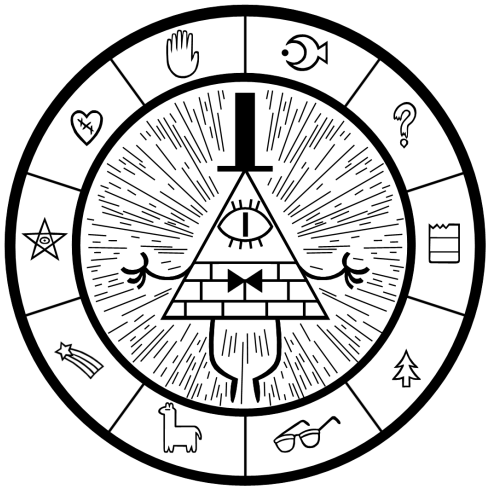
SC276: [Artie] "Lightning, *competent*?"

"Begging your pardon, sire..." said Buddy "But why would you not assist us? We all could've been hurt."

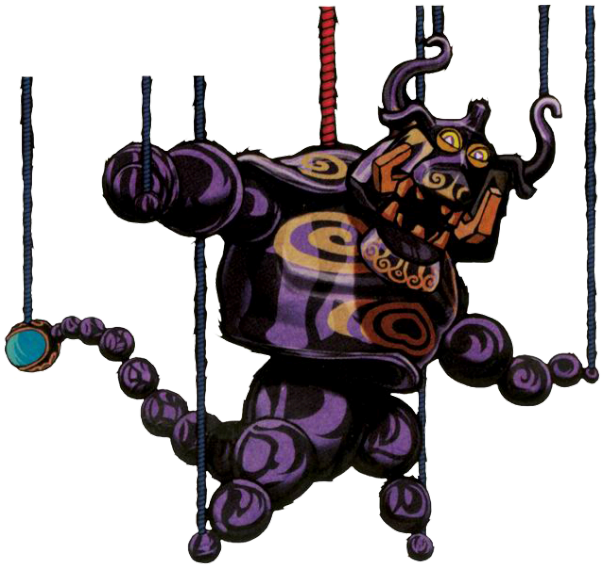
SC276: [Grand Ruler] "I literally just said. Pay attention in *GULAG*! No trial!"

His majesty crossed over to Titan’s charred robe and pulled out a damaged block of wood with an ancient seal marking on it.

SC276: Specifically:



“This was not actually Titan, but in fact a puppet imitation of him, with only a fraction of the actual power."



SC276:

The ponies gasped, they all had studied these puppet-clone spells before.

SC276: [Buddy Rose] “He’s not only an evil sorcerer, he’s a *ninja*?!”

"If that was only a fraction of his power, I'd hate to see the real Titan." said Artie.
Grand Ruler clenched the broken puppet wood in his hand, breaking it to splinters in his grip. "Had this truly been the real Titan, I would have come in an instant.

SC276: *Riiiiight.*

I knew you would be able to handle this puppet, however... due to the puppet's appearance and all this trouble; a thing I have feared most is coming true."
He turned to face the others, "You must all listen very carefully to what I am about to say.

SC276: [Grand Ruler] "Which shouldn't be a problem, given I've conditioned all of you to do so at the expense of everything else, including your own safety, but still."

Our world, and many worlds beyond as we know may now be in terrible danger."

SC276: Yeah, the Mykan fic turned out to be even worse than I thought.

He explained that ever since he had fought against Titan a-thousand years ago and banished him into the Dark planet,

SC276: "-he started practicing an Italian accent. He still hasn't quite got it down."

it was always feared that Titan would one day make an attempt to escape and return to finish what he started.

SC276: Since villains are, y'know, like that when they get their asses beat.

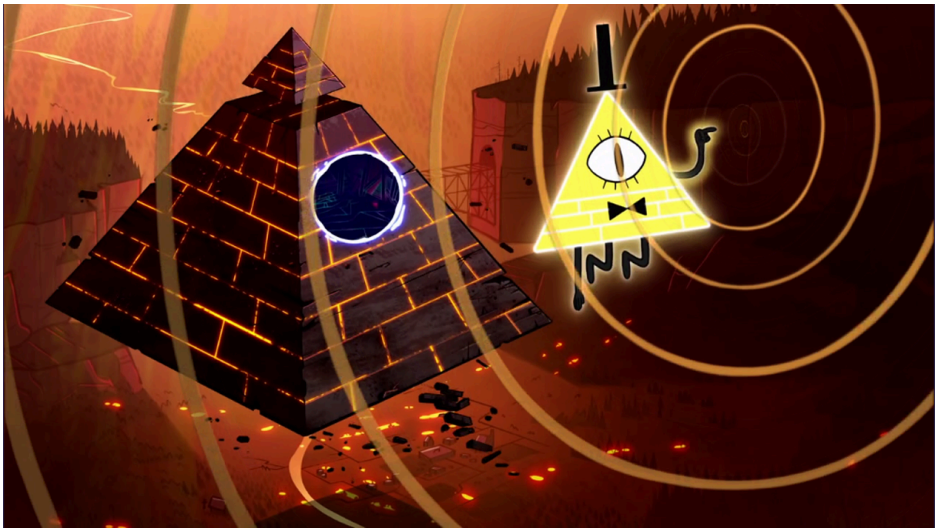
"It now appears, that somehow, Titan is regaining his power. Sending this puppet and those three evil ponies proves it!"
He continued to explain that the Dark Planet was, just that-- a very wicked and desolated planet located in the outer reaches of the galaxy.

SC276: Just down the street from Krossos. **Absolutely no one is going to get that.**

After Titan had been banished to the planet, Grand Ruler used his own powers to shroud the entire planet in a powerful force-field which had kept Titan there for all those centuries.

SC276:







"Now it seems that Titan has grown strong enough to actually weaken the barrier; by puncturing a small breech in it, enough to send these creations after us."
“He was testing us?” asked Lightning.

> **SC276: [Lightning Dawn] “But I never study! Make him always make it multiple choice!”**

“Yes, I’m afraid he was." replied Grand Ruler "Though the barrier may be weakening, Titan is still incapable of freeing himself, but rest assured, from what has happened Titan will attempt to find ways to increase his powers to escape my seal,

> **SC276: Or find the specific equation that breaks the barrier…**

and if he is successful... it will surely mean disaster to all!”

> **SC276: (pretending to file his nails) Forgive me if I don’t feel the adequate amount of dread.**

The ponies were starting to feel frightened “We can’t let him escape.” said Artie.
“What can we do?” asked Starla.
More and more ponies began to panic and stammer about of what to do. “Calmness everyone…!”
Grand Ruler

SC276: It’s still kinda funny that after the five years between the original draft and this one, Mykan *still* keeps forgetting and mischoosing words. I mean, yeah, I’m not immune to typos, but these errors are the kind of thing you tend to catch when you, y’know, read your damn fic back.

"As I have said, Titan is still weak and cannot escape himself, which gives us an outside chance.

SC276: Of hitting the corner pocket.

I will be doing everything that I can to maintain the seal against Titan, but at the same time, Titan will also be sending more monstrous creations to attack our world in an attempt to increase his power.

SC276: Using a giant slingshot.

It pains me to say this to you, but I'm afraid I will not be able to join you in battle."
This worried everyone. “But we need you to fight by our side.” cried Starla.

SC276: Skill issue.

“We can’t beat Titan without you.
Who knows what he may try or do.” said Rhymey.

SC276: *shut the fuck up, rhymey*

“You all must understand. Unicornicopia is already in enough danger.” said Grand Ruler. “As well as maintaining the seal of the Dark Planet, I must also use my power to protect the civilians and innocent ones of my kingdom in times of danger.

SC276: [Grand Ruler] “Also, I *am* still running an intergalactic police force suppressing resistance- I mean, destroying evil, so there’s that.”

I mustn’t strain myself any more than I should have to.”
He gazed down at the fighter ponies, “You all and many others with you are officers of Starfleet. It will be your duty like the many you came before you

SC276: I’m pretty sure that’s a loop in the inheritance tree.

to fight to defend our world from any and all evil attacks that may come our way.”
“Yes sir!” the fighters said and saluted to him. Grand Ruler nodded, and then gazed at Lightning. “As for you, Lightning, the time has come for you to take your training to the next level.
...I want you to join Starfleet as well.”

SC276: Sure, *now* you say it. Also, I guess Krysta just finished talking.

Lightning was speechless and shocked at first, as were the others, "But... Master... I--"

"I have trained you well, Lightning Dawn, and you have already proven yourself to be a worthy fighter. Though you have no natural magic of your own, you are no doubt capable of performing tasks, feats and doing battle without it, and that with your golden horn, you have the power to tap into the uniforce-- the one thing that Titan and his minions fear most."

> **SC276: Yeah, I'd buy that more if this weren't happening *solely* because of the supervillain breaking loose. If Titan hadn't done anything, despite you seeing Lightning's progress firsthand for over a decade, you would have been perfectly fine with dumping his ass on the ground to be a normal citizen doing a real job for the rest of his life. And let's be real - if he didn't have the Uniforce, you would be sending him *right back there right now*. None of the others got a chance to do a physical attack on Puppet Ganon. For all you know, his physical defense stat is shit while his magic resist is through the roof. If LD didn't have the *specific power* that lets him win, you would not have let him into Starfleet. *Some power fantasy.***

"But what is the uniforce?" Lightning asked "How do I unleash it again?"
Grand Ruler placed his hand over Lightning's shoulder. "You will learn in due time,

> **SC276: [Grand Ruler] "-so the author doesn't have to figure it out until the last moment-"**

and you will also discover that you are capable of doing far more than you think, so long as you continue to believe in yourself and in the faith of your new friends.

> **SC276: But not his own. (gets a Memo from the Future; reads it over) …Ah, OK. Yeah, I can dial that back a little.**

That goes for all of you." He bowed to his subjects and they all bowed back.
This was the beginning of a new adventure for everyone!

> **C.O.R.N.:** `Actually, from the looks of things, the chapter just *ended*.`
> **SC276: [Titan] "(slams a fist on the arm of his throne) Of *course* that self-conceited lightball made himself a mini-me. That's just typical of him. Still, (straightens up) now I have an idea of what I'm up against. Meanwhile, he *doesn't* know how I'm getting my power back - and as long as he's so focused on his precious pet project being threatened, he never will. I just have to keep building, and building… and once I find the equation to destroy this seal… (slowly builds up to maniacal laughter) …then THE PARTY *REALLY* STARTS! *LET THE GAMES BEGIN!*'**

(Promo)

> **SC276: Well, at least you're not showing the video every time…**

In our next episode, Lightning is sent on an errand for Buddy Rose, but Titan sends Dementia to attack by creating vicious monsters. Lightning, must fight alongside what little help he has, and even receives a new weapon to aid him in his quest for freedom and justice.

> **SC276: An extra comma!**

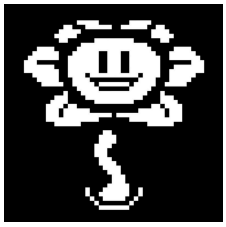
What is this new weapon, and will be able to help defend the planet?

SC276: I just said. An extra comma.

Don't miss the next exciting episode of "Starfleet Magic!"
(Next Episode: "Fearsome Flowers")

SC276: We have now reached the "filler cycle" of this story. Until the beginning of part 3, all of these chapters follow a generic shonen battle formula that tends to be excised from anime these days. Filler episodes like these are usually the chance to learn more about the characters and build their relationships and personalities. Of course, Mykan sees character as an obstacle to his plot, so you can tell how that's going to go.

Episode 3: Fearsome Flowers

C.O.R.N.: 

EPISODE THREE

Usually being accepted into Starfleet took lots of hard work and serious training; four to six years of studying at the Starfleet academy as well. However, due to the fact that Lightning had been personally trained and prepped by the Grand Ruler himself for well over a decade,

SC276: "-and yet did not have him become part of the organization until he showed off he could do something only people in charge should be able to do, which is totally not skeevy as shit-"

and by his majesty's royal command, all the technical stuff was overlooked and disregarded.

SC276: This is just reminding me of how much Superintendent Grandruler overrode Principal Celestia on pretty much everything about Lightning, even when he was being a disrespectful asshole to her. Isn't it great being able to avoid doing any hard work other people put their lives into because you're *SPECHUL*?

As such, Lightning was immediately inducted, and already promoted to *Senior Lieutenant,* which made him superior to his other friends, and the leader of the unit.

SC276: Because *clearly the thing Power Rangers needs is the WHITE PERSON in charge*. (chugs a tankard of orange juice) Ah, this tea tastes so good.

Though Lightning was initially unsure of being a leader of his own force having not much experience with such responsibilities,

SC276: Or responsibilities at all, to put it mildly.

his master knew he would do just fine, and his master was very trustworthy.

SC276: So if GR told you to jump off a bridge- wait, you can fly, bad example.

Krysta, being Lightning's companion-- with her astonishing ability of strength, she was dubbed as an auxiliary Starfleet fighter; practically Lightning's sidekick.

SC276: [Grand Ruler] "We have to say that to all the other races that throw a fit when we mention slavery. If we don't, they get annoying to subjugate."

Lightning also received two packages from Grand Ruler that day; one containing his new armor vest. It was exactly the same as his old one, only now the insigna had stars around it to show he was a member of the force.

SC276: (flips through the images of the other Starfleet ponies) OK, I don't know whether you forgot to put them on Rhymey or if they got eaten by JPEG artifacts.
Also, they're white; they're going to be basically invisible on Lightning's shirt. Yeah, they're visible in his art but that's because you made them black.
Also also, you could have just added stars to his existing vest instead of wasting resources making a new one. What, does no one in your little space force know how to sew?
Also also *also*, if there's a special signifier that someone's a member of Starfleet clearly visible for all to see, why was Lightning surprised in the last chapter that four of his new acquaintances were members? Especially if he memorized all Starfleet procedures and should have already known this. *But I guess that was a chapter ago, so it doesn't count anymore!*

The insigna itself was replaced with a special-transforming badge... an Energizer…

SC276: Because of course it's called that.

which still had the same marking of a Unicorn and a single wing!

SC276: *I thought they were alicorns.*

A few simple sequenced taps would allow Lightning to change clothes instantly, if and when he was in a hurry and had no time to change by himself,

SC276: -a.k.a. Krysta is too busy making him a sammich or something to dress him-

but only by shouting the command "Starfleet Magic" followed by a single press on the energizer would be transform into Battle-Mode, just like the others did durring the fight on the mountain.

SC276: Yes, author, I too have seen *Power Rangers*. As well as half a dozen *Super Sentai* series.

The armor itself composed of a highly density polymerized alloy and infused with Stardust and Cosmic energies; making it hundreds of times stronger than diamond. Nothing could harm it under fifty-thousand degrees and would take a lot of power and strength just to dent it. It was also magically

enchanted; it would amplify the wearer's natural abilities, magic, and weapons, making them stronger and swifter than they were before.

SC276: (playing *Kero Blaster* on his laptop) Yeah yeah, super fighting robot, how interesting or whatever.

The visors, now they were most important piece of equipment. Each visor had a set of various incredible functions.

SC276: *ROBOT ROLL CALL!*

-Heat sensory
-X-Ray

SC276: *Cambot!*

-Infrared vision
-Sound Scan
-Radar

SC276: *Gypsy!*

-Telescopic magnification
-Medical scan

SC276: *Tom Servo!*

-Power scouting
-Database retrieval

SC276: *Croooooooow!*

Also, all Starfleet suits as well their fighters fought under a specific elemental or attributed force. Lightning's was "The Power of Believing" a very uncommon force among any other, and actually the only one of it's kind to ever be in Starfleet before, but it represent Lightning's courage and determination, propelling him to keep fighting and never stop believing in himself, even when things seemed dire.

SC276: To summarize all that, Mykan doesn't know the term "title."

Lightning almost couldn't wait for his first official battle.
He was however curious about the second package as well.

C.O.R.N.: `He found its ticking to be quite pleasant.`

It was wrapped with a special magical material, not the kind you could just rip away or open so easily. All it came with was a letter from Grand Ruler…

Lightning…

C.O.R.N.: **"Dear Mini-Me..."**

You are about to embark on your adventure to help protect our world from that which threatens us. As much as I have faith in you,

C.O.R.N.: **You probably couldn't write that with a straight face.**

I wish to take no chances for your safety

C.O.R.N.: **"Which is why I waited until the scary bad guy went away before showing up."**

and therefore feel I should let you have this.

SC276: In material he cannot open. "Take no chances," he says while putting 50 on the snake.

You may not be able to open this package just yet, but all shall be made clear to you when the time is right.

C.O.R.N.: **"At least I assume so. It's the only conceivable reason I, God, couldn't open it."**

I have complete faith that you shall be one of our greatest assets in the fight against Titan and his evil forces.

SC276: "Which should be evident from that being the only reason I hired you."

Learn well and strong, my apprentice, and keep on believing.

C.O.R.N.: **"Specifically, in me. I'll figure out how Celestia does the mind-control thing eventually."**

Your caring Mentor:

C.O.R.N.: **(laughs disgustingly)**

Grand Ruler.

"Huh! I wonder what it is." Lightning said as he shook the package trying to figure it out,

SC276: *Aaaaaaaaand* you broke your Christmas present.

but he decided to just leave it be for now. He had other things to attend to.

C.O.R.N.: **Namely, starting a cult of personality centered on himself.**

Though he was an official Starfleet member now, he still had a normal life to live, and needed a simple job to pass the time, earn some extra money as well as make a little living outside the force.

SC276: *Wow*, this intergalactic police force *can't even give their soldiers a full-time living wage*?! I thought Mykan lived in *Canada*!

So he decided, and became a *community worker;* he would go around and help others at their work or do menial tasks for others.

C.O.R.N.: `That job sounds like the vocational equivalent of the drawing the parents put on the fridge so everyone can see it.`

The entire planet was now well aware of what was happening, that Titan and his forces were out there and willing to strike again, but with Starfleet on constant alert and patrolling the areas for any signs of danger, the civilians lived in not too much fear and still went about their daily lives; it was better than living in fear and staying in hiding all the time.

SC276: Because it's so easy to not be unreasonably afraid when you're constantly surrounded by armed armored figures you could do literally nothing to protect yourself against if they turned on you for any real or imagined reason.

Some Starfleet officers did aerial patrols, others were walking beats on the streets, and others were on sentry duty in lookout towers. If anything evil came to the planet, they'd have to be pretty slick to avoid being seen!

C.O.R.N.: `As such, no one noticed or remembered White Village when it sunk into the darkness and became part of the Shadow Line.`

Still, Unicornciopia was also a planet of law-and-order, as was said before, crimes, hostile acts and such things were not tolerated. Everyone wanted to live in civil peace and good-relationships, but if the law was broken, depending on the severity, there would be consequences.

SC276: Author, I already know about your *motherfucking fascist police ethnostate*. You do *not* need to remind me of it.
...
...
...Also, unless you're Lightning or the Starfleet officers that let what was at the time a civilian come along on a mission because he refused to leave.

Lightning pretty much was starting to get used to his new life, but he never neglected his training and exercise to keep strong,

SC276: [Mykan] "What training and exercise did he do? *Fuck you*, that's what!"

nor his studying to gain more knowledge of the world and galaxy around him, but most importantly the uniforce. It wasn't like anything he had ever seen or studied before.

SC276: Because this idiot that dances his way into the middle of a street is known for studying.

What was the Uniforce really? Where did it come from? How did he tap into it before, and how could he do it again?

SC276: Exodia using Obliterate, *Yu-Gi-Oh!*, because the author wrote enough of the fight to fill his "timeslot," and the next time the author writes enough of the fight to fill his "timeslot." Next question.

He still had no idea how to summon it like he did in the battle against the Titan-Puppet

SC276: Skill issue.

Unfortunately, he searched all over the library, but not one of the books had the information he sought. He was starting to feel a little frustrated. Inquerius was passing by and saw him studying hard again. "Are you frustrated, Lightning?" she asked.

SC276: No, I'm pretty sure "Lightning" is his *first* name.

"I don't think "frustrated" is the word?" Lightning sighed "Do you have any other books that can help me find what I'm looking for?"
"Do you really think that what you seek can be found in a book? That such a rare and extremely powerful force has been recorded." asked Inquerius.

SC276: [Question-girl] "At least, in a publicly-available library? Would you not think that our glorious leader would want to keep all intelligence about his until-you unique spell classified?"

"That's what I'm asking you!" snapped Lightning.

SC276: [Question-girl] "Oh dear Celestio, why must he be so *thick*...?"

He apologized quickly for being rude, "But please, can you just help me out?"
Inquerius felt confused, "I have not been helping you already?"

C.O.R.N.: `[Lightning Dawn] "No, no you haven't."`

Lightning was getting so frustrated at all those questions,

C.O.R.N.: `[Mykan] "You hear that?! Stop asking me to justify my choices!"`

but Artie was passing by with some books he was returning told Lightning "You haven't been around very long, and I don't think you quite get it here.

SC276: [Artie] "You're slow like that."

You see, her name is Inquerius; "Inquerius" like "inquire" or "curious."
She *doesn't give answers,* she *asks questions.* It's the way she talks.

SC276: Author, you're aware the only decent character to speak like that was <u>a B-list supervillain from a kid's show about vocabulary</u>, right? ...C.O.R.N. is definitely not going to playback the end rant and you know it.

Just like how Rhymey rhymes all the time, at least he does it less annoyingly." He chuckled softly,

SC276: Wanna bet?

but Rhymey looked up from his book and scoffed teasingly.
"Less annoying, eh?
My rhymes are okay."

SC276: *shut the fuck up, rhymey*

Lightning got the drift now.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "*That's the stupidest fucking thing I've ever heard.*"**
[Artie] "I don't think so. She's never been called to jury duty in her life."

Inquerius helped others by trying to get them to realize the answer for themselves; like answer a question by asking a question. A rather bizarre, but somewhat effective way to get certain things.

SC276: And what if they want *anything besides those certain things*? What, does the fascist ethnostate consider all that forbidden knowledge?
C.O.R.N.: **What is with authority figures and avoiding work in this universe? This lady's taking lessons from Wally. Or, given her strategy is clearly "annoy them until they go away," the Warner Brothers.**

"Is there not something else you can do instead of pondering over this mystery?" asked Inquerius.

C.O.R.N.: **[Inquerius] "You know, instead of blocking the *entire aisle*?"**
[Lightning Dawn] "Lightning Dawn doesn't get answers, *no one does*."
[Inquerius] "This third-person thing better be temporary, right?"

Krysta fluttered near her friend and suggested he take a break go get lunch. "You've been working too hard, Lightning. You really should relax."

SC276: [Krysta] "Just repeat to yourself: it's just a fanfic."

Lightning felt that was laughable.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "Me, work hard? *HA!*"**

How could he relax at a time like this when he had so many unanswered questions tormenting him, as well as worrying what Titan was up to now?

C.O.R.N.: **"I just wonder what Ganon's up to."**

But just then, his stomach gurgled he complied with what Krysta said.

SC276: His stomach's more obedient than he is. Which all things considered is rather concerning.

The Dark Planet was, as its name suggested, an eerie, dreary, fearful place

SC276: Shut up, Lady Redundant Woman.

with dark thundering skies. The grounds were littered dark soils, burned trees, and the bones of dead bodies decaying.

SC276: Good. Dead bodies *not* decaying is how you get vampires.

Just the ideal place to keep an evil demon like Titan imprisoned all those centuries,

SC276: Everyone knows the best place to keep someone evil is surrounded by evil. Especially if they get more power from evil.

but in all that time, Titan had slowly begun to rebuild, and in the center of the planet

SC276: That sounds physically questionable, though in comparison to everything else, it's pretty low on the list. Also lets me keep the purple void background.

stood a tall and spooky dark castle, his home and base of operations for the past millennium.

C.O.R.N.: `Specifically, this castle:`



SC276: [Titan] "(speaking into a microphone) Hello, and welcome to *Lifestyles of the Evil and Twisted*, with your host, Titan! Today, we're seeing the lair and machinations of our special guest, Titan! Let's take a look around. This here is Castle Terminal, central nexus of the Shadow Line. This baby was built to take over the world with darkness and trains before yours truly made a few tweaks and took the whole operation intergalactic. Mostly by cannibalizing the Astral Express when they got too close."

Over the ages, Titan worked hard to restore his power, and break Grand Ruler's barrier on the planet and escape;

SC276: [Titan] "I gotta give GR this, when he seals someone on a planet, he *really* seals them on a planet. I can't get anything made with my power off this rock! But

that's the key word: *my* power. He forgot to make that seal work on *anything else*. And since I won Castle Terminal and the Shadow Line in a card game, the seal completely ignores it, no problem. I got Kuros and Shadows working 'round the clock on the surrounding frontier planets, carting darkness back here on Kuliners. And when the imports are running scarce, well… let's just say I know where all darkness in *this* planet is buried."

So far all he had succeeded in was creating *a small rift* big enough to send his minions or puppet-clones of himself through, but not great enough for himself.

SC276: [Titan] "And *boy*, you think eating your spinach makes you strong, nothing beats Castle Terminal-processed darkness! Took me like two hundred years to get the refinement process down pat, but it was worth it! (sips goblet) *Ahh…* The perfect mix of salty tears and bitter regrets. I get five dozen morning eggs worth of strength on my daily doses of this sweet black gold. I'm strong enough now that I managed to punch a hole in GR's stupid seal. Once I got a track out to his Unitropia or whatever, I was able to get some of my own personal creations on it. And now the game's *really* started."

In order for him to escape, the entire barrier would have to be brought down

SC276: [Titan] "'Will GR notice all this?' you may be asking? (*raspberrys*) Not a chance. Some other gang beat the previous owner, so that nimrod has no idea what to even look for. Most of my operations are outside places his fleet even remotely patrols; they don't have nearly enough copy-paste freaks to cover the *entire* universe. And as long as there's a threat on his little pet project of a planet, he's not going to think about *anything else* but the stuff on it and settling for reinforcing my seal from the remote comfort of his sky palace instead of checking in himself. Bottom line is, I know how to hide from the law. I've been around for nearly two thousand years, so I know lots of things. *LOTS OF THINGS.*"

Now understanding what his course of action was.

SC276: [Titan] "We'll be back with more *Lifestyles of the Evil and Twisted* after <u>this commercial break!</u>"

He summoned his minions before him in his massive throne room.

C.O.R.N.: **[Titan] "I realize I'm sitting on a house of cards right now, but don't worry - those cards are made out of all the Shadow Kaijin I 'retired' when I took over the Shadow Line."**

The minions bowed,

SC276: "-briefly questioned why the disco ball was still there-"

and Titan explained his plan, "My experiment in sending that puppet to gather energy from the alicorns has proven a success. Even now, the rift in the force field is expanding as my power grows, which greatly weakens the barrier itself,

SC276: [Titan] "-making me the perfect allegory for global warming-"

but if I am to effectively escape I shall require more power, which means more energy drained from those ponies and the world around them.

SC276: [Titan] "The darkness festering in the slums of GR's *stupid dumb-dumb idiot* planet is *so* rich, I almost got a contact buzz! A steady supply from there, and ripping this stupid barrier down will only be a matter of *months*! Maybe even *weeks*! So we are going to get that darkness at *any* cost!"

Do you understand?"
Mysterious bowed to his master "We understand completely my Lord Titan. We will not let you down."

SC276: [Nero] "We will totally fail you now!"

Dementia nodded, but Rep-Stallion scratched his head in confusion, "Uh, not trying to question orders, but can't we just get stronger in secret and then strike those punks again?"
Dementia nudged him softly and growled "We're going to explain it to you one last time, so pay attention! One of the first rules of combat is… Don't underestimate your opponent!"

SC276: [Schwartz] "But they make it so *easy*!"

"Dementia is correct." hissed Titan "That is mistake I intend not to make a second time,

SC276: Well, are you Russian or not?

therefore we stick with my plans. By doing this will not only gain more energy and power, should Starfleet spring into action we shall study them and learn of their skills and power, making it easier to crush them in our own time.

SC276: [Titan] "If there's one thing that hasn't changed about GR in a thousand years, it's that he couldn't hold someone else's secret if he *tried*. He doesn't value intelligence, and like with any war, that will be his undoing."

However, if we destroy them beforehand, that's fine too."
Mysterious and Dementia nodded, and Rep-Stallion nodded too finally understanding. "Tell us my lord." Mysterious asked "How shall we carry out your wicked will?"
Titan snickered sinisterly

SC276: [Titan] "The old owner's methods have been doing pretty well on the frontier with the minimum resistance, but we don't have the Shadow Kaijin to spare sending to Ground Zero just to get blown up. Which is why I have *another* idea."

and in his hands he conjured up a sack of magic powder he entrusted to the minions. "This dust contains one of the more darker spells. Sprinkle it over any inanimate object and you will see."
He snickered sinisterly.

SC276: Snickered sinisterly snickered sinisterly, snickered sinisterly. Snickered sinisterly? Snickered sinisterly!

Lightning and Krysta had finished their lunch and thanked Cookie Dough.

C.O.R.N.: **[Cookie Monster] "Good, despite being bigger idiots than Grand Ruler, you know the script."**

"Happy to do it for you guys." he replied, and then he left to get back to work.
Krysta let out a tiny burp. "Ooh! Excuse me!" she giggled,

SC276: You're not excused.

but Lightning still seemed distracted. "I don't get it…" he said. "How can everyone be so calm when there's an evil force out there that could attack any minute?"

SC276: You mean besides this being a zero-tolerance police state *before* Starfleet flooded the streets with soldiers, which relatively speaking puts this in "this might as well happen" territory?
C.O.R.N.: **You haven't been in the US lately, I see.**
SC276: *Wow*, did that line not age well.

Krysta was just as confused as he was, but then assumed everyone was just trying to be brave.

C.O.R.N.: **And failing miserably.**

"We can't just let one fact scare us."
"I don't know…" Lightning said "Wouldn't it be easier to just blow up the Dark Planet, and Titan would be gone?" but suddenly he realized "What am I talking about…?"

SC276: Probably something a lot of people asked Mykan about in MLU.

He knew that Starfleet was not a murderous force. They couldn't go around blowing worlds up without good reason or cause.

SC276: Also, the *last* time they tried to kill him, they failed. Even GR didn't get him weak enough to kill him here.

Even still, from what he had already seen, studied, and heard of, it was clear Titan couldn't be defeated quite that easily, even if he was weak. Even the Grand Ruler was not strong enough to ultimately destroy Titan, hence why he had him sealed off in the first place.

SC276: *I said it first.*

No, until something could effectively be done, all there was nothing to do was continue to stave Titan and his forces off.

SC276: Because they can't just try to patch that hole or something.

In the meantime, Lightning and Krysta decided to head to Buddy Rose's garden to pick some flowers for their home in White Village.

There were so many kinds of flowers and they were so beautiful and nice to smell. Krysta was careful not to sneeze this time.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Krysta] "Shouldn't we *ask* him for some flowers instead of raiding his backyard while he's out doing charity work?"**
> **[Lightning Dawn] "What are you, stupid? He'd make me *pay* for them."**

As Krysta was about to pick some flowers, Buddy Rose came along and said "You don't want those flowers."

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Krysta] "...Wait, did Cookie lend you that gun, or-?"**
> **[Buddy Rose] "Krysta, please, I still kinda like you, so… just shut up."**

"I don't…?"

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Lightning Dawn] "Aaaaaaaand there's my total inability to stand up to peer pressure."**

"They're too plain-- Too ordinary. Now I have something I think you'll really love."

> **SC276: Spoken like a true used car salesman. With a shotgun.**

He motioned for them to follow him to a vacant patch in the flowerbeds

> **C.O.R.N.:** **-where there were no witnesses-**

with only mere drawings such beautiful flowers on sticks.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **No, Buddy Rose, imaginary flowers don't count.**

They were so incredibly beautiful it was almost impossible to describe them…

> **SC276: [Mykan] "So I'm not even going to bother. Why bother to try when you're not guaranteed to win?"**

Buddy Rose explained that's why they were called *Beauti-Flors,*

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Lightning Dawn] "Did you steal that name from the chick from *Harry Potter*-?"**
> **[Buddy Rose] "*do you ever fucking shut up*"**

and they only grew in his hometown, Redwood Meadows. "So why don't you have any here?" asked Lightning.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Buddy Rose] "...Did you miss that I said that they only grew in Redwood Meadows?"**
> **[Lightning Dawn] "I don't pay attention to anything peasants say."**

"I ordered a new supply of seeds from there, but my shipment's way overdue." said Buddy "I've sent contacts back and forth but I haven't gotten any replies,

C.O.R.N.: **[Buddy Rose] "Probably because I don't actually know how to write."**

and I can't leave just yet, the garden needs urgent tending to. If there's one thing I learned about gardening, never neglect your duties. The slightest bit could be fatal."

SC276: And people say gardening is such a relaxing hobby...

"Well, can't you ask your family to come by and drop it off." added Lightning,

SC276: Why do a lot of the additions in this chapter feel like Mykan directly answering fridge logic made about MLU?

but Buddy Rose stopped and froze on the spot. He looked very grim all of a sudden. "My folks… they died a few months ago."
Hearing this stunned Lightning and Krysta.

SC276: I should probably have a similar emotional response, but after the "fascist ethnostate" realization, you're not getting anything else out of me.

"Oh, I'm really, sorry." Lightning said.
"It's okay, you didn't know."

Buddy Rose explained how

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "I didn't ask for-"
[Buddy Rose] "*I am threatening you with a shotgun, SHUT UP AND LET SOMEONE ELSE TALK FOR ONCE.*"

a few months ago he had graduated from the Starfleet academy, while his parents had gone off to the planet Yale, where his older sister, Iris, was attending college.

SC276: Cute. Cute planet name.

They were all planning to come back and visit to celebrate Buddy Rose's graduation, when the planet got attacked by invaders. Starfleet did the best they could but weren't able to save everyone. Several lives were lost, three of them being his family.

SC276: ...So... they weren't there *for the graduation*? So they didn't show up for your graduation and they died for it, as if it were divine retribution by an unkind god with no sense of proportion? Like, the only reason I can think of why they would be there and not here would be if *she* was also graduating, and thought graduating from college was a bigger cause for celebration than graduating from Fascist High, and Mykan *disagreed*.

Lightning felt really bad for Buddy. His parents were dead too,

SC276: It involved five tequilas, a bowling ball, and a *really* desperate seagull.

and just learning of this spiked an old painful memory inside of him. However he didn't let it show, not liking to think of it, and was really concerned for his friend.
"Now we're really sorry." said Krysta.
"It's okay, you're not to blame." Buddy replied "Now I only have one living relative, my little cousin, Daphne Dill.

SC276: *Ohhhh,* that's why Legend wouldn't shut the fuck up about her.

She lives with me, and I take care of her after her parents died in an accident, but she's too young to make a delivery of such importance, and she's in school. So, I can't ask her to get me the seeds."

SC276: [Krysta] "...Come to think of it, you could have just said 'Long story short, no.' You didn't need to drop your entire traumatic backstory."
[Buddy Rose] "Yes, Krysta, but you have to understand: this is my focus chapter, and nothing about it is ever going to be relevant to anything later."
[Krysta] "...OK, yeah, fair."

Lightning and Krysta offered to get the seeds themselves, to which Buddy was thankful.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "This is totally a thing I'm doing of my own free will and not because you're pointing a shotgun at me."**
[Buddy Rose] "...I'm not sure how to feel about this. On one hoof, Cookie has trained you well. On the other hoof, not well enough to *not steal from someone's garden*."

Lightning and Krysta flew off, and in a very short time they had arrived!

SC276: Glad *someone's* excited.

Redwood Meadows: It was a lovely village with red roses and other red flowers in the fields as far as the eye could see

SC276: Including a field of poppies. Its little girl count was fifteen.

and even some tall redwood trees. Little white cottages with red thatched roofs were all scattered along either sides of a red-brick road leading into the flower fields.

SC276: I'm pretty sure this is an area in *Paper Mario: the Origami King*.
C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "...Is the *grass* supposed to be red?"**

Strangely however, Lightning and Krysta couldn't see any movement below, no signs of life. "Where is everyone?" Lightning asked.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "*Where are my subjects?!*"**

Krysta had no clue. "Let's go down and take a look." and down they went. Everything seemed as if they village had been evacuated. It was so quiet they could almost hear the echo of leaves falling.

SC276: Echoing off what, the insides of their heads?

Suddenly, Lightning felt the ground rumbling and the tremors grew stronger with every passing second. "Krysta…?" asked Lightning "What's that noise…?"
Krysta gulped hard. "I don't think I want to know."

SC276: Neither do I, but we don't always get what we want.

The rumbling got stronger, and then suddenly, Lightning and Krysta could hear the creepy sounds of soft growling coming from behind them. They turned round, and what they saw nearly made them leap out of their skins!

C.O.R.N.: **[Mykan] "This is *totally* cinematic! I'm gonna get two thumbs-up for sure!"**

It was a flower exactly like the Beauti-Flors in Buddy's pictures; only it was at least twenty feet tall, with dark eyes, sharp, prickly vines, teeth…

C.O.R.N.: **So, it *doesn't* look like a Beauti-Flors- (*GAGS VIOLENTLY*)**

and it roared like the monster it was.

SC276: I'll be real, when I first read the original, my brain rendered Blossomon independently of PanzerThiefZero's suggestion.
C.O.R.N.: **Given the *Digimon* thing, you're probably on the money there.**

It also ran in the ground itself by its roots and tore everything in its path as it went.
Lightning and Krysta backed away, and then they heard the sound a familiar laughter, and Dementia appeared, levitating in the air. "Hi…!" she teased.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "...are you flirting with me?"**
[Noir] "What?! *EW!*"

"You…!" snarled Lightning "So, this is Titan's doing!"
Dementia nodded. "You didn't think you'd go unpunished for you actions on our last encounter… did you?"

SC276: Technically, *your* last encounter was with *Starla*. Lightning spent the entire time you were there hiding.

Then she instructed her monster, Floralbite,

SC276: I got better: Bloomsday.

to attack and destroy Lightning. The Floralbite snapped its teeth twice. Lightning realized what this meant.

SC276: It's telegraphing its attack like a video game boss?

"Well… I guess this is It." he said

SC276: No, I'm pretty sure if this was a Steven King novel, it'd have less typos.

and remembered what he was supposed to do, he stood upright

SC276: He stopped being upright at some point?

and waved his arms

SC276: -like an inflatable tube-man.

shouting "Starfleet Magic!" touching the insignia on his armor, and he donned his battle suit and hollered ***"Power of Believing!"***

SC276: This is going to get old fast, I can tell.

The body of his armor was still white, but his visor, shoulder-pads and stomach guard were gold colored like his horn. Lightning clenched his fists tight "Let's do this!"

SC276: Let's not and say we did.

Floralbite lunged at Lightning and he and Kyrsta evaded it, causing the monster to smash the ground. "Wow!" Krysta exclaimed "I never thought flowers could be so strong."

SC276: Maybe it's because it's a *fucking monster*, ever thought of that?!

Lightning leapt up, and scanned the beast with his visor. Its attack was fairly high, its defenses weren't nearly too high, but its attacks were dangerous.

SC276: Even when it's not an isekai anime, we can't get away from stat screens.

What was even stranger, the life readings gave off strange signals. No vital signs, no inner-bio functions. "Hey, this monster isn't a living being, it's just made out of ordinary flowers."

SC276: Because *of course* flowers aren't biological in Mykanland, it's not like anything else about this circus is natural, if the alicorns being "genetically altered" has to be pointed out.

"What?!" snapped Krysta.
Dementia snickered and gently patted the small sack out powder on her belt. "What, giving up already?" she teased.

C.O.R.N.: **`Yeah, can we get back to imitating the pilot? I can get material from that.`**

Lightning growled angrily and leapt over kicking the monster hard in its body. The monster growled in pain and nearly toppled over after that attack, but was still strong and ready for more.

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "*No fair*, the Rider Kick's supposed to be a finishing move!"

Dementia, although amazed by Lightning's strength, laughed hard and mocked Lightning for his foolish attempts and then she herself leapt down to join the fight.

SC276: Leapt down from... where she was levitating in mid-air? Does Mykan think she can double-jump?

"Let's see how you like this, ***WARP WAVE!"*** and she sent a waving blast of wavy-energy right at Lightning.

SC276: Lady Noir used Psywave!

He back flipped out the way, but Dementia continued to fire at him while he continued to backflip away, but finally he

SC276: -backflipped into a wall.

got hit and rolled down a small slope.

SC276: ...Does Mykan think tumbling involves a blogging website?

"...Gotcha!" Dementia laughed! "Hey!" snarled Krysta "No one does that to my friend!" and she lunged right at Dementia, buzzing around her like an insect, which greatly annoyed her.

SC276: You think *you're* annoyed...
C.O.R.N.: `Join the club, sister.`

She swung her arm and nearly batted Krysta away, but she swerved and kicked Dementia hard in the face, actually sending her down. "Ha! Take that!"

SC276:



Dementia was outraged that her pretty face had been kicked and splotched with dirt "My beautiful face! You pesky firefly, take this!" and she fired another wave blowing Krysta high up in a draft. "Whoa!"
Lightning saw that, and dashed over to try and help,

C.O.R.N.: `Right. Lightning, help.`
SC276: I guess he stopped falling down the hill then.

but the Floralbite ran out in popped up in front of him, and punched him hard sending him skidding across the ground. Lightning wasn't hurt badly, but was angrier than ever as he got up again. Since this monster was not truly alive, it could be destroyed without consequence,

SC276: Oh don't act like you ever fucking cared about that.

but Lightning no magic of his own to do so.

SC276: Oh, right, for some fucking reason, Grand Ruler didn't give you a *real weapon*. You really think Generalissimo Ruler would be better about arming his troops!

He struggled and struggled with all his might trying to summon he uniforce, but nothing happen.

C.O.R.N.: `That's not because the Uniforce is an ultimate power or anything, it's because Lightning's just that stupid.`

He needed help and fast if there was to be any hope of beating this thing!
The Floralbite growled and fired large barbs at him that exploded on contact which Lightning did his best to evade. "There has to be a way to stop this thing." cried Krysta.
"There is, just surrender, willingly I'll make sure your treated with mercy." hissed Dementia.

C.O.R.N.: `[Noir] "And given the only thing you can do is basically useless, you're only getting a choice because I'm feeling generous."`
SC276: [Krysta] "...Yeah, that bubble had no movie or snacks or anything, so that's not happening."

"…Never!" Lightning snapped "I may be the newbie, but I believe I can still win."

SC276: OK, I think I cracked the code. "Believing" is the word Mykan uses to describe protagonist-y determination and generic shonen hero traits. I want to make fun of it… but at work, when over like a dozen identical packages in a row are all going to the same pallet, I call it a "running gag," so I'm in no position to throw stones here.

but while he was proclaiming, the monster managed to catch Lightning off guard, grabbing him with its snaring vines.

SC276: [Noir] "Talking ain't a free action, bitch!"

"Lightning!" cried Krysta as she tried to fly over and help him but Dementia just kept blasting more waves at her.

SC276: *~You cannot shoo a horsefly / a horsefly, a horsefly / You cannot shoo a horsefly / no matter what you try~*

"Destroy him now!" Dementia bellowed.

C.O.R.N.: **[Noir] "Keep doing what you were already doing!"**
SC276: DESTROY HIM NOW! DESTROY HIM NOW! DESTROY HIM NOW! DESTROY HIM NOW! DESTROY HIM NOW! DESTROY HIM NOW! DESTROY HIM NOW! I'll have the chicken. DESTROY HIM NOW!

The monster opened its huge mouth ready to devour Lightning whole. "No…!" growled Lightning "I… won't… let this… happen!" and he sank his teeth into the vines. The monster roared and growled in pain as it released Lightning.

SC276: Boy, good thing that made no sense.

"Hey…!" shouted Dementia "You won't get away that easy." but as she prepared to retaliate…!
"LEAF SWARM!" shouted a voice as a swarm of razor leaves flew at her.

C.O.R.N.: **Well offhand, a Bulbasaur has invaded the fic.**

"Buddy Rose!" cried Krysta and Lightning.
Buddy Rose, in full armor himself, smirked at them. "I wondered why you guys were taking so long. Then word came in Rainbow City that Redwood was under attack."

SC276: Which begs the question of why the rest of the squad isn't showing up, besides this taking long enough as it is.

Dementia was furious, as well as in a mess. "Get them!" she thundered,

C.O.R.N.: **[Noir] "Maybe he can use the others as extrapolation points, or maybe as railroad ties. Either point, *KILL*."**

and the monster charged. "Run!" shouted Lightning, and the gang dashed away only to have the monster start chasing them.

C.O.R.N.: **And now back to the situation we were in before, only with more heroes being useless. ...Also, that is one *damn fast* flower.**

The monster growled and opened its mouth to fire more explosive barbs. "Look out!" Lightning called as he and Buddy evaded the attack.
"All right, that does it!" snarled Buddy "There're only one way to deal with a bad bud like this!

SC276: Call Lord Zokket?

VINE WHIP!" and he summoned forth a long whip which was his basic weapon. He lassoed it round the monster near its roots and yanked with all his might pulling it up and out of the ground, and then lassoing the whip around the roots so it couldn't get back up again.



SC276:

"No!" cried Dementia "Floaralbite, get up!" The monster tried with all its might, but it couldn't seem to get up straight with the whip latched round its roots.

SC276: And this is keeping it from shooting more barbs from his mouth because shut up.

"Awesome!" said Lightning "But what do we do now? How can we stop it for good?"
"I was hoping you'd know." said Buddy. He himself was still a Starfleet freshman, and he didn't have any powerful finishing-moves he could use.

SC276: *Boy, this military is shit at being a military.* If a squad needs these strong finishing moves in order to make sure they can win a fight, why didn't GR make sure this one had at least one before literally the last possible second?!

The Floralbite was fussing about and struggling to break free "I can't hold on much longer!"
"Aw… what's the matter? Out of options are we?" teased Dementia. Then she used her powers to free her monster and make it stand up right again.

SC276: [Mykan] "How can a wave cut a vine? *Fuck you*, that's how!"

"Uh oh…!" cried Krysta, but just as the monster was about to charge in something sped past it. "What now?" Dementia sneered

SC276: She's as done with this bullshit as we are. …I am. …I am incredibly lonely.

as she and the others saw the object hover before Lightning "Hey! It's that package I got from the Grand Ruler."

C.O.R.N.: `[package] "You *dare* leave me behind, asshole?! You know how hard it was to get here when I can only teleport like three feet at a time like a Weeping Angel being watched through a film camera?!"`

Indeed it was, and the wrapping around it magically vanished

SC276: [robot voice] "`Disengaging plot-based time lock..."`
C.O.R.N.: `[package] "And now I'm dead, I hope you're fucking happy!"`

revealing a small golden scepter with a golden ball on time, and encrusted with rows of colorful jewels, all the colors of the rainbow.

SC276: …That looks even more like a bad dildo than the *original* Rod.

"Lightning…!" echoed a voice.
"Grand Ruler…?" Lightning cried, but his master was nowhere to be seen; only his voice was heard.

C.O.R.N.: `Fucking hell, he can turn invisible now.`

"If you are hearing this magical message, means you are ready to take possession of this

SC276: -magical-

item.
Although you are strong and swift, brute strength alone will not always be enough to help you. You may be able to tap into the uniforce, but you have much to learn before you truly can master it.

SC276: [Grand Ruler] "I'm not going to *help* you learn any of that, because frankly you weren't paying attention during the *first* decade."

Therefore, until such a time, I give you THIS to assist you in battle.
This is the Rainbow Rod.

C.O.R.N.: `And if you confuse it with the Star Rod, Kirby eats you.`

I created it centuries ago, and in time it has become infused with great power that should be extremely helpful to you.

SC276: Like how juice turns into wine, a.k.a. becomes completely undrinkable.

When the time is right,

SC276: *is this your favorite phrase or something*

and you have strength enough,

SC276: This is a new condition, and judging from this Memo from the Future, this is pretty much solely so the Uniforce gets used at all going forward.

simply recite the chant inscribed on the rod,

SC276: …somewhere…
C.O.R.N.: `And then drop the bass-bass-bass.`

and unleash the Spectrum Stream."

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "So, you're giving me a weapon, but it's only capable of delivering a finishing move, requiring that my teammates spend all their time protecting me for the entire battle while I hang around uselessly? …This is the perfect match for me."
[Grand Ruler] "I know, right?!"

Heeding his master's message, Lightning took hold of the rod,

SC276: So he firmly grasped his master's rod, ha ha ha, I miss Topher.

and held it tightly and began to recite the chant.

C.O.R.N.: **Wait, he can *read*?**

"Powers of the rainbow, heed my call
I summon you now to make evil fall
Let goodness and justice triumph in might
I summon now… the rainbow's light!"

C.O.R.N.: **Man, that is a *long* rod.**
SC276: Shut the fuck up, Lightning.

He held the rod up high as it began to glow mystically. "What's going on…?" cried Dementia.

SC276: To summarize it succulently, my dear: bullshit.

Once the rod was fully charged, Lightning aimed it at the monster and shouted ***"SPECTRUM STREAM!"*** A magical force of powerful magic fired from the tip of the scepter in all the colors of the rainbow with white in the center

SC276: [<u>Mother's Basement</u>] "But, y'know, we can't have Lightning Dawn *not* shoved in to be the center focus of something. That might make the Mykan that is projecting himself onto him feel slightly inadequate."

and struck the Floralbite hard.

C.O.R.N.: ***Strawberry Bell, full power!***

The monster roared loud, and Dementia braced herself from the upcoming shockwaves as the monster fell over backwards and vanished in a fiery explosion, and the smoke cleared, all that was left were nothing more than ordinary Beauti-Flors scattered along the ground

C.O.R.N.: **For my next magical trick, I'll make the plot disappear!**

"Wow!" cried Lightning he gazed down at the rod "I… I did it!"

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "I actually accomplished a *second* thing!"

"Whoa... too cool." said Buddy. He gazed down at his whip. It didn't have a cool finisher move like that... not yet anyway.

SC276: *Awww*, are you *envious* of your nepo-baby boss? That's so *cute*.
C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "Y… You guys saw that, right? It just exploding like a cheap video game boss?"**

Dementia couldn't believe what has just happened,

C.O.R.N.: **[Noir] "*are you goddamn shitting me*"**

but she decided to flee while she had the chance. "You'll pay for this!" she snarled as she vanished and was gone.
Buddy Rose was happy that his hometown would be safe and he could cancel his order for the seeds because now he had enough Beauti-Flors to fill a whole basket.

C.O.R.N.: **Yay, you got the flowers you wanted. Have fun *growing more without seeds*.**
SC276: I mean, you *can* grow a plant from the clipping of another, but… like, there's no way Mykan knows that.

"I'll take them back to my garden and get them replanted."
Still, what none of them could understand was how the flowers became a monster in the first place. Dementia's magic was only used for offence and defense.

C.O.R.N.: **Which they had looked up on their Pokédexes.**

So how did she make all the flowers turn into something like that?
Whatever the reason, they were sure to find out.

SC276: Let me guess, when the time is right?

At least the village was safe now and the damages would be easily repaired. Buddy Rose even gathered up all the flowers he could carry and planned to take them back to his garden.

SC276: Shut the fuck up, Peppa Pig.

Back in Titan's lair, Dementia was struggling hard to make herself look pretty again after all she had been through, much to the annoyance of her fellow minions.

SC276: I'll give this draft this: Dementia isn't whining about her makeup being ruined every five seconds.
C.O.R.N.: **Back at the castle, she grabbed a tub of ice cream and sat down to watch TV, only to have trouble watching because guess where Titan was building his railroad planning model.**

Titan however was no too disappointed

SC276: -that he no take candle.

that Dementia had failed in her mission to destroy Lightning. She still got him the energy he needed. The force of the battle was so intense that each and every time an attack was used more energy was unleashed, giving Dementia the chance to secretly absorb it and take it back with her to give to Titan so he could weaken the seal and increase his own powers.

SC276: Yep. Totally that. Not darkness being generated from the citizens due to the stress and despair from a monster attack in the supposedly super-safe police society, then taken back to Castle Terminal along the Shadow Line by Kuliners for Titan to process and consume. Definitely totally the thing hiding information from the audience. By the way, where the fuck did everyone in Red Village go this time?

Furthermore, Titan now knew the existence of Lightning's rainbow rod.

SC276: He couldn't help but wonder how he would handle his Rod, ha ha ha, I miss Topher.

It was all just too perfectly laid out.

SC276: *Suspiciously* too perfect.

Win or lose; Titan would always get what he wanted. He couldn't help but snicker softly.

SC276: [Titan] "This cheap Xanatos impression definitely isn't going to backfire one day."

Once back in Rainbow City, Buddy Rose went straight back to his garden and planted all his new flowers into place. "Beautiful." He remarked. "Simply beautiful…"

SC276: [Brain] "Hey, my catchphase has a *patent*, mister."

and he handed Lightning a bouquet of flowers for his home in White Village, free of charge. Lightning almost felt embarrassed "It's not really normal for a male to give another flowers." he joked.

SC276: That implies Lightning is capable of humor. Also, insert Kamen Rider Beast reference here.

Buddy Rose agreed, but it was his job "You guys helped save my hometown, as well as helping me get these flowers. Now my business will go up twice as much."

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "What business?"
[Buddy Rose] "I don't know why you think I'd ever tell you."

Lightning and Krysta were also grateful to Buddy. He showed up just in time to help them, and that was what Starfleet was all about, helping one another, and working as a team.

SC276: Which is why the rest of yours didn't show up.

That night, before going to bed, Lightning sat himself down at his desk and with began to write in his journal his report on what had happened, and then write a report on his current status and adventures, and any other interesting things he would find.

SC276: GR wants *two* different reports from you? Also, why are you putting military intel in a private journal? Also also, has Mykan ever read his own fucking writing back?

He was told by Grand Ruler to do this after every battle, or extreme adventure, and then send him the journal by instant mail.

> **SC276: The *entire* journal? You waste an entire bounded tome on a single report? Do you also need four pages to write "note to self: get bigger notebook?"**

Lightning wrote his report…

> **SC276: So this ripoff letter to Princess Celestia is probably just going to substitute for the Filmation-esque moral preaching from the end of most arcs in MLU. (pats C.O.R.N. a few times) We'll see if *those* lines don't all go to waste as I thought they would.**

"My first mission as an official Starfleet member has been a success,

> **SC276: Going on a sidequest for a friend. Well, work colleague at this point.**

thanks to my extensive training, my new friends helping me,

> **SC276: One. One friend. Rhymey didn't show up this time.**

and my increasingly in curiosity

> **SC276: And *my* increasingly in pain from this phrasing, *no one talks like this*.**

newly acquired weapon the rainbow rod.
As of today, I have also realized it is best to wait for things to come with time. For shortcuts and impatience often can lead to disaster.

> **SC276: As indicated in chapter by… what, realizing Mykan will time-gate plot points for no reason?**

As much as I am curious to understand and eager to learn the secrets behind my training of true magic, and that of the mystical uniforce which I am mysteriously able to tap into, I will do my best not to let my desire for these answers slow me down or frustrate me."

> **SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "Allowing me to do less work."**

He signed his name, then sent the report through the magic mailbox slot which would send it all the way to Grand Ruler's floating palace in the sky.

> **SC276: Via catapult.**

After that, he hopped into bed, and turned out the lights and dreamt of all the adventures he would have another day.

> **SC276: I wonder how much of *this* will be repeated every time we go through this sequence. Like stock footage.**

(Promo)

In our next episode, Lightning and Starla seem to be growing closer as he learns more about her and the force, but Rep-Stallion shows up to create a force of his own; a solid rock monster immune to most attacks.

How can Lightning and Starla hope to beat this rock-headed beast? What will become of their budding feelings?

Don't miss the next exciting episode of "Starfleet Magic!"

(Next Episode: "Rollin' Rocks")

SC276: It's so fucking funny he's doing this entire shonen-anime preview thing with the *least* shonen-anime episode titles possible.

Episode 4: Rollin' Rocks

EPISODE FOUR

The Rainbow Rod was indeed a mysterious weapon

C.O.R.N.: `I should hope so. It would suck as a projectile weapon.`

and was enchanted to respond to Lightning's voice commands and his only; it was also doubly enhanced to sense a faker trying to imitate Lightning's voice. Its primary purpose was to serve the finishing blow.

C.O.R.N.: `So basically, the Rainbow Rod can only` ***`finish`*** `and` ***`nothing fucking else`***`. Which we` ***`already know`***`. I can't believe it was considered important in "Starfleet Humans;" it's as useless as Lightning is.`

SC276: Yeah, we kinda already fucking figured that. You made him a weapon that literally cannot do anything until the very end of the battle. It's almost like GR *wants* him to die.

Now that they all knew what they were up against,

SC276: -namely, Monster of the Week bullshit-

the Grand Ruler was going into extra precautions to protect the civilians of his planet. From then on, any time there was extreme danger such a battle about to commence, warning alarms would sound

SC276: Sort of like tornado sirens, but sounding bad enough to make you run *towards* the tornado.

alerting the citizens to immediately run for the nearest shelter-- either their own homes or a neighbor's home, a school, the shopping center-- just so long as they were inside.

SC276: Just the one shopping center. For the entire planet. Running joke.

Magical force fields, generated by the Grand Ruler's magic would then surround the buildings and homes to prevent collateral damages, or evil invaders from getting inside.

> **C.O.R.N.:** `Author, you don't need to justify common toku tropes. No one actually cares.`
> **SC276: OK, wow, Titan's judge of GR's character was a joke I made in the moment. I did not know that the leader of this entire space armada fully intends to *stand around on his home planet 24/7 just to shield buildings*.**

Several practice drills were done, and soon everyone was used to the new rule.

> **SC276: … (smiles cheekily) So what happens if a monster spawns *inside* one of the buildings?**
> **C.O.R.N.:** `Then those citizens get a mercy killing.`

Those who were not able to get indoors in time before the shields went up were advised to keep as far away from the danger area as possible; after all they couldn't get hurt form battles if they were not involved.

> **SC276: Except, y'know, economically, but I'm starting to wonder if currency is even a thing on this dumb planet. Perhaps to get some, they have to fill out a from.**

In case of long waiting periods, emergency supplies of food and water and other essentials were passed all over.

> **SC276: They weren't for eating, they were for playing hot potato.**
> **C.O.R.N.:** `[Cookie Monster] "Fine, I'll spare some of my stock, but the spices stay with me!"`

Lightning, spent the whole week helping to deliver supplies,

> **SC276: Using the extra comma as a shovel so he wouldn't have to touch the peasants.**

as was his job as community worker,

> **SC276: Come to think of it, who's paying him to do this job?**

but he was glad when the last of the supplies were dropped off.

> **C.O.R.N.:** `[Lightning Dawn] "Finally, I don't have to work anymore!"`

"Well, that should be all of it, Kyrsta."
Krysta checked her clip board, which was larger than she was.

> **C.O.R.N.:** `[Krysta] "(is struggling to hold it) Why was I given this job?!"`
> **SC276: Author forgot Strength and Dexterity are two different abilities.**

"Yep!" she chirped "And about time too. I'm exhausted."

Lightning's eyes widened at that statement. "You're exhausted? Look at my wings!" Lightning Wings were all tired out from flying back and forth between towns and villages so much. "Not to mention carrying all these heavy crates and boxes."

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Krysta] "Well my disproportionate strength doesn't help me in carrying around and writing on this clipboard like someone thinks I'm telekinetic!"**

He was really looking forward to going home for a nice long rest, only he ran into Artie along the way.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **Which is good, given his house doesn't exist anymore.**

He was carrying a towel with him. "Hi, Lightning. Hi Krysta…"
His friends returned his greeting. "What's with the towel?" asked Krysta.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Artie] "I'm going hitchhiking."**
> **(distant thud)**
> **SC276: (staring at the locked door) ...There's no way...**

Lightning also noticed that Artie didn't have his armor on and was merely wearing his exercising clothes, sweatband and he wore shoes instead of his boots.

> **SC276: He normally wears his *military footwear* everywhere? At least my composite-toe shoes are still normal shoes!**

"Oh, no…! Please don't tell me…?" he groaned.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Lightning Dawn] "You work out?! You're a fucking artist!"**

It was fitness-day-- The day when members of the force were to go through exercise workouts. It wasn't just all believing

> **SC276: *I thought it was…* Starfleet or… something…**

and having good skill to use magic, they also had to be in good shape and keep fit for normal everyday lives, as well as combat without magic.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **Oh so that explains why Lightning *is completely useless in battle except as a finisher*. Granted, with how much of a whiner he is, I wouldn't be surprised if before, he strategically figured out how to hide from all the previous fitness days.**

Participation was mandatory.
Before Lightning knew it, he too was in his exercise clothes,

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Grand Ruler] "Guess who figured out how to get the mind control working~?"**

and ready to get moving along with everyone else. Penny was the coach. As a doctor she knew fit fighters when she saw them and how to make them stay that way.

SC276: Given she's not going to notice the guy personally trained by their glorious leader is doing way worse than he logically should be, I find that highly unlikely.

"Okay ponies! Are we ready…?" she called out. The crowd shouted loudly "YEAH…!"
"Yeah." groaned Lightning.

SC276: OK, worst way to do this gag, off to a fine start already.

Penny put them through all kinds of exercises, aerobics, even a little bit of track and field. Many of the unicorns did superb,

SC276: OK, but how did the *alicorns* do?

but some didn't do so well. Lightning was doing the worst.

C.O.R.N.: **Even the *story* knows that Lightning is fucking useless!**

He could hardly do so many push-ups; he couldn't leap over the jump pole, and during a period of timed jogging he finally collapsed. "Ugh…!"

C.O.R.N.: **I'm really getting tired of people trying to out-Chris-chan Chris-chan.**
SC276: For those in the future, I'm… like, 90% sure Christina hadn't transitioned at the time.

When he awoke, he was in the hospital, and Penny was wearing her medical-uniform and looking after him. Krysta was there too. "Where am I?" Lightning asked groggily.

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "The hospital. Every year, Lightning. *Every. Year.*"**
[Penny] "Really? *Every* year? *Boy*, you're the most pathetic excuse for a person I've ever seen."

"Shh…! Take it easy, Lightning…" whispered Penny.
Krysta explained what happened, and how Lightning had already been working hard with the deliveries and countless flights back and forth. "You're overworked.

SC276: [Penny] "Why didn't you bring this up *before* you collapsed? You're a nepo-baby, you would have gotten out of it! Why would you just blindly obey at the expense of your health?!"
[Lightning Dawn] "Shut up with your traitor words."

Oh, I should've known better than to put you put there. I'm sorry, Lightning. I should've known better than to force you into all those exercises."

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "Yes, how *dare* you make me meet the standards of others!"**

"We all make mistakes, Penny." Lightning said while smiling sleepily, "Well… at least now I can get some rest. Even Starfleet fighters know better than to over-train."

SC276: Except, y'know, while it was happening.

Penny nodded, and said she'd check up on him later.
When Lighting woke up again, he felt much, much better. "I feel like I could lift up the moon." he joked. "Bad idea, that." Krysta said. "I don't think you could lift up anything that big."

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Krysta] "Given you couldn't even lift a fucking basket."**

Lightning laughed with her.

Meanwhile, Titan had observed the conversation,

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Titan] "That's the great thing about being a supervillain from an alternate plane of existence - you can set up indetectable scrying cameras absolutely everywhere, and no matter how much security they put up, they never notice!"**

then he turned to face Rep-Stallion, "And you say you have an idea?" he asked.
"Sure, boss." answered Rep "I mean, uh… yes my lord! What finer way to crush those punks by using something strong and sturdy, something virtually immovable, solid as a rock maybe."
"Get to the point!" snarled Titan.

> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Titan] "You show me a conversation demonstrating that Grand Ruler II here is the most physically unfit entity in the entire [PLANET] bar Grand Ruler I - who I know from personal experience couldn't run two feet if he *tried* - and you're talking about *rocks* - the thing I hate the most outside those pair of jokers! Connect the dots here, Schwartz! I'm still planning out the new station's concession prices!"**

Rep-Stallion winced, but then replied "Well, that is my point. Don't you see, I'm going to make a monster so strong and solid, them ponies won't stand too much a chance, and the more they try the more energy you'll get. You might even be able to escape from here faster than you originally thought. What do you say?"

> **SC276: [Titan] "I say… Door #3!"**
> **C.O.R.N.:** **[Titan] "And you're not using a diamond, *why* now?"**
> **[Schwartz] "(opens mouth)"**
> **[Titan] "No, actually, I know why - because the forces that be have to find *some* way to rip off the second episode of *Kirby: Right Back at Ya*."**
> **[Schwartz] "...I was going to say it's because diamonds don't exist [ON] this [PLANET]."**
> **[Titan] "Same difference."**

"Rep-Stallion, you may proceed." said Titan.
As Rep-Stallion prepared for his mission, he suffered the ridicule of his teammates. "Even I know this plan of yours won't work, Rep-Stallion." mocked Mysterious.
"Huh! Just you wait." snapped Rep "I'll be delivering pony pancakes to the front door by the end of the day."

C.O.R.N.: **Those sound disgusting!**

"Oh, sure you will." Dementia said with sarcasm as she gazed at herself in her mirror from many angles.

C.O.R.N.: **Dude, this is only the second MOTW. It's too early to pretend to be self-aware of your place in the universe.**

"The fact that your muscle makes you so strong, there's no room for intelligence."

SC276: Y'know, author, if you gave these characters personalities, their banter off each other would reveal this naturally. Then again, you don't think flowers are alive.

Rep growled and felt steam shooting out his ears, but he decided to take no further notice and went on his way mumbling "I'll show them."

SC276: [Schwartz] "I'll show them all! They won't laugh at me after I swap the coffee in the break room out with *lava*!"

Lightning and Krysta were passing through though the fields,

C.O.R.N.: **Just those fields (points in a nonspecific direction) over there.**

when they

C.O.R.N.: **-ran into a drive-thru whale.**

noticed Starla, in her exercise clothes, sitting on a bench and panting heavily. She looked as if she had been jogging a-hundred miles.

C.O.R.N.: **So not only is Mykan an Italian, he doesn't even know how to type his own accent?**

"Starla?!" called Lightning. Starla seemed so tuckered out she could barely stand tall. "H… H… Hi…" she said, but her voice sounded very dry.

C.O.R.N.: **Y'know, for a culture that has a yearly exercise day, its members suck at actual exercising.**

Luckily there was a water fountain nearby

C.O.R.N.: **In the middle of a field?**
SC276: I'm starting to wonder if "park" is a word Mykan's only heard in storybooks and songs.

and Starla felt much better after a sip. "Starla, what's going on?" asked Krysta "The training period ended hours ago."
"Oh, I'm just doing extra training so I can earn my astronaut wings."
Lightning knew this,

SC276: But we didn't because Mykan made this up just now, mind filling us in?

Starfleet was called STAR-Fleet for a reason,

SC276: Because it's actually a movie studio?

just like they were all Space-ponies,

SC276: Except when they're Unicorns.

but the code stated that new fighters weren't permitted to venture off into space or go on other planetary missions until after long periods of intensive training and being approved by the proper authorities.

SC276: So, considering "Starfleet Humans"... after chapter 10, when GR shortcuts Lightning Dawn's team through all of that because nepotism. ...And Mykan not knowing what time skips are, but mostly nepotism.

Until then, they were confined as planetary forces.

SC276: Using magic in MLU, flying into space in MBP... Boy, Mykan sure likes giving his characters a bunch of powers and making them *not* use them.

"I've always dreamed of being going into space." Starla said "I would stay up late after my bedtime and gaze up at the stars wondering when I would ever get to actually go up there and see it all at close-hand."

SC276: Given those last few words, I hope the test doesn't have a written portion.

"It really is beautiful." Lightning said "I've been in space before, many times."
Starla turned swiftly and gazed excitedly at him "You have?

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "Yeah, one of the perks of being the nepo-baby of God."

What's it like?"
Lightning back away a bit as Starla inched closer in near desperation for him to say why. "Well, it's um…uh…!"
Suddenly Starla realized "Wait, you're not licensed yet, how did you learn to travel in space anyway?"

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "Like five days ago, on the fly, while I was falling from Grand Ruler's palace after he very definitely did *not* kick me off, he told me so."

Lightning felt a small feeling of inner pain sting him at the very mention of it. "Lightning, are you okay?"

SC276: No, he's in a terrible fanfic.

Starla asked. Lightning snapped out of his trance. "I'm okay." he simply said, and they soon found themselves gazing deeply into each other's eyes. They both blushed and turned away swiftly.

Lightning quickly tried to change the subject.

SC276: Good, I'm not interested in this one.

"So… um… is that why you signed up for Starfleet, you wanted to go into space?"
"Well, not entirely." said Starla "I wanted to prove myself… to my father. He died, killed before my eyes... a long time ago." Her voice sounded a little down.
Lightning and Krysta couldn't help but wonder if every member of the force had a dead relative or some sort of similarity, but Starla assured them just she and Buddy Rose were the only ones they knew of so far.

SC276: Lightning wondered if all his teammates had the same tragic backstory *out loud*? *Gheeze*, insensitive much?

"Starla… I… I know it may be painful to ask but… how did your father…"
"…Die?" Starla cut in,

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "I was gonna say 'unalive.' You're gonna get demonetized now."

and she didn't mind talking about it…

SC276: Annoyingly enough.

Her mother was a Starfleet fighter, and a very fine one whom Starla looked up to. This was another one of her inspirations to join the force, but her father, he wouldn't hear of it. *"No daughter of mine is going get herself involved in wargames, and battling and all that stuff."*

SC276: Given his vocabulary, he clearly doesn't know what he's talking about.

Her father was a control-freak, who always had to have things his way, and claiming he was always right.

SC276: Wow, you really- Hang on, gotta borrow this. **(pulls out tape recorder attached to elastic cables from the hatch on C.O.R.N.'s back, switches playback to tunertape 2) You really have the nerve to have this character after saying: (hits "play")**
Tape Recorder: ***This is MY fanfic, and MY world, so when you read under MY roof, you read things by MY rules and MY preferences.***
SC276: Like, dude, I already know you lack self-awareness, you don't need to keep *proving* it. (switches playback back to tunertape 1 and lets go, the recorder snapping back into C.O.R.N. with a slam) …Crazy only gave me one.

Though he was never abusive or violent,

SC276: "-while she was there-"

he was rather stubborn, thoughtless, and not a very pleasant pony.

C.O.R.N.: `So, for expressing the part of her that's most Mykan.`

He and Starla's mother often got into arguments when her father's decisions were so much as even questioned, and he wasn't any easier on Starla either. He would always make decisions for her, or talk for her, and or decide what she would do with her life.

SC276: Much like Grand Ruler decides basically everything that Lightning does, except it's OK when he does it because shut up.

He really wanted Starla to grow up and take over his business selling old used wagons and parts, a life which Starla was not thrilled about.

SC276: Starfleet really pays *that* badly?

"Wow, talk about a hard relationship." Krysta said.
"Oh, that's just the half of it." said Starla.

SC276: Gheeze, this many extra enters for all these scene transitions is adding like a page to the doc by themselves...

She went on to say that her father was too fond of Starfleet, thinking they and their methods of dealing with bad guys were over-the-top.

SC276: I've heard of being in love with your carnage, but this is ridiculous.

He didn't even know his own wife was a Starfleet member

SC276: That is literally impossible unless literally every single shirt and chestpiece she wears is white. The fucking stars are *right goddman there*.

until he found out some years after they were married and Starla was born, this was another one of their bigger arguments, being on the force, and blaming his wife for putting ideas into Starla's head when really it wasn't her fault.

SC276: It was Starfleet's fault. That's how propaganda works.

Some villains Starfleet captured and brought to justice in hopes there was a chance to redeem themselves,

SC276: "Justice" is what they call the old missile silo they kick them into. And yes, they play the Sparta remix every single time.

but other non-living types like the Floralbite, which had no hearts or souls and could never be reformed or were too powerful to be contained,

SC276: We have a term for that, author, we call them "Object Class: Keter."

they were destroyed and for good reason; to stop them before they hurt any innocent beings…

SC276: Boy, it must be nice to absolve yourselves of every atrocity you ever commit.

...But as usual, her father's stubbornness, ignorance and stupidity continued to show. *"Why can't we just talk with them, convince them to stop all this? I'm sure they'd listen."*

SC276: That sounds like a question that enough people bugged Mykan about in MLU that he gave a character another traumatic backstory just to vent about it.

Lightning and Krysta felt sick to their stomachs at such stupidity. "I know he had good intentions but... reasoning with creatures THAT evil…?" groaned Lightning.

SC276: Having played a D&D cleric that made a warlock pact with a demon prince, you're just *jelly*.

"That's like trying to capture the sun, either incredibly difficult or impossible." added Krysta.

SC276: No, that's *eating* the sun. Don't you know anything about Penn and Teller?

"Tell me about it…" said Starla "We even tried to tell him that Starfleet DID try to reason with some enemies, but it usually never worked out. Villains would refuse to listen or simply didn't wish to change their ways…

SC276: Gee, it's almost like they *know* Starfleet is the gestapo of a fascist ethnostate and they have *standards*.

And then, one day when I was about ten years old... my father was about to awakened from his blindness, but at a terrible price."

C.O.R.N.: `...Oh I can't wait for the end of the story...`

A band of evil bull-creatures from the planet Tauron had invaded Unicornicopia. As usual, Starfleet was called to arms to defend the world, including Starla's mother. So she and her dad had to stay behind.

SC276: why the fuck would an officer's family *have* to be present for them to battle what, does he not know how to drive the car

However, they failed to get to shelters in time before the barriers went up

SC276: *I thought those were just installed.*

and were locked outside, forcing themselves to run far from the battle area, except Starla's father naively thought this was his big chance to prove himself right and how he could try reasoning with the bulls.

SC276: Y'know, display zero situational awareness.

He approached one of the big brutes…
"Get outta my way, punk!" the creature growled.
Starla's father, feeling a bit nervous and quaking in fear at the sight of the big beast, tried to reason with him. *"Look... I-I-I... don't know what your problem is, but maybe… maybe we can just talk this out or, even… negotiate… or… or…"* but he soon realized his mistake, too late when the giant bull grabbed him and glared at him threateningly

SC276: [Tauros] "You don't know what my problem is? Of *course* you don't know! Why would your precious Starfleet ever tell *you* about their fucking raids?! And I'm going to do to *you and your kid* what they did to *mine*!"

"…Or maybe I can do dis to ya!"

SC276: Hell of a time to have a bugged translation unit.

Starla watched in horror as her father were

SC276: *What is this, Living the fucking Dream?*

mercilessly beaten to death before her eyes, and she would had been next if Starfleet fighters hadn't arrived at the last second to arrest the evil brute.

SC276: The line was long at Starbucks.

Nevertheless, Starla's father was dead, and the Starfleet fighters… they had more grave news for the devastated filly.

"They told me… my mother had been killed in action."

SC276: Y'know, like a liar.

Starla turned away, but it was easy to tell she was trying her hardest not to shed to tears, but to no avail.

SC276: [the author] "After all, Robin is *clearly* not remotely over his parents dying, and *she's* a weak girl."

Feeling very sorry and pitiful,

SC276: *HA!*

Lightning offered a hankie from his pocket. "Thanks." she peeped as she dried her eyes. "As stubborn as my dad was, and as much as I didn't approve of his attitude... he really didn't deserve to die."

SC276: Yeah, he kinda just... stupided himself to death. Dived headfirst into something he had no fucking idea about. Like an invisible force was jerking him around in a vague impression of proving an insubstantial point.

Lightning, once again, felt that same pain from deep in his heart, as if Starla's pain was much like his in many ways, but again, he didn't wish to talk about it. "Starla, I really sorry. I should never have asked."

SC276: Yeah, then we could've been spared dealing with the over-elongated [Mykan] "That's why Starfleet doesn't negotiate, *idiot*. Because *I* can't!"

"No, it's not your fault." replied Starla, and she went on to explain that she lived at an orphanage until she got a job and was able to pay for school, and she trained herself constantly to get stronger and at age 14 came the Starfleet Academy

SC276: Wait wait wait wait wait. You had to *pay* for elementary and/or middle school? You got a *job* while you were still a *child*? *Jesus fucking Christ, the fascist ethnostate has CHILD LABOR and NO PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.* How does my opinion of this author keep *getting lower*?!

where she trained for four straight years.

SC276: Are you trying to tell me this entire squad is made of eighteen-year-olds? Except Lightning who's probably, like... twelve or something.

Now she had a reason to fight, like most Starfleet fighters, she loathed and despised evil; she knew what it was capable of doing. If it could ruin her life and kill her family, she didn't want to imagine how others would feel.

SC276: So she didn't.

She was fighting for them, as well as to avenge the fall of her parents.

SC276: By fighting people that are not the killers.

"That is deep!" Krysta said.

SC276: [Starla Shine] "...You've been playing *Pokémon Violet* for the last fifteen minutes!"
[Krysta] "Yeah, what's your point?"

Lightning agreed, and he felt like he and Starla really had something in common right then and there.

SC276: Good to know they could bond over having the same backstory right up until he becomes a nepo-baby.

He continued to gaze at Starla still finding it hard to believe that someone so beautiful could have it so hard.

SC276: But I thought you were all about believing.

She turned to gaze back at him, and he turned away quickly hoping she hadn't noticed, but she had and she giggled softly. Krysta could already tell they were starting to grow close. "Well, what do you know? Looks like Lightning may have found himself a soul-mate."

SC276: 

"Aw, isn't that cute…" called a voice! The gang looked and could see Rep-Stallion standing in the tree near the bench. "What are you doing here?" snapped Lightning.
"Like duh, I'm here to cause trouble and get energy for Titan."
The alarms sounded…

C.O.R.N.: **Really. Now, after he's announced his presence and they reacted. And *not* when he first showed up in that tree. Boy, this city has worse security than Arkham.**

SC276: 

And just as they practiced all the civilian ponies ran for the nearest shelters before Grand Ruler energized the force fields with his magic.

> **SC276: Y'know, when he said he wouldn't be able to join them against the MotW, you'd think it's because he's doing something *more* important. Especially since if this was also the case during Starla's backstory, him personally controlling every single shield means there was a good chance he could have just... let the two of them in anyway. Can't he just flip it off and on again real quick? Why isn't his shield permeable by his own kind anyway? With how they're referred to as "genetically enhanced" it's not like they don't all have something species-exclusive to check against. What, afraid of rebellions?**

Starla, Lightning and Krysta remained where they were. "We can take you on, and anything you might throw at us." said Starla, but Rep casually was running his fingers across the blade of his scythe.

> **SC276: [Schwartz] "*OW I CUT MYSELF WHY DID I DO THAT*"**

"You know, for a bunch of punks who work out a lot you sure claim to be strong" he turned then glared at them sinisterly "… well I'm here to say… YOU'RE NOT!"

> **SC276: [Schwartz] "Like, we have Dr. Claw cameras everywhere, I know one of you went to the fucking hospital earlier, and it's not one of the girls!"**

"Do the math, Rep-Stallion. There's three of us and only one of you." said Lightning. The girls nodded.

> **C.O.R.N.:** `[Scwartz] "You need to learn to count, girl. I see two of you and one useless idiot."`
>
> `[Lightning Dawn] "He called you useless, Krysta! It's *on* now!"`

Rep leapt down from the tree and sniggered at them all. "Yeah, about that-- Who ever said you were going to fight against me alone?"

C.O.R.N.: **[Schwartz] "I'm not allowed to directly engage you. The boss says we all know that if I did that, I'd win, and that's boring. I'd tell him how stupid that sounds, but then I remember I'm the Rep-Stallion he's made after what happened to the *last* two to tell him that."**

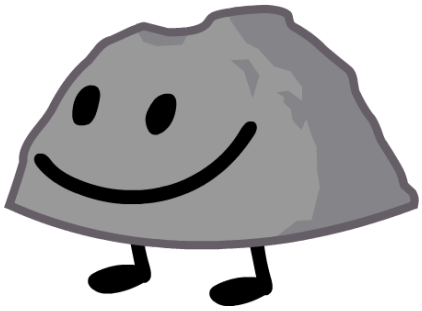
Rep then reached behind him and held out a single ordinary rock he had found,

C.O.R.N.: **Because fields don't have rocks in them.**

and before the others could react, he reached into the pouch he was carrying, and threw a big cloud of dust all over a simple rock that was by his feet.

SC276: But not the one he brought out. That's his pet rock.

"What's he doing?" asked Krysta.
The rock began to glow magically as it grew in size and sprouted legs and arms, and an ugly face.

SC276: 

Rep-Stallion laughed maliciously as the monster became complete.

C.O.R.N.: **Oh hai Boulder.**

The gang blinked their eyes once each, and Lightning and Krysta remembered how the Floralbite they faced was made of plants. "So that's how they make monsters." said Lightning
"You better believe it." Rep said

SC276: [Schwartz] "Best way to handle Shadow Kaijin transportation costs: skip them and hire on-site!"

as he held up the pouch of dust "This dust is enchanted with Titan's special magic. One sprinkle on any object will turn it into a huge beast to serve us and our conquest for power.

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "...What?"**
[Brain] "Basically, have you ever seen Kamek from *Yoshi's Island*?"
[Lightning Dawn] "Ew, I hated that game! It had a baby in it and it wouldn't shut up when the game had the *gall* to damage me!"

Now go Strong Stone;

SC276: I got better: Wrecking Ball.

get them!”
The monster pounded its huge feet which actually caused tremors which nearly knocked Lightning and Starla off their feet. They got up quickly and nodded at each. It was time to transform!

SC276: *It’s morphin’ time!*

“Starfleet Magic!!”
“Power of Believing!”
“Power of Space!”

SC276: …Wait, their transformation trinkets are attached to their armored vests. They (or at least Starla) are in their workout clothes and shouldn’t be able to- Oh forget it, Mykan clearly didn’t notice that the *Star Trek* TNG communicators were physical pins.

Once they were suited up, they scanned the monster with their visors and found his defense as well as his attacks were very high, as it was a rock, but its speed was slow.

SC276: Have you noticed Mykan’s work has a lot of scanning in it, come to think of it?

The first thing they had to was battle the monster and weaken it first, then it wouldn’t have enough strength to stand up to Lightning’s finisher. “Let’s go!” shouted Lightning. “Yes sir!” shouted Starla.

SC276: During the presentation my work showed to new employees when I first started, they addressed the topic of employee romance, which among other things highly discouraged dating someone higher or lower on the org chart than you due to the power discrepancy making for an inherently unequal relationship.
…
(sips orange juice)
…
I am saying that Starfleet is worse than Amazon.

“I’m going in!” said Lightning as he charged forward to attack but Strong Stone, lived up to its name by simply raising its huge stone fists and slammed the ground causing another huge tremor and that shook Lightning causing him to lose his footing and fall.

SC276: Aww, did the nepo-baby forget to learn any Fighting-type moves in case he fought a Rock-type?

Rep-Stallion laughed at him. “Too bad punk-- Hit him again Strong Stone!”
The monster acknowledged and began stomping towards Lightning. Lightning quickly got up and tried to kick the monster, but as expected, it was solid like the rock it was, and Lightning’s kick did nothing to it, except prompt the monster to punch him hard and side again and send him rolling along the ground and hitting a tree.

C.O.R.N.: `[Lighting Dawn] “(Goofy yell)”`

“…LIGHTNING!!” the girls cried. Lightning was okay, be he felt just a wee bit dizzy

SC276: That sentence felt like it was added in post.

Starla features hardened "My turn now! ***STAR SHOWER!"***
Sadly, all her stars didn't even tickle the monster. "Ugh! It's no good, it's too solid!"

SC276: [Starla Shine] "Why can't our scanners separate physical and special defense?! What is this, Gen 1?!"

"We have to keep trying. There's got to be a way!" cried Krysta.
The monster was stomping towards them, and they began to run as the monster gave chase.
Rep-Stallion laughed hard and wickedly. "I'm enjoying this…!"

C.O.R.N.: **[Schwartz] "Seeing there's someone who gets even less respect than me makes me feel a lot better about myself."**

Lightning finally got upright again and charged right at the tree knocking

C.O.R.N.: **-himself out.**

Rep off of it and down to the ground

SC276: Despite, even through this fight had a rewritten section, Rep already jumped down from the tree and never went back up it. And why did he do it?
C.O.R.N.: **Because you're the first person that's ever remembered that?**

"Why you little runt!" he thundered "Just you wait until Strong Stone smashes you again!"
"Oh? Are you too afraid to fight us yourself so you have to let your monster do all the work?" Lightning snarled.

C.O.R.N.: **[Schwartz] "Did you not hear me when I said-? Oh *forget it*!"**

"Bring it on!" snapped Rep-Stallion.

SC276: [Sandy Cheeks] "*Bring it on, big rock!*"

Lightning knew his physical attacks wouldn't work on Strong Stone, so he'd fight Rep instead.

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "My woman and my slave will do the harder work for me, as God intended!"

"I'll show you who's strong!" growled Rep as he swung his scythe, but Lightning dodged it perfectly, and back-kicked Rep hard from behind knocking him to the ground. "It takes more than just strength alone to be a good fighter." Lightning said with a smirk.

C.O.R.N.: **[Schwartz] "That literally means nothing to me. As far as I'm concerned, scythes are DEX weapons."**

"It takes speed, strategy, and heart to go with it."
Rep growled

SC276: [Schwartz] "Bet you don't know that from *personal experience*!"

and continued to swing his scythe at him, "Tell that to Titan when I bring you to him in pieces!"

SC276: He'd never believe it without evidence.

As their fight continued, Starla and Krysta were left to deal with Strong Stone. Even Krysta wasn't able to life up something that heavy.

SC276: Please, this author has no lift. Anyway, not really a surprise, given she <u>can't pick up any of the alicorns either</u>.

Strong Stone also was able to keep them well within its sights and pounded the ground some more knocking them down with the tremors.

SC276: In… Including the character that's *always flying*? If it knows <u>Thousand Arrows</u>, they're going to have significantly more trouble.

The girls decided to fly in the air. "We'll be safer up here." said Starla "Um… I don't think so." cried Krysta

C.O.R.N.: `[Starla] "You can *think*?"`
`[Krysta] "Hey, wrong target!"`
`[Starla] "Sorry, sorry… It's reflex at this point."`
SC276: So there's actually a line break in MLU that's not here, resulting in multiple speakers in one paragraph again. Will everyone stop talking over each other already?!

"Look!"
Strong Stone looked way up, and opened its huge mouth firing blazing meteor stones straight up at them,

C.O.R.N.: `[Starla] "*Oh c'mon, that's cheating!*"`

which they barely dodged. "Lightning, we could use some help…!" shouted Krysta.

C.O.R.N.: `[Krysta] "Either go and get it or be a good distraction!"`

Down below, Lightning was engaged in a struggle holding back Rep-Stallion's scythe with his arms.

SC276:  Holy fuck! What kind of idiot are you?! You can't deflect a swordblow with a bare arm! Hold still and maybe someone can stitch it back on.

"Sorry, but I'm a little busy right now…" he shouted back to them. "Try to find the monster's weakness, it's got to have one somewhere!"

C.O.R.N.: **[Starla] "*That is literally the opposite of helping!*"**

"Fat chance…!" growled Rep ***"SCYTHE SHOCK!"*** and Lightning was jolted away from him.

C.O.R.N.: **[Lightning Dawn] "How come you didn't do that in the second episode?!"**
[Schwartz] "*I did.* That's how fucking pathetic your memory is."

"Give up yet?"
Lightning leapt back up growling angrily and looked ready for more.

SC276: It's really so interesting that Mykan insists on Lightning doing hand-to-hand combat when he refuses to describe hand-to-hand combat.

Strong Stone continued to fire the meteors at the girls. The girls just continued to swerve and evade the shots, but they couldn't keep it up. Somehow they just had to find out the monster's weakness.

C.O.R.N.: **Oh so *they* can't dodge forever like *Lightning* can.**

Then suddenly, as Krysta gazed into Strong Stone's huge mouth, and scanned with her visor

SC276: Because God forbid women come to their own insights.
…
…Wait, when the fuck did *Krysta* get her own visor?! She doesn't have one in her character image, and Mykan is incapable of keeping spoilers!

"Of course!" she said as she flew downward. "Krysta, No! What are you doing?" cried Starla.
"I have an idea. Cover me, keep it distracted!"
Krysta didn't know what was going on, but she trusted Starla

SC276: …Wait. He… He mixed up Krysta and Starla. For an *entire bit*. … (gets the tape recorder back out of C.O.R.N. and rewinds a bit) Topher, my friend, take it away. (presses "play")
Tape Recorder: **...HOW THE FUCK DO YOU MESS UP THE MOST BASIC FUCKING THINGS ABOUT A FUCKING SENTENCE? DO YOU READ THIS SHIT EVEN ONCE BEFORE YOU POST IT? FUCK! YOU JUST COMPLETELY DESTROYED THE ENTIRE MESSAGE OF A SENTENCE JUST BY MAKING ONE EASILY CORRECTED MISTAKE, AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON HOW THIS REFLECTS ON YOUR CHARACTERS! YEAH, APART FROM A FEW PERSONALITY 'QUIRKS' THEY'RE SO FUCKING INTERCHANGEABLE THAT THAT SHIT WILL GO BY UNNOTICED EVEN BY THE AUTHOR! JESUS FUCK MAN, HOW BIG DOES YOUR EGO HAVE TO BE TO CONSIDER THIS TO BE QUALITY WRITING? HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE TO SIT IN THE BASEMENT JERKING YOURSELF OFF TO THE SOUND OF YOUR OWN VOICE?**

FUCK !

SC276: (releases tape recorder back into C.O.R.N.) Thank you, Topher.

and flew closer towards the monster and began teasing him to chasing her.

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "Your mother was a hamster and your father smelt of elderberries!"**

Flying one way, then another-- up and down, every way around--

C.O.R.N.: ***~Up and down and all around~***

She was pretty fast, and her small size made her hard to see and follow. Strong Stone was getting dizzy,

C.O.R.N.: **SC276 was getting disconnected from the boring action.**

but angry as well, and opened his huge mouth to fire another meteor at Krysta.
Starla saw this from where she was hovering "Now's my chance; ***STAR BOW!"*** She pulled out a purple, solid, sharp-edged bow.

SC276: So, the Attache Arrow from *Kamen Rider Zero-One*. Hey, Mykan's already stealing from everything else, why *not* the future?

Rep-Stallion saw this "Hey, what's going on?"
"I think I know…" Lightning said.
"STARLIGHT ARROW!" Starla fired a glowing blast from her bow straight into Strong Stone's huge mouth, finally causing real damage. Sparks and small explosions emitted from its body, and it groaned in pain.

SC276: Unbelievable! These characters actually do the *smart* thing for once! …That is, act like they're in a *Zelda* game.
C.O.R.N.: **...So, let me see if I got this: the monster isn't beaten by having its own hard rocks drop on its head like a *reasonable* cartoon.**

"No way!" cried Rep.
"That's it!" said Lightning

C.O.R.N.: **[Krysta] "Your approval fills me with shame."**

"If we can't beat it on the outside, just blow up it up inside!"

SC276: [Lightning Dawn] "Does anyone have any bomb flowers they can throw for me?"

Starla fired more arrows into the monster's mouth, weakening it further, and Krysta used her magic to pick up large stones, tossing them inside.

SC276: [Krysta] "Nothing but net!"

"It's working, he's getting weak!" cried Starla as her visor sensory showed the energy was dropping.

SC276: Because they're too stupid to tell by just looking at it.

"Lightning, try it now!" shouted Krysta. Lightning agreed and got out the Rainbow Rod,

SC276: OK, at least he's actually keeping it *on* him this time around.

and held it up high as it shimmered in the sunlight. He concentrate really hard as he held the rod up high as it began to glow…

C.O.R.N.: **[Schwartz] "(attempting to whack Lightning repeatedly, only for each swing to deflect off a solid force field of plot armor) *THIS. IS. SO. BULLSHIT."***

"Powers of the rainbow, heed my call
I summon you now to make evil fall
Let goodness and justice triumph in might
I summon now… the rainbow's light!"

C.O.R.N.: **We know what the chant is, *it's not catchy if it's not in sound*.**
SC276: Ay, stock footage. Oi.

"…SPECTRUM STREAM!"
The magic flew straight down Strong Stone's throat,

SC276: I've heard of a throatjob but this is ridiculous, ha ha ha, I miss Topher.

blowing it up in a powerful explosion, and into a pile of pebbles. "No! I don't believe it!" snarled Rep-Stallion

SC276: [Dr. Eggman] "No way! I can't *believe* this!"

"We did it!" hollered Lightning. The girls cheered for joy and then Lightning turned to face Rep-Stallion,

SC276: -to find he was now throwing dust on all the pebbles. No wait, that might be *interesting*.

"Your turn now…!" but before he could act, Rep-Stallion decided to split. "I'll be back! Just you wait!" then he vanished and was gone.

C.O.R.N.: **Exactly like how Spectre Knight does it.**

Lightning growled in frustration that Rep had escaped.

C.O.R.N.: **And whose fault is *that*, wise-acre?**

The important thing was that everything was okay now. No serious damage had been done to the park.

SC276: *Oh sure NOW you call it a park.*

The force fields were lowered and everyone was allowed back outside again.

"An extraordinary performance, Rep-Stallion." mocked Mysterious "And all you return with is a tangled tail." added Dementia.
"You guys take that back!" shouted Rep.

SC276: [Schwartz] "I can take those kinds of words from the master, but not from you two!"

"QUIET! ALL OF YOU!" shouted Titan.

SC276: [Titan] "Daddy has a headache, shut up before I decide popping all of you would beat popping a Vicodin!"

The minions quieted down and bowed apologetically. Even though Rep-Stallion had only gathered a little energy, Titan was pleased nonetheless.

SC276: [Titan] "I was doing some experimenting of my own, and despite GR having eyes all over, he did *nothing* about White Village becoming a Shadow Town. It'll probably take me another episode to double-check, but this could make things a *whole* lot easier on that front..."

"Every little bit counts. It only makes me stronger." he hissed "And the day draws near when I shall have all that I need."

SC276: [Titan] "That said... Rep."
[Schwartz] "Yes, my lord?"
[Titan] "You suck at making coffee. (throws a '#1 Evil Overlord' mug of lava in Schwartz's face)"
[Schwartz] "SCREAMING**"**

Lightning walked Starla home to her home in Rainbow City.

SC276: Because White Village is already occupied by a main character.

Starla thanked Lightning and Krysta for all they did. "You did well too, Starla. I can see you with astronaut wings yet."
Starla smiled "Thanks." she said

SC276: [Starla Shine] "So you're going to use your pull with Grand Ruler that made you my boss after one fight to fasttrack my way to the space program?"
[Lightning Dawn] "Oh *fuck* no."

and she pecked Lightning on his cheek before she headed inside.

SC276: With a bird she grabbed out of the air.

Lightning's face turned bright red. Krysta giggled "What's the matter, Lightning?" she teased.

SC276: [Krysta] "Is your head about to explode? It better, I can't murder you for my freedom directly."

Lightning could barely speak and just stuttered and slurred words all the way home.

SC276: He had too much moonshine. He wasn't sure how he got moonshine in the first place, he just assumed GR gave him anything he had that he didn't remember getting.

That night, before going to bed, Lightning wrote his report…

C.O.R.N.: **It's that time again!**

"Although we've have once again thwarted another attack, it cannot be denied that Titan and his followers are proving to be pitiless enemies that will go to any lengths to fulfill their dark ambitions.

SC276: Not sure why you need to tell him, it's not like he's not observing every fight from on high to get the force fields up.

At this point, until we can study more about them and their evil powers, there is little any of us can do but rest, wait, and maintain constant alert for oncoming attacks that can and will occur as this war continues.

SC276: "a.k.a. be lazy as fuck, and not take advantage of the fact that Grand Ruler is just watching the planet 24/7 to realize where the Shadow Line connection is."

Facing the strong stone

SC276: As opposed to the weak brick.

has giving me the realization and intention to increase the effort of my physical training to improve my ever-growing strength in battle while also keeping my mind focussed.

SC276: Good, because judging by your spelling, you clearly need it.
C.O.R.N.: **Wheel of Morality, turn turn turn, tell us the lesson that we should learn!**

Excessive exercise is not beneficial for anyone and can prove to be quite dangerous to one's health, but it can also not be ignored that in battle strength is not necessarily everything necessary to win, but also the knowledge and wisdom that goes with it."

SC276: So you intend to use your nepotism to get out of future Fitness Days?

He signed his name, then sent the report through the magic mailbox slot which would send it all the way to Grand Ruler's floating palace in the sky.

SC276: The entire ending? Really? You stock-footage'd an explanation.

After that, he hopped into bed, and turned out the lights and dreamt of all the adventures he would have another day.

SC276: And don't wake up.

(Promo)

In our next episode; a rainy day

SC276: Come to think of it, if the world's weather is astroturfed, how the fuck does it have a rainy day?

turns out to be an opening opportunity when Mysterious launches a new plan to gain energy for Titan, and demonstrates his own uniquely made monsters that are unlike others Lightning and his friends have faced.

SC276: So is he implying that each minion makes monsters with inherently different properties based on who made it, like how the Greeed work in *Kamen Rider OOO*? But there's not really much different behavior-wise between Bloomsday and Wrecking Ball. In fact, Titan provides all the dust, which is what does the thing; the minions just apply it. The only difference would be due to him giving them each different kinds of dust, and like... why would he even *bother*?

What is Mysterious' plan, and how will Lightning and friends be able to face this new type of monster?
Don't miss the next exciting episode of "Starfleet Magic!"
(Next Episode: "Wetter Works")

SC276: This fic is already a wet noodle.

FINISH!

And that's the end of part 1 of this experiment! And... *wow*. My general statement that Mykan's remakes are worse than the original was a general extrapolation of vibes. I did not know until now with my own eyes just *how* bad they could get. No wonder Ring never ran this thing, which I kinda always lowkey wondered about. C.O.R.N.'s calculating how much of my old material it was able to recycle, it'll read that off at the end, so let's go over my end of this.

There *are* some things that are actually better than MLU, to be fair. There's no songs... yet. Rhymey isn't in chapter 3 arbitrarily, always a plus. Dementia isn't a whiny vain bitch, with her single character trait toned down to normal Mykan-character level. There's an attempt to designate Rep as the thick-headed muscle to better diversify the cast, even if that really doesn't work for a guy wielding a scythe, but it's an effort at least. Wrecking Ball's defeat is far less convoluted. Lightning keeps his Rod in his pants, ha ha ha, I miss Topher.

Everything else, though, is basically the same, if not abominably worse. Most of these I don't think I can meaningfully address without reading further, so we'll touch on a few points specific to these five chapters here.

The organization of Starfleet as presented so far is just baffling to me. For a supposed military organization, nothing about it seems functional as one. Apparently everyone is so used to making magic weapons that no one ever thought to stock an armory with normal weapons that don't require magic just in case there's a situation where they can't use magic, leaving a squadron with no way to actually win a fight until its leader gets a magic wand that's useless for over 95% of any given battle. Actually, "squadron" is the wrong word; what Lightning's leading is a team. "Lieutenant" is not an entry level rank; it's the lowest level of commissioned officer - the army's *managers*. They're not supposed to be actually fighting. *This stuff is Googleable.* Fitness Day is even fucking weirder here. Like, even limited to just Starfleet members, military institutions put their soldiers through physical drills a *lot* more often than once a year, especially since the constant invasions means Unicornicopia is always at war and they need to be ready to scramble at any time. And they need to get the civilian doctor to oversee it instead of an actual fucking drill seargent? Militaries are not made of *just* the bodies that get thrown at the enemy. *Power Rangers* series where the Rangers are part of a larger organization like in Beast Morphers and RPM show multiple supporting background characters doing things that aren't fighting - managers, logistics, R&D, maintenance, battle cleanup, et cetera. Starfleet has the guys on the watchtowers, but that's pretty much it - an enemy general and a monster appeared in a park in *the biggest city on the planet*, and the mentioned constantly-alert patrols *don't even fucking show up*. If Brain invented most of their tech, why isn't he officially a part of the organization? Isn't having this guy outside a secure Starfleet compound a massive security risk? Why do those inventions not include shield generators, instead of relying on the *leader of the entire army* to be available at a moment's notice and could damn well be off-planet at any given time? *Does Mykan know logistics exists?* My knowledge of how militaries work could be summed up by the contents of the Oversimplified YouTube channel, and it's still more than this story that's ostensibly about a military!

There's also something weird I noticed now that I'm seeing the text with bold for the first time. Whenever a new character is introduced, did you notice Mykan bolds and italics their name? Y'know, like they stand a chance of missing it or something? However, this is only the case for the non-alicorns; for them, their *code* is bolded instead (with the exceptions of Inquerius, who has neither highlighted, and Brain, who has both; probably a mistake). Which implies those codes are their *actual* names, and the names we've been using are just nicknames, like how the Beagle Boys were referred to by their prison numbers in their pre-*Ducktales* comic appearances. *I don't think you want your heroes compared to the fucking Beagle Boys.* I thought Rhymey saying his name was XL7Zed was just a fucking verse thing, but it might be his *actual legal name*. Does Mykan think government databases use *someone's name* as the key to identify someone specific? The smallest number I could get for the number of people with the name "John Smith" after a minute of Googling was still *25K*. Imagine, a couple with a newborn goes to register the birth

certificate and the name they've heartfeltly invested in for the better part of months just to be told "This username is already taken."

And then there's Lightning Dawn. Lightning was always something of a pinball protagonist in MLU, but it just gets amplified here. He lacks a clear goal that he can meaningfully pursue on his own, only reacting to major plot developments made by other people - he never *wants* anything for *himself*. Everything is set up for him, and the only thing remotely resembling a meaningful decision he makes is going after Titan - and his agency in *that* is toned down here because of Krysta's kidnapping. This is compounded with him going full nepo-baby, which sums him up not only here, but in pretty much all of Starfleet, and "Starfleet Humans" especially. Everything he wants, Grand Ruler provides; which is interesting, considering he's such a pinball that he never actually wants anything. Every time he does something right, Grand Ruler rewards him disproportionately. Every time he does something wrong, Grand Ruler shields him from the negative consequences and doesn't give him a chance to learn anything from his mistakes. Another experiment I thought of while doing this is search-and-replacing "Grand Ruler" with "God" and seeing how little it actually changes anything.

Though speaking of disproportionate reward, there is just something skeevy as hell about the way Lightning's introduction to Starfleet is handled. He's the apprentice to the leader of Starfleet, so presumably all the training he received while living with GR was to eventually join Starfleet. That's how apprenticeships work, it's working for someone to learn a trade or craft; it's not just another term for a type of personal student. And yet when Lightning leaves the palace because reasons, he doesn't go to Starfleet; the topic doesn't even come up as a possibility. He's just kicked down to the surface, into a house GR prepared specifically for him, and he presumably would've stayed there, getting a normal job and living a normal life (for, y'know, a fascist ethnostate), if Titan didn't show up. Isn't it just a *little* suspicious that the moment Lightning shows that he can cast the same spell that only the God claimant should be able to cast, *suddenly* said God claimant starts using their power and influence to nepotism him into a position he has strict control and full oversight of before any dissentients make him an antipope? Neither reason GR gives for not intervening in chapter 2 really exclude the other Starfleet cadets that were already there. If GR *actually* saw the potential for the Uniforce in Lightning from the beginning, why wouldn't he put him in the Academy right after he moved out? He certainly has no problem getting him there *after*wards! Mykan probably didn't *intend* to make it look like GR dumped his magicless failure of an apprentice until he started being a useful tool and potential threat to his political position, and then setting him up to die just in case with a weapon that's useless for 95% of every battle, but that's how it reads!

Many of these issues would not be present if Mykan just rewrote the story from scratch, instead of obviously just editing the story he already wrote. Not only are there several identical passages, they have outdated terminology and the same typos. The same *obvious OBVIOUS* typos, that should have very much should have been caught on a second read that the author evidently didn't do while copy-pasting everything. (Then again, it's arguable whether the author even does a *first* read.) The military mishmash is because despite the obvious PR theming, it's structurally *still* a magical girl battle show. The bolding was probably the same as it was in the

original release and he forgot not to bold Brain's new long name white adding it. GR's sketchy treatment of Lightning is only because it's still doing the MLP pilot ripoff (while failing to establish him as already part of Starfleet in, like, *any* way). This is the wishy-washiest way to reboot something. For a rebooted work to make the most of any improvements you want to add to it, you need to start with a clean slate; I speak from experience here. Like, I don't know how to emphasize it other than pointing out you removed the time you mixed up Krysta and Starla, only to do it again later in the same chapter in a *worse* way that's too extended to be remotely ruled as an accident. If I didn't know better, I'd swear you did it on *purpose*!

C.O.R.N.: Hello, and welcome to standing up school...

And then, my final note: the "you read MY fic by MY rules" author note, which was also one of the statements he vandalized my *E-QUEST* riff with though that didn't have the "MY preferences" bit. This shows a fundamental misunderstanding of how media literacy works. Like, there is no way to interpret this that makes him look good. Yeah, sure, he can write whatever he wants, everyone can, but that doesn't mean I have to *read* it the way he wants. How someone responds to something - particularly art - is an intimately personal and unique experience that cannot in any reasonable way be controlled by the creator of the thing. Sure, creators can and often do aim to get a particular emotional response from their audience, but even aside Mykan being the ultimate television cargo cultist and absolutely not knowing how to do that, that's not the same as demanding control over the audience's perception of the performance.

This is happening because he fundamentally *cannot or refuses to understand* that literature - including fanfiction - does not communicate the same information or information in the same way as television. It's like the garbled graphics and broken behavior an old video game displays when it tries to interpret its graphics data as runnable code. He wants everyone to see the exact same show he's made up in his mind, and it has somehow not occurred to him that he can't do that with just text, and a smattering of pictures and YouTube links is not going to make up for an actual animated show. It's hard for artists to look objectively at their own work and what it communicates because they're biased by knowing what they were *trying* to communicate, and if Mykan was the kind to take the hard route, the story wouldn't have *huge patches of MLU with incompatible lore* in it. And when everyone expectedly doesn't have the exact same vision he has of his work, he's somehow *surprised* that we can't read his fucking mind, and compensates by acting like he can force us to *think* like him.

C.O.R.N.: And so all the "animation" is cheaper than *12 oz. Mouse*.

Every time I read this story, Lightning Armor is played by Shining Armor, Krysta by Navi, Cookie Dough by the one-wheeled robot from *SteamWorld Heist*, Inquierius by Maud Pie, and Titan by Bill Cipher, No Heart, some combination of the previous two, or Old Cob depending on how my brain's feeling at the moment; the same way that every time I read *Artemis Fowl*, Artemis is played by Tails the Fox, Butler by either Kirby the vacuum cleaner or some form of Kingpin if he's in the middle of wrestling somebody, Holly by Blankey the electric blanket, and Juliet by a girl character with green hair and a wok on her head from *Fighting Foodons* that I don't know the name

of, I only saw like one episode. No amount of official art will ever change that; Harry Potter has his face on the cover of every book, but that didn't stop me (back when reading them was socially acceptable) from picturing him as either Paper Mario or Tails again anyway. I also don't tend to imagine specific voices from other people for OCs either, so celebrity cast lists like at the end of MLU are a waste of my time. The way I run the performance in my head - and the ways everyone else runs theirs - is *none of the author's fucking business*.

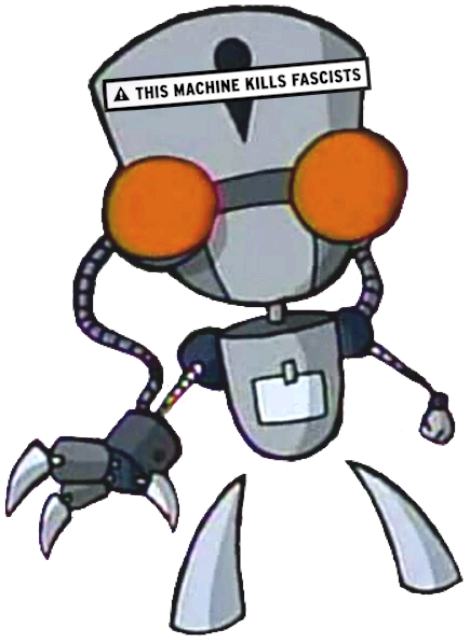
(And that's not even counting the hypocrisy of how the "overly-controlling parent" that's apparently another one of his recurring motifs and is always supposed to be in the wrong *is behaving the exact same way*.)

C.O.R.N.: That's *your* problem, starchild; leave us out of it.

Mykan trying to enforce reading his work in the way only he wants it to be read is not only trying to put himself in an echo chamber, it's trying to get everyone else to build the chamber around him because he can't be fucking bothered to do it himself. Even if it's just something as innocent as wanting to give a television show experience via text like how Nick Smith wanted to give the experience of a classic computer RPG via text, it fails because the very premise itself is fundamentally flawed. And at least Nick knows how to proofread. Jesus Christ, dude, *go outside and touch grass*.

C.O.R.N.: If you don't write about what you don't understand, why are you trying to write *prose*?

***And we're only a sixth of the way there.* Next time on MLU MK II: the filler cycle continues! See ya next time!**



C.O.R.N.

OPERATION REPORT

PLAYBACKED SAMPLES: 359
DATABASE SIZE: 711
750 - 43 (EXCLUDED CHAPTER) + 4 (LINES FROM THAT CHAPTER USED ANYWAY)

SYNC RATE: 50.49%

ATTRIBUTION NOTES: NO SONG, FAR FEWER AUTHOR NOTES, RHYMEY REMOVED FROM EPISODE 3

Part	Playbacked	Database	Sync Rate
Part 1	359	711	50.49%
Part 2			
Part 3			
Part 4			
Part 5			
Part 6			
Whole	**358**	**711**	50.49%

SC276: Now, before we conclude for today, I have one last thing I want to settle. To do so, I've invited a special guest. Please welcome my friend and Fan/fic/ Theater 3015's resident Starfleet expert, PanzerThiefZero!

PanzerThiefZero: Glad to be here, SC! And what a coincidence you just so happened to invite me to this for this segment; that 2017 riff of *Magic is Believing* was my first real foot in the door that led me to where we are today. And *by golly* I feel like 90% of my riffs did *not* age well ~~especially all the parts where I made myself say 'eff' in lieu of 'fuck' because something something unprofessional something something I thought that was a good compromise for saying fuck ergo shit like 'shut the eff up Rhymey' something something I was an effing moron.~~ A lot of the shit I did in the earlier riffs (at least up to part 5, where I'd argue I really found my groove) was out of a shitty 'Mykan bad because he said the ponies smell, please like me' phase that even places like Project AFTER was getting sick of at the

time and because I thought hating on Mykan for the sake of hating on Mykan would make me one of the cool kids.

Needless to say, Legendbringer in the same riff constantly crying 'but in the remake, this character does/says this!' and/or bitching about how Mykan couldn't write for peanuts *ad nauseum* did at least play a good role into snapping me out of *that* mentality. And shit like *Fall of Starfleet* helped cement it further.

But even to this day, while I'd argue that the whole shit about Mykan, his hatred of MLP, and *especially* his seething hatred for things like the *Teen Titans 2003* finale and Twilight Sparkle is practically a dead horse of a topic at this point, I still find a lot of his writing to be utterly *fascinating* to read, even today, because, looking past his seething hatred of the funny horse show, you wind up with more wild shit like 'one-shot antagonist commits Pony 9/11 because something something parents performing science experiments turned her into a hard worker, pity her' and 'cool brooding antagonist who's the best *Yu-Gi-Oh!* player ever in-universe unironically uses the *Pepsiman* theme during a chase scene', and now 'love interest had to pay her way to get to elementary school all by herself all by the age of 14 because *realism*!' It's bonkers, it's batshit wild and it's *oh so entertaining for all the wrong reasons*!

SC276: That is like six times longer than I budgeted for my attention span, but we're gonna roll with it. Glad to help you with your redemption. Now, I've described Unicornicopia - and, by association, United Equestria - as a "fascist ethnostate" in this riff. I think the "ethnostate" part is uncontestable. Even from just what I've seen from the group riffs, they destroy the culture of the Equestrians they assimilated with things like forcing everybody to say "everybody" instead of "everypony," and you've told me about them shittalking cutie marks to put it mildly. As well, the only non-alicorn in the story so far was made to live in the walls of the upper caste and then forcibly made his subordinate in the military hierarchy, and of all the things I've heard about the series, with the exception of Spike, *none* of them are about the *other* sentient species that were on Equestria or its planet when GR annexed it. Not to mention it's pretty skeevy that this intergalactic organization policing all the beings of the cosmos seems to only employ *one* species of alien, and the one non-alicorn we've seen so far is in an "auxiliary" a.k.a. "subservient" position. Your thoughts on this?

PanzerThiefZero: Well, honestly? It's really hard *not* to see it; we already had the shit seen in the first four chapters of the fic, not to mention the *other* shit you just brought up. As much as I don't want to make this sound like a bullshit, Legendbringer-esque 'MYKIE™ made my super special awesome waifus look like complete jackasses and Twilight would totally kick all their asses in like 5 seconds if *I* wrote this' rant, *III*'s infamous Ace Ray chapter (or at least the rewritten version) literally has a whole ass lecture at the Starfleet Academy (which is somehow meant to prove that 'no really, Starfleet is actually really cool and awesome and this is totally not propaganda, you guys') which has a whole ass bit on the narrator describing how the Starfleet race is somehow 'far superior to the Equestrian race' in every single way, and only their super special awesome training will make them just as good as them, *and* they end with a whole song and dance ~~propaganda~~ number kissing Starfleet's ass while they talk about how they're 'warriors judge and deciders (sic) all combined' and how they're totally the best race ever and how they've 'seen the light' because they were totally not fed shittons of propaganda from Lightning and "friends".

What can I say but *fucking yikes*, this shit would not be out of place in something like, say, North Korea or something like that.

And that's not even getting into how a handful of *Starfleet Magic* plots (and some "movie" openings, for that matter, looking at you *Starfleet Humans* and *Starpops*) basically boil down to 'monster/evil group of the week attacks peaceful natives, natives are too powerless to stop them, Starfleet just waltz in and kick the perpetrators' ass, natives praise them and/or compare them to benevolent deities from the heavens, cue the *real* plot'. It is really hard *not* to see the thinly veiled 'white savior' angle these series of fics just happily glosses over, because, in his haphazard attempt to shoehorn 'reality' into the funny haha magic girly horse show, Mykan either didn't really know or care about the implications of the insane shit present in his lore and just tossed it in there because that's how reality works, you guys! Please don't bat an eye at the prisons from hell, or the 'holier than thou' behaviour of the 'heroes' over who they consider 'superior' to everyone else in the entire universe, or the sloppily thrown together Asian culture mismatch-topia that is Ainzul, and so on! It's all *realistic*!

SC276: ...*Wow.* I am using that word a lot. That's about the eighth time this doc, I think. Motherfucker trying to use "realism" as an excuse in a universe with anthropomorphic space horses that fight magic space sorcerers is as laughable as the time he contradicted his own author note literally an inch higher on the screen just to spite me. Now, as for the "fascist" part, that's a strong word that a lot of people are parading around the States lately - reasonably so, to be clear, but that's not important. To establish I'm using the term properly, here's what we're going to do. I'm going to read a list of characteristics of fascism according to Wikipedia, and Panzer, for each one, you're going to tell us what if anything in the Starfleet canon they remind you of - barring substantial spoilers besides Twilight eating shit and dying to a knockoff Teen Titan. Are you ready?

PanzerThiefZero: Yeah, I'm ready. Hit me!

SC276: Alright, here we go. (pulls out a clipboard to read off of) *ahem* "Characterized by a dictatorial leader-"

PanzerThiefZero: Grand Ruler.

SC276: "-centralized autocracy-"

PanzerThiefZero: oh big shock you're never gonna believe this *Grand fucking Ruler!*

SC276: "-militarism-"

PanzerThiefZero: The aforementioned Starfleet Academy, the codes, and the whole ranking system.

SC276: "-forcible suppression of opposition-"

PanzerThiefZero: Any plots involving Ace Ray, Brass Bolt, Windy Bag and the IDIOTS.

SC276: "-belief in a natural social hierarchy-"

PanzerThiefZero: The whole-ass ranking system in general.

SC276: "-subordination of individual interests for the perceived good of the nation or race-"

PanzerThiefZero: "Space Ponies rule, Equestrians drool!" See: DD chapter in *II* and/or the aforementioned Ace Ray chapter in *III*.

SC276: "-and strong regimentation of society and the economy."

PanzerThiefZero: The whole police state bullshit because 'Realism™'.

SC276: *Aaaaaand perfect score!* (throws clipboard over shoulder and it crashes through a window) Thank you for joining me today, Panzer. Any last words before we sign off?

PanzerThiefZero: Well... if *this* was just part 1, I cannot *wait* to see how you learn about how even more batshit wild the later parts in *SF1* alone are! Because, when it comes to *Starfleet Magic* lore in general, this is just scratching the surface of insanity.