

<uSeaGM> ***Group 4 Session 75***

<uSeaGM> Dark, angry clouds still fill the sky, shrouding the whole of the Equestria's End peninsular in shadow. The morning sun fights to be seen, but is barely able to pierce the gloom even at the edges of the unnatural storm where the clouds are the thinnest, such as above the town of Harbourage.

<uSeaGM> Some changes have occurred quite quickly for our party, but in general things are looking up. Quite literally in some cases. Berry has become an adorable winged little donkey and is already well on her way to learning how to fly. Jasmine makes for an excellent teacher... or perhaps 'enthusiastic' would be a better description.

<uSeaGM> Whisper is now breathing much easier. After a quick lesson on anatomy from Prism, Watch Tower was able to magically cage the corruption that was spreading throughout Whisper's lungs. Although no closer to a cure, this has bought them some time.

<uSeaGM> Prism also seems much more comfortable now she's showing her more feminine side. Comfortable enough, in fact, to reveal her growing feelings for Whisper. Feelings which Whisper reciprocates. The only hiccup in this affair is the little glowing spirit floating near by. But Strange Mercy actually seems quite pleased by these events.

<uSeaGM> Mercy is, after all, a Spirit of Passion.

<uSeaGM> *Session Begins*

<uSeaGM> "I'm a what?!"

* Whisper blinks. "A spirit of passion?"

* Prism is very content, hanging on Whisper, having a very embarrassed blush from having realized she just kissed Whisper in front of EVERYBODY. But still, she's satisfied with the result and just happily nuzzles Whisper's neck.

<Prism> "So she's more than a cute little fire spirit?"

* Whisper blushes fiercely.

<uSeaGM> Mercy looks stunned by the revelation.

* Milia remains quiet for a moment. She nods to herself occasionally, as if she was currently piecing together something complicated. "...you know what?" she starts.

<Milia> "...yeah. I'll buy that."

<Watch> "Well...I think I'll let you all work that out betwixt yourselves." Watch chuckles and starts a bit for the door.

* Artifica_ blinks. "A spirit of passion? Mercy, that is so /you/."

<Whisper> "So, um, what does that mean? If she's a spirit of passion?"

* Milia nods in agreement with Artifica.

* Artifica_ asks Whisper for clarification, "For Strange Mercy? For Milia and I? Or for you?"

<uSeaGM> Lavender Dream raises an eyebrow at Whisper. "What do you think it means?"

* Whisper falters under so many questions. "I, er, um, what I meant is...what does it mean for me? I think?"

* Milia just stares at Whisper as he stammers and lets out a quiet chuckle.

<Prism> "Mercy seems to be surprised by it." She turns her head back to Whisper and gives him another kiss.

* Whisper fidgets with his hooves. He sits up straight, eyes wide, and lets out a small "eep" when Prism kisses him.

* Artifica_ taps a hoof on her chin, "Well, for one, that threesome between you, Prism and Mercy just got a lot more likely."

* Whisper 's eyes bug out. "WHAT?!"

<Jasmine_Mistplume> "Ooh! Ooh! Its a love triangle! Its the scandal of the century!.... I think!"

* Whisper tries to regain his composure and fails. "I-I-what I mean is, erm, that I, ah, why would you even jump to that conclusion?"

<Prism> "Well, I certainly have no objection." She puts a hoof to her muzzle and blushes.

* Milia just stares at Whisper. "Because we're us?"

* Whisper looks at Prism, shocked. He tries to say something, but it comes out as a sort of "eeh-huh?" sound.

* Prism strokes Whisper's mane. "Aww, sorry."

* Milia leans her head to the side as she ponders Mercy herself being oblivious to her own nature. "And... I mean, I guess it makes sense kinda that she wouldn't know... if nopo-errr... no/one/ is around to tell you what you are to begin with, I suppose there's really no way you'd just... know. I mean, shit, if nopony ever told me I was a zebra, I'd have probably gone through

* Milia life thinking I was some sort of weird... stripe horse."

* Whisper blushes again. "It's okay," he says softly. "I mean, I wouldn't mind. If you don't, of

course. And if Mercy doesn't."

<uSeaGM> "So... I'm not an angry fire god?"

* Milia chuckles up at the tiny spirit. "Apparently not. I mean, you can still be a fire god, probably. You'd just have to be the more sexy variety than angry. Which, to be fair, sounds a lot more fun anyways."

<Prism> "I don't think I've seen her angry."

<Jasmine_Mistplume> "And If -I- was never told that I was a gryphon," Jasmine chimes in, "I would probably go through life thinking I was..." She looks at herself, turning around as if to try and get a better look. "Um.. hmm..."

* Whisper rubs his chin. "I don't think I've seen Mercy get angry either."

* Whisper unconsciously leans into Prism just a bit.

<Prism> "I still need to apologize to her..." She's leaned on. Definitely doesn't mind, leans her head against Whisper as well.

<uSeaGM> Strange Mercy nods at Milia. "Oh, I can totally do that! That sounds like fun!"

<uSeaGM> She turns to Lavender. "How do I be that thing you said I was?"

* Cerberus yawns and rolls a bit, falling from arti's back and perfectly landing on her face "ow"

* Milia then turns to Artifica, still half listening to Mercy and Lavender chat. "Hey, Arti... how are you doing, sweetie? You seemed pretty... errr..." she desperately tries to think of a better way to phrase it than 'ready to flip shit'.

<Milia> "...flustered."

* Prism nuzzles Whisper gently. "Hope I make a good marefriend for you." She says quietly.

* Whisper blushes. He tries to nuzzle back, but is very awkward. "Uh, w-well so far you're doing pretty well."

* Artifica sighs, still shaking a bit inside. "I... need a rest. I think all that was more traumatic for me than for Cerberus." She pauses, "Also, I need to ask you something."

* Cerberus gets up fluttering a bit her wings uselessly, then trots next to the others, trying to understand what's going on

* Cerberus frowns "traumatic? what was traumatic"

* Milia blink-blinks. "Ask me something?" she parrots back. Let no pony say she wasn't eloquent.

* Artifica answers honestly, "Seeing you fall. I was... scared that you would be hurt."

* Artifica nods to Milia. "Ask you something." Two could play at the eloquence game.

* Milia nods back. "Ask." She says. This was getting intense.

* Cerberus "i was really scared too. but consider this: i should already be dead, soooo...."

* Jasmine_Mistplume musses up Berry's mane a bit as she approaches the group. "Heya Berry! Hows the soreness treating you? Its a good burn, I hope!" she says with a grin on her face

* Artifica sits down and scoops Cerberus up into a hug. "I don't want you dead. Or hurt. I want you to be happy. And healthy."

* Cerberus "yes, scared, but also, it made me feel alive, free... i haven't felt this good since..." the donkey filly looks at the floor for a moment "a long, long time"

* Prism actually smiles at Cerberus and Artifica.

* Milia smiles at the winged donkey. "So I take it you're liking your new life as a...uhh..."
DON'TSAYPEGASASSDON'TSAYPEGASASSDON'TSAYPEGASASSDON'TSAYPEGASASS.

<Milia> "...Assasus?"

* Milia NAILED IT.

* Artifica lets Cerberus go, smiling at her. "Then I'm very happy you became a... donkey with wings."

* Artifica blinks at Milia

* Cerberus blinkblinks for a moment "okay, i'm sure that there's a term for what i am and i' sure it is not that stupid as that... you don't have winged donkeys? they must have a name"

<Jasmine_Mistplume> "Awww, cmooon!" Jasmine turns to Artificia "I wouldn't'a let anything happen to Berry, promise! I am a SUPER responsible flight teacher!" She says with absolute conviction. She stands up straight and gives a salute, as if to try to sell herself. It was quite ironic coming from her.

<Watch> "I think winged Donkey works as a name."

<Watch> "maybe Wingkey?"

* Watch pauses. "winky?"

* Milia turns a faint shade of red, realizing what she said. She then proceeds to facehoof. Still blushing, she turns to Watch Tower. "Uhhh... I think having the word 'wink' in the name might be

just as bad as the whole ass thing. Call it a mare's intuition."

* Artifica has to admit, "You did good, Jasmine. Amazing, really. You're right. I should have had more faith in you."

* Prism just has this ridiculous smile on her face, which was pretty rare for Prism.

* Cerberus "i like flying with jasmine" offers the chimera

* Whisper leans over and whispers something into Prism's ear.

* Watch blushes as he realizes what Milia meant. "oh Wow I had NOT considered that."

* Jasmine_Mistplume blinks. "Whats wrong with the word wink? I like the word wink! Its very... winky!"

* Milia nods as she shares a moment of understanding with the stallion. There really was no good name for a winged donkey, she concluded.

<Watch> "umm..."

<Watch> "Milia you might want to explain that particular... phenomena to her..."

<Jasmine_Mistplume> "I know what winking is! I just dont see why its such a big deal!" Jasmine then proceeds to wink with her eyes. "See?"

* Artifica offers, "Why don't we just call you a Cerberus. You're unique."

* Prism between blushing and whispering back to Whisper. "Yeah, I liked calling her Berry, so..."

* Cerberus "maybe i could call myself django.... you know, with the mute 'd'..."

* Milia muffles a groan as she covers her muzzle with a forehoof. What was she, a sex-ed teacher? "YEAH! I like that idea!" she exclaims, upon hearing Artifica's suggestion.

<Watch> "Yes...She is Berry."

* Artifica nods. "From this day forward, all future winged donkeys shall be named after you. They shall be known as cerberi."

* Milia stomps her hoofs in enthusiastic applause.

<Artifica> One cerberus, many cerberi.

* Whisper blushes even more than before as he quietly asks Prism something else.

<Watch> "I like that idea actually."

* Cerberus scratches her head "so.... what now? we look for the tunnel?"

<Watch> "I thought we already knew where it was..."

* Cerberus "we knew the general direction, i think? we know the exact place?"

<uSeaGM> Meanwhile, Lavender was struggling to find words. In the end she face hoofs at her fiery companion. "Your naivety is mind boggling. I could try to explain but it will be easier to just show you. Mercy, kiss me."

* Milia nods. Today was a victory for biology, or whatever umbrella discovering/creating a new species fell under. It was ALSO a victory for Milia not having to explain genitals to Jasmine. That was, what we call in the biz, a 'twofer'.

* Watch looks back to Lavender making out with Mercy.

<uSeaGM> Mercy looks between Lavender, Milia, and the rest of you. "Okay!"

<uSeaGM> The following scene plays out a little like this...

<http://youtu.be/aKfbSHW9uGA?t=1m47s>

* Prism whisper something else to Whisper, and smiles bashfully.

* Milia slowly turns her head to the... debacle playing out between her two spirits. "Wait what." the zebra deadpans as they start making out.

* Whisper suddenly looks shell-shocked. He stares into space, too out of it to even notice Mercy and Lavender. He also seems to have forgotten how to sit on his haunches, as he topples over onto his side.

* Milia 's eyes go wide. "WOAH, DAMN."

* Prism blinks, and watches the spirits.

<Prism> "Um, sorry Whisper. You alright?"

<Jasmine_Mistplume> "Spirits have electric eels for tongues?" Jasmine seems incredibly confused by this

* Whisper shakes his head and looks up at Prism before nodding dumbly. "Uh-huh."

<uSeaGM> Lavender pushes Mercy away after she catches her breath. "Enough of that."

* Cerberus looks a bit confused at the kiss scene, waits for the whole thing to end but it is getting quite long, then mutters "aaaawk-waaard..."

<Jasmine_Mistplume> "You know, that looks like a lot of fun!"

<Watch> "soo...umm...that was interesting.."

* Prism offers a hoof to help Whisper up.

<uSeaGM> Strange Mercy grins. "Now /that/ was fun."

* Whisper takes Prism's hoof and gets up off the ground. "What'd I miss?"

<Prism> "Mercy and Lavender making out."

<Whisper> "Wait, really?" He looks at the two spirits.

* Watch whines softly.

* Milia just turns to Whisper and nods silently. Her eyes are bug eyed, like she had just seen some shit. Some real shit.

* Cerberus "well, if everything else fails we could always change a career... we got talent"

<Watch> "so...I assume there was a point to that?"

* Prism blinks at Milia. "You alright?"

<Prism> "By the way...can we talk later?"

* Whisper thinks for a minute and nods. "Well, my memory is fuzzy from the alcohol, but Mercy is pretty good at kissing."

<uSeaGM> "I wanna do that again!"

<uSeaGM> "No," Lavender deadpans.

* Prism looks at Whisper. "Hmm, now I'm curious!"

* Milia rubs her eyes with a foreleg, snapping her back to reality. "Oh, uh, yeah, I'm fine. That was just... uh... intense. And hey, yo, sure, no problem."

<Watch> "well on the upside your spirit girlfriend is polyamorous..." He looks to Lavender. "So...Lav what was the point of that kiss?"

* Artifica isn't sure what to make of what she just saw.

* Whisper looks at Prism. "Curious about what part?"

<Prism> "How good a kisser she is."

<uSeaGM> Lavender turns to Watch. "It was faster than trying to explain."

<Watch> "well...we kind of got that she was a passion spirit..."

* Whisper looks abashed. "Well, // thought she was good, but I don't have anything to compare to."

<Watch> "I thought maybe you'd done that to help with the whole locate the tunnel thing."

* Milia glances over to Watch Tower. "How would making out help with locating an underground tunnel?"

<uSeaGM> "I meant, faster than explaining it to her. And... what tunnel thing?"

<Watch> "I thought maybe she had some knowledge about it...guess not."

<Prism> "Nah, personally curious. Maybe I should go kiss and make up. I do need to apologize to her after all."

* Whisper nods to Prism. "Yeah, you two should...um, do that."

* Cerberus "there should be a tunnel going to a secret underwater base.... perhaps you know where it is, lavey?"

* Prism heads on over to Mercy.

<Watch> "The base...might be named aquaria."

* Milia will take this opportunity to turn her attention back to Artifica. "What was it you wanted to ask me, anyways, Arti? Umm... everything alright?"

<Whisper> "Oh yeah, do we know where the tunnel entrance is? Or do we know of somepony who knows?"

<Watch> "well...if we can't find the entrance...there was something else..."

* Whisper looks at Watch. "What else?"

<Watch> "Teleport...it was something Arti suggested a while back..."

<Prism> "I don't think my teleport would reach that far...would it?"

<uSeaGM> Lavender shakes her head. "Unless you want to know about life in the savanna then I can't help you much."

* Cerberus frowns "i thought that we were going to ask the seaponies?"

* Whisper looks perplexed. "Do we know any seaponies?"

* Cerberus "well no, but i mean... there are flying donkeys, would that be so impossible?"

* Prism turns to Mercy. "Look, I want to apologize for how much of a jerk I was. I've learned a lot since you first came by, and I feel absolutely awful about the way I've treated and thought

about you. Do you wanna be friends?"

<uSeaGM> Strange Mercy fizzles next to Milia. She's wearing a mischievous grin. "Hey, I'm not sure how it could help locate the thingy either... but it might worth a shot..."

<Whisper> "Looking for seaponies who might not exist could take a while. Maybe one of the ponies here in Harborage might know?"

<Watch> "I just kind of figured that it was some way memory spirits shared knowledge with passion spirits." Watch admitted sheepishly

<uSeaGM> Mercy blinks in surprise at Prism talking to her. "Friends? Yeah, I'd love to be friends!"

* Watch mutters friends with benefits

* Cerberus frowns "okay, let's do it the easy way, let's ask these ponies about their hometown... meh"

* Whisper thinks for a moment. "Hey, wait, what about that place where we met? With the caravans? There as a big blast door there. Maybe they're sitting on the tunnel entrance and don't even know it!"

* Milia lets out a surprised squeal as her spirit starts giving her the 'let's lock lesbian lips lots' look. "Mercy, I've got a marefriend, y'know! She's literally RIGHT HERE!" she says, gesturing with a hoof to the mare-in-question.

* Cerberus "sure, that's a chance. we could check that place first"

<Prism> "What about the castle?"

<Milia> "Plus, like... aren't I like your house or something? Would you make out with your house? That would be weird."

* Whisper looks at Prism. "Wait, the castle? With the ghouls and the alicorn? Do you /really/ think the entrance might be there?"

<uSeaGM> "That would be fun. And who said Artifica_ couldn't play too?"

* Milia looks to her marefriend with pleading eyes. It's a look that screams 'HELP MEEEEEE'.

* Artifica chuckles.

* Artifica pauses, "So... we're wondering if Mercy's kisses are so mind-blowing that when we recover, we find ourselves in an undersea tunnel?"

<Watch> "I was actually wonderin...nevermind." Watch sighs.

* Watch shakes his head. "who knows maybe all these makeout sessions will power her up."

<Prism> "Hm, hey Mercy, want to test?"

<Jasmine_Mistplume> "Ooh! Ooh! Me next! Me next! That looked fun!"

* Watch sighs. "I think...maybe I should sit this out."

<uSeaGM> With a whoosh, Mercy is the size of a mare. A feat she can only manage while beside Milia. She bats her eyes at Prism. "I'd love to."

* Cerberus "well, i'd like to check the castle, you know... maybe there's a whole dungeon under that with monsters yelling stuff like fresh meat and then we will have to fight a giant demon named diablo with cool BG music"

<Whisper> "Wait, are Prism and Mercy really going to...?"

<uSeaGM> Lavender floats beside Watch. "Yeah. It's kind of exhausting."

* RogueLikeBerry "still i think that the giant blast door has a better chance of being what we are looking for"

<Prism> "Well, as they say. Kiss and make up." She goes to kiss Mercy.

* Milia stares down at Berry, nonplussed. "Don't we already have ENOUGH demons and crazy shit like that to fight?"

<Watch> "well if we know where we are going..."

<Watch> "Perhaps we should get going?"

<uSeaGM> Mercy seems really into it.

* Whisper stares at Mercy and Prism. A small trickle of blood leaks out one nostril.

* Artifica stares, eye going huge.

* Prism is also strangely into it.

* Milia then considers: "But if it's a castle... it might have loot... and we /are/ totally broke..."

* Milia IS FULLY AWARE THERE ARE TWO PONIES MAKING OUT LITERALLY RIGHT NEXT TO HER. She's got her blinders on.

* Watch is also doing his best to ignore it himself. "So where is this castle? Maybe I can cut out the travel time?"

* Artifica is still processing life-sized Strange Mercy. The making out hasn't even registered yet.

* RogueLikeBerry "yeah i know we already have got problems, but maybe i'll finally find one of those damn stones of jordan..."

* Artifica looks at Milia. "Did you know she could do that?"

* Prism is having fun, and testing just how good of a kisser Mercy was.

<Jasmine_Mistplume> "Go, go, go, go, go, go!" Jasmine chants excitedly as Prism and Mercy go at it. She seemed to be really into it.

* Milia will spare a quick glance to Prism and Mercy's hardcore makeout session. The zebra then nods to her marefriend. "Mmhmm, it's how she torched my uh... my gross severed leg, remember?" she accompanies this statement with her best recreation of the experience, which amounts to little more than a *pwoosh!* noise coupled with an appropriate hoof gesture.

* Prism finally releases the kiss, blushing furiously. "Wow, yeah, then Whisper was right.

* Milia stares back at Mercy and Prism. "Apparently it's also useful for... making out, too. Go figure." she mumbles.

* Whisper is still gawking at Prism and Mercy. He makes yet another bizarre sound in lieu of speaking, something that's becoming a habit for him.

<Prism> "A+ Would kiss again." She bats her eyes at Mercy, and heads back to Whisper. "Anyways, we have a bunch of leads."

* Whisper just stares at Prism as she approaches. He's apparently still processing things.

<uSeaGM> Mercy fizzles back to normal size. She turns to Milia. "Being big is harder than it looks. How do you manage it all the time?"

* Whisper wipes his muzzle off. "So...we...uh, we're going...to the castle, I guess?"

* RogueLikeBerry shrug "no idea... weren't we all getting a kiss first?"

<Watch> "either...or really."

* Milia smirks at Mercy's comment. "I'll let you know when it gets any easier for me."

<Whisper> "Do we /have/ to go to the castle?"

* Artifica nods. "I'm afraid so."

<uSeaGM> Outside, a dark green alicorn walks unsteadily down the cobblestone streets towards the group. It is of course Danse Macabre, who you last saw up at the castle. She is being supported by two ghoulish pirate mares as the alicorn is still a little wobbly on her hooves. It looks like her pain from the storm hasn't gone away completely.

* Milia shrugs at Whisper. "Well, we're /here/. And, there's a chance it might have that entrance in it..." she trails off as she glances over to Berry. "...Or monsters."

* RogueLikeBerry trots next to the alicorn and sniffs her, then tries a timid lick.... thinks for a moment, ponders, then licks a little more "yeah, that's more like it." smiles at danse and asks "hey have you see any large tunne entrance under the castle?"

* Whisper squeaks at seeing the alicorn and tries hiding behind Milia.

* Prism looks at Danse. Her eyes go wide. "Oh my, Danse. Is she okay?"

* Milia is surprised to see Danse trotting their way. "Hey, uh, isn't that the alicorn from the cas-WOAH!" she cranes her neck back to look at the stallion cowering behind her. "...y'okay back there, dude?"

* Artifica ohs. "Or the castle might come to us."

<Watch> "What...happened to her?"

<Prism> "That magic storm really hurt her. We were there when it happened."

<Prism> "At the castle."

* Artifica answers, "I suspect the same thing that happened to us. Except alicorn-sized."

<uSeaGM> Danse looks very surprised when Berry licks her in greeting. "Hello little one, have we met? Your... greeting reminds me of another filly, but I'm sure she didn't have wings."

<Prism> "I've been worried about her ever since."

* Milia shudders. "That shit was fuckin' scary... and I wasn't even one of the people who had to /feel/ it."

* Whisper peeks out. "No. I'm not. Alicorns are scary."

* Prism trots up to Danse, approaching her. "Um, how are you doing? I've been really worried."

* Milia blinks away thoughts of Artifica sprawled out in pain from the storm. Nope. Don't think about those things. Think happy thoughts, you stupid zebra.

* Artifica offers to Whisper, "Maybe it would help if you thought of them as just being like Berry. Only larger and with a horn. ...And not a donkey." Assicorn? Okay, this train of thought derailed somewhere. "Nevermind."

* RogueLikeBerry smiles "oh well, things change, i'm berry, we did the carameldansen together... soooooo... you look a lot better than the last time we've seen each other..."

* Whisper whimpers. "But Berry was a hellhound and she's scary sometimes too."

* Artifica agrees, "Yeah, I really didn't think that one through when I started."

* Milia mutters to the stallion behind her. "You also thought Prism and Mercy were terrifying when you first met them too, and look what happened there."

<uSeaGM> Her voice sounds strained but she smiles at you all. "Hello again everypony." She bows slowly at Prism. "I am... not as bad as I was, thank you."

<Prism> "I'm relieved. You're one of the kindest ponies I've met."

* Whisper thinks for a minute. "I guess...do I really have to say hello, though? Can I just stay back here?"

* Milia waves politely to the alicorn. She hadn't ever actually met the mare, but judging from the rest of her friends' reactions to her... well, barring Whisper's, she figured this Danse pony must be alright.

* Watch waves to Danse as well...not knowing them

* Whisper leans out from behind Milia just a little and gives a half-hearted wave.

<uSeaGM> Danse blushes a little at Prism's words. "I just wish to help my new family. But how about you? You seem a lot happier since the last time we met."

* Milia gives Whisper an expectant - almost motherly - 'is that all young man?' look.

* Whisper whimpers. "But..."

* Milia intensifies.

<Prism> "Well, I've done a lot of soul-searching. I finally stopped trying to deny who I am, and I also realized that I had friends now, and I have somepony that I love. So yeah, I'm happier."

* Whisper reluctantly gets to his hooves and approaches Danse. He still hangs back behind Prism, though.

* Milia nods to herself, pleased. "When all else fails...scowl at them." she proudly concludes.

<uSeaGM> She returns the waves from behind Prism and then smiles at the unicorn. "That makes me very happy to hear. But, I am unfamiliar with some of your friends. Could you introduce me please?"

* Prism nuzzles Whisper. "He's my colt friend, Whisper. He was at the castle. The um, flying donkey is Berry. She was a fluffy little filly when you last saw her. You probably recognize Milia and Artifica." She waves at the two mares. "The new stallion over there is Watch Tower, he's really nice. And the two spirits...the firey one is Strange Mercy and the not-firey one is

Lavender Dreams."

* Whisper returns Prism's nuzzle, but remains subdued otherwise.

<uSeaGM> One of the pirate mares with Danse answers RogueLikeBerry's question. "There are a couple of tunnels, yeah. Old escape routes in case of a siege. They lead down to the beach."

<uSeaGM> Lavender and Mercy wave at the alicorn.

* Watch bows to the alicorn and smiles.

* RogueLikeBerry smilysmiles "we did a dance together and i kissed a pirate! also, i'm cursed that's why sometimes i'm different!" then taps her chin at the pirate's reply "not deep enough... we need a tunnel going all the way under the sea.... probably behind some sort of giant metal door"

<Prism> "And Jasmine is the griffon."

<uSeaGM> Danse Macabre bows at each of you. "Blackbeard has told me what you did for the town. It is a pleasure to meet you all."

* Whisper mumbles some sort of greeting, although it's too soft to be heard well.

* Milia gives a playful salute. "Hey, it was our pleasure! Don't quote me on that, by the way! It /actually/ kind of sucked!" she cheerfully chirps back.

<Watch> "I...didn't really help much with that...I arrived after all was said and done..."

* Milia then concedes. "I'm happy we could help, though."

* Prism looks at Watch. "Hey, you helped me out so much."

* RogueLikeBerry "well, that's not a problem at all! we went squid hunting, it was fun, and milia almost got killed but we earned two spirits, so i guess it's all good"

<Watch> "I meant with the town thing..." He smiles.

<uSeaGM> One of the two ghouls sets down Danse's violin. "Big metal door? What do you think, Ship Shape?" "Sounds like the Equestria's End Station. You remember the one that the military took over?" "Oh yeah. They call it the Junkyard now, don't they?"

* Whisper perks up at the mention of Junkyard.

* Milia smacks a hoof to her forehead with a groan. "Of course it's the place with the guards that threatened to shoot us on sight if we so much as looked at the restricted area funny. Why wouldn't it be." she deadpans.

<Watch> "hey...I know where that is..."

<Watch> "well the junkyard anyway..."

* RogueLikeBerry tilts her head "i don't remember it..."

<Prism> "Not a clue here. Remember, I joined up with you only recently."

* Prism strokes Whisper's mane. "You be careful though, Sweetie."

* Artifica lets the others say their hellos first, then trots up to Danse Macabre, putting a hoof on her gentle shoulder. "It is good to see you. I wish I had a way to ease the hurt. For us, it has faded."

* Whisper smiles a little. "Of course."

* Prism gasps. "You smiled. Your smile is so nice."

* Whisper blushes. "I...it is?"

<Prism> "Mmhmm. I think I'm gonna add a new goal, and that's to get you to smile more often."

<uSeaGM> Danse smiles back at Artifica as best she can. "Do not worry about me. I fear for my new family. The ghouls feel it too."

<Watch> "The...soulstorm?"

<Whisper> "Oh, well you don't need to trouble yourself so much. I'm okay for now."

* RogueLikeBerry "so... i do't remember this army ponies.... we're siding with them or we have to go there and make some more widows?"

* Prism nuzzles Whisper. "I just wanna, okay?"

* Whisper returns the gesture. "Well, if you're sure..."

* Milia shoots a worried look to Berry. "As much as I love a good scrap, let's try to avoid systematically demolishing Junkyard just so we can get into those blast doors. Or at least let's not make it our 'Plan A'."

* Artifica dips her head. "I'm sorry to hear that. We are working to find a way to stop this. Unfortunately, it is complicated, and fixing it may take some time for us."

<Watch> "well...we could try teleporting directly...into the tunnels if we can get above it..."

<uSeaGM> Danse nods to Watch. "Yes. But what worries me is that I have felt something similar before. Not this strong but it is unmistakable."

<Prism> "If we can get to the blast doors, I'm sure I can get them open."

<Watch> "You have?" Watch asks looking quite intrigued. "when??"

* Whisper sighs. "But we'll have to convince the ponies of Junkyard to help."

<Whisper> "And they seemed pretty intent on keeping that door locked. I could try sneaking past, but I don't think I could open the door..."

* RogueLikeBerry "yes, but if we say them that they're sitting on the entrance of a giant solar gun, i think they won't really let us disarm it...."

<uSeaGM> "When I first came to this part of Equestria it was the city I sought. But ... I felt something from within that place. It made my blood run cold and twisted my music into a sinister cacophony. I could not bear it, and fled... until I found myself here."

<uSeaGM> "I fear that dreadful presence I had previously sensed has now awoken. What was a distant drum beat has become a mournful wail. I feel it calling even from here. I cannot imagine what it must be doing to the ghouls in that lost city."

* Whisper looks fearful. "L-lost city? What lost city?"

* RogueLikeBerry is a bit confused and whispers to milia "what town is she talking about now?"

* Milia whispers back to her donkey friend. "New Hope. With how much bad mojo seems to be centered around that place, it's a wonder ponies ever settled there at all..."

* Watch sighs. "do you have any idea how we can help them?"

<Prism> "New Hope...weren't you telling me about that place, Watch?"

* RogueLikeBerry nodnods and decides that the bigponies can manage this thing on their own. instead she'll be at the cliff practicing takeoffs

* Watch nods

<Whisper> "I remember passing through there...but it's in the spirit world. What can we do?"

<uSeaGM> Danse shakes her head. "No. This is my fault. If I hadn't been scared I could have been there. Perhaps I could have stopped it. But now..." She gazes off towards the West.

<Watch> "wait...how could you have stopped it!?"

* Milia raises a hoof, having been listening with rapt attention up until that point. Watch tower can articulate her question before she even asks it. "...what he said." she says, pointing a hoof at the unicorn. "How could one pony ever stop something like THAT?"

<Prism> "Um, will we be going to this New Hope place?"

<uSeaGM> She stomps a hoof, looking angry at herself. "I could have tried."

* RogueLikeBerry is trying to fly, this is best thing because now she would say something so wrong to be considered a casus belli

<Watch> "well...then what would you have done?"

* Artifica pauses, and then asks for clarification, "Danse? Was the town you speak of New Hope? Or are we jumping to a conclusion here which we shouldn't?"

<Whisper> "Wait...so are we going to find this tunnel next or go fight the soulstorm? Because they both seem really, really important."

<uSeaGM> Danse nods. "Yes, New Hope is what they called it."

<Prism> "They seem related...like maybe finding the tunnel is important to fighting it."

* Milia nods at Prism. "It's where Rarity and Sweetie Belle live...along with a whole bunch of other ponies. Ponies who are currently trapped in that nightmarish vortex of necromantic badness. Along with about a buttload of feral ghouls who I don't imagine are jiving too well with the inclement weather."

* Artifica turns to Jasmine_Mistplume. "Go with Berry. Keep her safe."

<Prism> "Oh right." She stamps a hoof. "I need to ask Rarity to make me a dress."

* Whisper looks at Prism. "A dress?"

<Prism> "So not only is there ghouls need saving, I also want to meet Rarity. So we gotta get on this."

* Prism nods at Whisper. "Yes, before she was a ministry mare, she was famous for it."

<Watch> "not to mention all the ponies there..."

<Watch> "They're starving..."

<Whisper> "Oh, right. Um, anyway, since Junkyard is closer maybe we should go there first?"

<Prism> "I agree with Whisper. We should check out that obviously forbidden thing."

* Milia nods. "Co-sign."

<uSeaGM> Strange Mercy has been listening quietly, but eventually she pipes up. "If you want that storm to go away then why not find that Death Spirit's shaman and get him to stop?"

<Watch> "we were going there to help deal with new hope remember?"

<Prism> "Besides, I'm a little underequipped to be fighting some soul storm."

* RogueLikeBerry doesn't need help! she's doing fine, if by fine you mean flapping wings while making super serious faces. also, licking rocks. everything near to the ocean has a nommy salt flavor

<Whisper> "So...how will we get in? Just ask the ponies in charge of Junkyard nicely?"

* Milia is quite alarmed by Mercy's comment. "Wait...he's a BOUND spirit?!"

<Watch> "Mercy...can you by chance trace that spirit to it's shaman?"

* Prism just stops, and looks at Mercy. "You're amazing, you know that?"

<uSeaGM> Mercy nods at Milia. "You said you all saw it, right? That big bone guy is a familiar."

<Whisper> "I dunno about that...fighting a shaman who can bind a death spirit that strong sounds scary and dangerous, and we've already had a ton of scary and dangerous."

* Milia looks exceedingly exasperated at this knowledge. "Oh, well fuck me. That's horrifying." She turns back to her fiery companion. "Do you know if all familiars are like you? Like...do they have to stay in... errr... 'range'-" she would do air quotes...but, you know, hooves. "-of their shaman?"

* RogueLikeBerry trots back from the cliff, licking salt flavored rocks makes you super thirsty, after all... "hey, anypony got water?" hears the last sentence "wait... i don't see how binding spirits could help him unless he can also bend lasers"

<uSeaGM> Lavender blushes slightly. "I saw that from Mercy too when we... uhm, anyway. It's an old spirit. Super old. For its shaman to still be alive..." She shudders.

<Whisper> "Can we /please/ go to Junkyard instead then? Because that shaman is sounding scarier by the second."

* Artifica murmurs, "Ghoul zebra shaman badass, I'm guessing."

* Artifica adds, thinking of necromancy, "...or worse."

<Watch> "Well...then...we'll just have to make sure it dies for real when that time comes..."

* Milia nods in agreement. "Let's hope they burn good."

<Whisper> "Is /any/pony else just a /little/ wary of fighting a zebra shaman whose familiar is practically a demigod!?"

<Watch> "We'll figure out some way I'm sure...,but first we should do what we came to do with

that...secret base."

* Watch looks to whisper. "I am absolutely terrified...,but somepony I care about...is threatened by them...I HAVE to do something..."

* Whisper checks himself after his outburst. "Sorry."

* RogueLikeBerry "if the ponies in hope are running out with the food it could be quite the problem"

<Prism> "All the expedience in the world won't matter if we aren't prepared to fight something like that."

* Milia sighs at Whisper. "I think we're all terrified Whisper. I know I sure as shit am. But it's like Watch Tower said." She smiles at the diminutive stallion. "Sometimes being brave means having to do what you can, even THROUGH your fear."

* RogueLikeBerry frowns "hey! i'm not scared!"

<uSeaGM> Lavender nods at Milia. "From what Mercy saw... it woke up. Its shaman should be in the same place, just on this side."

* Milia corrects herself. "Okay, we're all scared. EXCEPT Berry."

* Whisper slumps a little. "Right..."

* RogueLikeBerry smiles at whisper "whenever you're scared, just laugh louder in front of them. it works for me"

<Prism> "Maybe I'm just used to my, uh, kind hitting stuff with overwhelming firepower. So this sort of thing is pretty scary."

* Milia looks at Lavender with a frown. "So the shaman is just... chilling where New Hope /should/ be, then. Wonderful. That's not ominous or anything."

<Watch> "wait...same place on this side?"

<Watch> "I...have an idea."

<Watch> "It's a bad one...,but "

* Milia raises an eyebrow at Watch Tower.

<Watch> "New hope...isn't where it is now...,but the shaman is right?"

* Milia nods. "That's what Lavender's saying, yep."

<Watch> "and we're going to this base to acquire an orbital laser..."

<Watch> "well stop the orbital laser."

<Prism> "Hit the shaman with the orbital laser? The thought of that....is awesome."

<Watch> "well...it won't destroy the town...and it'll be one hell of a pay back for all the hell that he's put those poor ponies through..."

<uSeaGM> "No... that's where he /was/. He probably went along with the town."

* Whisper throws up his hooves. "So then we still can't stop this shaman!"

<Watch> "Where...what was?"

* Artifica_ nuzzles Milia gently.

<Prism> "Maybe we can find another razor squid and sic it on the shaman."

* Artifica_ frowns, thinking of something.

* RogueLikeBerry "i'm pretty sure that if a magical gun is large enough it can hit you wherever you are, even in another dimension..."

* Milia nuzzles her marefriend back. She plants a loving kiss on her muzzle, happy for the warm touch of somepony close to her.

* RogueLikeBerry "still, going there and give him a kick in the plot would be a nice plus"

* Artifica_ suggests hesitantly, "Maybe we should know more about this shaman before trying to shoot her with an orbital canon."

* RogueLikeBerry "good idea, so we know what to write on the grave"

* Prism looks at Whisper, and just hugs him tightly.

<uSeaGM> Mercy shrugs. "There must be something in the town that he or she wants to go through all this trouble. Otherwise why not just kiss things. It's way more fun."

* Artifica_ dares suggest, "We don't even know for certain that she's evil... or in control." She looks around. "We've all seen some very, very strange things. The idea of a spirit familiar wrecking havoc because its shaman is a victim rather than a villain isn't... inconceivable, is it?"

* Whisper weakly returns Prism's hug. "Sorry, I just...it feels like we're getting nowhere."

<Watch> "well...that does make...some sense..."

<Prism> "I guess it's not inconceivable."

* RogueLikeBerry shrugs "okay arty, if you have a doozy we'll investigate it, before we go all

steelranger on him."

* Prism hides her head embarrassedly.

* Milia squeezes her eyes shut. She hadn't entertained a thought like that. "No...no, it's not inconceivable at all, Arti. That's... a good point." Opening her eyes, she smiles at the mare. "Thank you for being the levelheaded one, sweetie. We definitely need it sometimes."

* Artifica_ snugs Milia with her tail. "Happy to."

<Watch> "Well...honestly."

* Watch seems hesitant to say it.

<Watch> "innocent or not...there are times when one pony...is too dangerous..."

<Watch> "and...if his or her continued existence...means that that monster continues killing..."

<uSeaGM> Danse Macabre tilts her head. "Then perhaps I need only to speak with this shaman. I will-" she takes a step forward and stumbles, knocking over her violin.

* Artifica_ nods. "But we should try to help if we can. And... either way, we should make sure first. Let's not add another tragedy to the wasteland. It has enough."

<Prism> "I'm literally the biggest wimp, ranger or not, so....""

* Artifica_ reaches out with her telekinesis to safely catch the violin.

* RogueLikeBerry nodnods "we will decide what to do when we're there... so, what first?" in the meantime the donkey has a smart idea. speed probably could help! and she's on top of a hill! she puts her gas mask on, since she has no protective glasses and takes her red raer, spread her wings and starts accelerating

* Watch moves to support the alicorn as she stumbles.

<Watch> "well...if you are going...you might need a way back..."

* Artifica_ looks to Danse Macabre. "We should find out first. If speaking with the shaman might help, we can enlist your aid. But we shouldn't risk your safety on a fool's effort. Your ghouls need you."

* RogueLikeBerry notices the alicorn in trouble! no time for practice! she trots next to dance and checks her with her best medica skills! -sniff sniff-

<Whisper> "Wait, how do we even /get/ to the spirit world? And what about the super-laser in the mean time?"

* Prism sighs. "We're just gonna argue and bicker about this aren't we. Maybe we can split

up?"

* Watch hesitates. "I...want to help the ponies of new dawn...you weren't there...you have no idea how bad things got..."

* Milia looks worriedly at Danse. The storm seemed to be affecting her badly.

* Whisper gives Prism a concerned look. "I dunno, splitting up might mean either group would be too weak to take on whatever they might find."

<uSeaGM> Watch manages to catch Danse before she falls. She gets back to her hooves unsteadily. "Th-thank you. I may need more rest than I thought."

<Watch> "it took me weeks to recover..."

<Prism> "I've thought of that Whisper. But I think we're underprepared as is for either."

* Whisper sighs. "Well, I don't care too much which way we go as long as I can help." He looks away, embarrassed. "And, um, as long as I'm with you."

<Prism> "Against the shaman, if she proves to be hostile, there's literally nothing I can do against it...and that's just me."

* RogueLikeBerry "if the shaman is hostile we got enough firepower to deal with it. i' worried of what will happen if he's not"

* Watch sighs looking to the others. "You can use your magic to maybe counterspell enchantments?"

<Watch> "but...we need to act soon for new hope...even before I left food was becoming an issue..."

<Prism> "It's best against unicorn magic..." She looks at the violin. "Um, what are the strings of that made of?"

* RogueLikeBerry "cat, i think?"

* Whisper sighs. "I guess we should go to help New Hope, then. They need help now."

<Prism> "Maybe if I can find a cat, that new spell I developed can help fix that..."

* RogueLikeBerry "ehr.... maybe not? i kinda like cats"

<Prism> "I've learned a lot from Genie, after all."

<Watch> "uhh...perhaps you could also use a sculpt spell?"

* Prism shakes her head. "Sculpt wouldn't work."

<Watch> "why not?"

* RogueLikeBerry blinkblinks, a bit surprised "what did i just say!?"

* Watch pats Berry. "It's okay berry we'll never repeat it."

* Watch mouths catlover.

<Watch> "haven't...you learned to make your sculpting permanent?"

* Milia nods grimly at Whisper. "As much as I hate to leave that facility alone any longer than we already have... one of our goals here has a time limit. I'm all for dealing with this shaman first. Or... trying to, at least."

* RogueLikeBerry "obviously, this is the curse talking for me. as a former hellhound obviously i'll be happy if we use a cat for fixing a violin!" is as good as telling lies as a certain orange pony.... carrot top, obviously

* Prism shakes her head. "I still think we are unprepared to deal with the shaman. After all, we only get once chance at it."

* Whisper nods. "I just...I dunno what I can do to some ultrapowerful and probably ancient shaman with a huge death spirit familiar. I'll be useless."

<uSeaGM> Danse seems surprised by the change of topic. "The strings? They were some kind of metal."

<Prism> "If I can tell what kind of metal they are, I might be able to fix it. It's a spell I find really difficult, but I'm willing to try it."

<Watch> "Prism...you didn't answer why a sculpt spell wouldn't work..."

<Watch> "oh! and if you are fixing things...I have a gun...whisper might like..."

<Prism> "I saw when it broke. If I use a sculpt spell, it is very imprecise, and might cause the violin to sound wrong."

<Prism> "Violins are very delicate."

<Watch> "I've...never had trouble with them being imprecise...,but I've never tried instruments..."

* Watch shakes his head and considers their current issue.

<Prism> "The Restoration spell I learned from my experiences on the Thunder Child seems like it could work just fine."

<Watch> "I...wonder..."

* Artifica_ sighs and adds her voice, "We should deal with the weapon first. It is threatening to wipe out an innocent and helpless civilization."

<Watch> "actually...that place...I can't help but wonder...when I was in the past I showed Sweetie belle one of my memories of the future..."

<Watch> "do you think she might have included something there that could help because of that?"

* Prism 's horn glows, and she begins to imagine any spirits around the violin. She seemed more at peace with speaking with them, especially after making up with Mercy. She casts the restoration spell on the violin.

* Milia whimpers at Artifica's comment. That's right, BOTH had a time limit. There really was no perfect solution here, and she had to admit part of her agreed with Prism's assessment of them being underprepared to handle this shaman. The OTHER part of her wanted to just get right up in this bozo's face and stop them ASAP, but that was the reckless part of her speaking. Milia tried

* Milia to keep that part in check as best she could.

* Milia was... debatably successful.

<Watch> "hmm...another thought occurs."

<Watch> "umm...we should have a pretty good view of equestria from where the cannon base is right?"

<uSeaGM> Prism's spell is successful and her magic returns the violin to its natural state. It is as good as new!

* Artifica_ cocks her head. "An assumption, but I would hope so." She adds, "Dealing with the weapon also has a far greater chance of giving us additional tools to deal with the shaman than vise versa."

* Milia hums out a thoughtful response. "Okay...that's a good point, sweetie..." she clutches her forelegs to her head. "Augh! Why does saving everyone have to be so /difficult/!"

* Prism was focused on the violin. This was actually something she wanted to do ever since it broke. After the spell, the violin seemed fine. "I think, I think that did it!"

<Prism> "Almost lost my concentration, since I'm kinda distracted by the current situation...but I wanted to do this thing for Danse."

<uSeaGM> Danse Macabre blinks. "You fixed it? I... Thank you!" She manages a step forward and hugs Prism's neck.

* Prism hugs her back. "Hopefully that will help you, and your friends."

* Milia fails to suppress a smile and audible 'd'aww' at the hug. She trots up beside Whisper, leaning in close to speak to him quietly.

<Milia> "Terrifying, isn't she." she comments, somewhat (very) sarcastically.

<Prism> "While the intent was mine...you should thank Genie as well."

<Prism> "I wouldn't have been able to fix it, had she not taught me..." She still felt really bad about Genie, and sorta looks down.

<Watch> "so...I think it's decided...we goto aquaria first..."

* Artifica_ smiles. There is a slight sadness to the smile though. Not for the first time, she realizes that she is outclassed by all of her companions in everything she is supposed to be good at. Except being the levelheaded one. She has that. Still she smiles.

* Artifica_ could not have given Danse back her music like Prism had done. And that gift made the world a better place. Neither jealousy nor self-pity should have any place in her heart -- instead, she focused on feeling thankful, and grateful for what Prism could do.

<uSeaGM> Danse nods. "I will be sure to thank Genie as well. Oh, actually I can do so now." She waves at a figure behind the group who is leaning against the cottage doorway. "Thank you Genie."

* Watch turns about to see Genie's arrival.

* Whisper looks up at Milia. "I...okay, you're right. She's not scary. I dunno what I'm supposed to do now, though."

<uSeaGM> Genie blushes when attention turns her way. "Err, don't mention it... I totally wasn't daydreaming about that little fire pony..."

<Watch> "Everypony else does." Watch sighs

* Milia playfully punches Whisper in the shoulder. "Relax, is my recommendation. Or at least try to."

<Whisper> "So...am I still supposed to talk to Danse? Or not?"

* Milia raises her eyebrow at the stallion. "It would be polite, yeah. Prism's taken a shine to her; maybe it would be nice if you could at least try to be her friend too, yeah?"

* Whisper chews his lip. "Well...if Prism is okay with her, I guess..." He gets up and hesitantly approaches Danse.

* Milia chuckles and withdraws from Whisper, trotting back beside Artifica. "He's gettin' there..."

she mutters.

<uSeaGM> Danse bows as Whisper approaches. "Your name is Whisper, correct? I am pleased to meet you."

* Whisper stops short. "Um. Yes." He speaks haltingly. "I'm. Er. Pleased to meet you too."

* Jasmine_Mistplume , who had been.... somewhere else suddenly barges into the room. "GUYS! GUYS! THERES AN EVIL WIZARD LIZARD SKULKING AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE! WE NEED TO FIND IT FAST!" Apparently she had been speaking to the locals and one decided to have a little fun with her.

* Whisper shifts uneasily. "I, uh, wanted to apologize about yesterday. I kind of broke down screaming and crying during your performance."

<uSeaGM> "Oh I... I see. Sorry. I will try to play better next time."

* Artifica_ tsks. "You played beautifully."

* Whisper shakes his head. "No, it was fine. I'm...um...well, with, uh, your kind..." He trails off, too ashamed to continue.

* Milia facehooves. 'Your kind?' she mouths to herself, disbelieving.

<uSeaGM> Danse tilts her head. "You are nervous of mares?" She smiles. "Although, I am glad that it wasn't my music."

* Whisper shakes his head, looking down at his hooves. "Um, not mares. Alicorns."

<uSeaGM> "Ah, Alicorns. Some of us did not fare very well after we lost the Sisterhood. You may have a good reason to fear one like me."

* Whisper squeaks out, "One /like/ you, or /you/ you?"

<uSeaGM> Danse chuckles. "I found a new family amongst ponies who needed me. I do not think we've met before."

* Whisper shakes his head. "No, we haven't. The one I met was somewhere else. And a different color."

* Watch looks sulen at that. "I...found a family of ponies that needed me too.."

* Milia looks to Watch Tower. She slowly shuffles over to him. "Dude, you doin' okay? You been like... sighing and mumbling and trailing off a lot. And lookin' real wistful. At least I think it's wistful. I figured it was still recovery from the whole spirit world vacation thing but... uhhhh..."

<Watch> "I'm...not really sure..." Watch admits. He looks up. "I...it's complicated I guess..."

* Milia cocks her head. She can't help but smirk at that comment. "Is anything /ever/ simple? For any of us?" she offers in response.

<Watch> "fair enough..." He chuckles a bit. "it's just...well...it's kind of hard to put it into words I mean."

* Milia gives an 'ahhhh' and a nod of understanding. "Well, try me. Uh... if you want to."

<Watch> "Well...a big part of it...as strange as it sounds...I miss being back there in new hope..."

* Milia glances from side to side, not quite sure what to make of that. "...like... New Hope NOW? Or before this whole soulstorm business?"

<Watch> "well...ideally before...,but even now really..."

<Watch> "and well...seeing everypony all lovey dovey today...just kind of reminds me of home back in the roads..."

* Milia hums out an acknowledging response. "Mmmmmm...you're homesick, then, huh?"

<Watch> "Yeah..."

<Watch> "and well...also lonely..."

<Watch> "I seem to be the only one of the group not really hooking up...well other than Jas..." He sighs. "So there is also that..."

<Watch> "Then there is the whole...I've known you all for a few weeks...and I've known the ponies of new hope...for months..."

* Milia 's expression falls. She was actually a bit hurt by the thought that Watch Tower felt... well, alone while with them. "A-ahh... you don't, err... you don't feel at home with us at all?" she asks with a frown.

<Watch> "I do...and I don't..."

* Watch looks up at her for a moment. "When...I was inside that...place I thought a lot about home...and you guys..."

* Milia releases a deep sigh. "Complicated indeed." she mutters.

<Watch> ",but ultimately...when it came time to get out..."

<Watch> "I found myself drawn not to my home...and not to you all...,but somehow to the past...and that bothers me..."

* Milia cocks her head. "You think you did that on purpose?"

<Watch> "I have...no idea."

<Milia> "Well, then let me ask you this: Why does it bother you so much?"

<Watch> "I just..." He sighs. "I feel a bit detached from things"

<Watch> "and seeing just how much the others are tied in together with you and Arti..."

<Watch> "it kind of magnifies that..."

<Milia> " 'Tied in together'? "

<Watch> "I'm just kind of that buck that you guys found back at new hope...and then later fell out of the sky..."

<Watch> "Yeah...You and Arti...are together...and then there is Mercy who is kind of like both a piece of you and your daughter in a sense..."

<Watch> "and she is with Whisper...who is also with Prism...so you guys are like...a family..." He sighs. "like my uncle's side of the family...,but still.."

<uSeaGM> Mercy chooses that moment to land on Milia's shoulder. "Is it something I could help with?"

* Milia chews on that thought for a bit, only to be interrupted by Mercy. Upon hearing the spirit's question, she thinks up a question of her own. "Mercy, how do you like Watch Tower here?"

* Milia prays silently that Mercy has enough social awareness to answer that question gracefully. Or, uh, as much grace as Strange Mercy could manage.

<Watch> "honestly...I've barely talked with Mercy..." He takes his helmet off to rub the back of his mane. "I've honestly spoken more with Lavender..."

<uSeaGM> Mercy smiles. "He seems nice and he hasn't tried to probe me at all. And Whisper isn't scared of him anymore... so that's good!"

<Watch> "Hey I only probed Whisper to try and save him..."

* Milia sticks her nose up all snooty like. "See? She likes you, and if she likes you after barely speaking with you, think how the rest of us feel." She drops the faux-indignance in favor of a more sincere expression. "But like, dude, Watch Tower... you're not just 'that buck we found at New Hope'. You're the pony that helped us restore HUE. You're the pony who's had tea parties

* Milia with us and Rarity. You're the pony a lot of us have some pretty happy memories with, and the pony I'm HOPING will be around to make a bunch MORE with. You're a /friend/, at least that's how I feel, and I hope you know that as far as I'm concerned, you'll always have a place with us for as long as you decide to continue this little pilgrimage of yours."

* Milia is staring at Watch Tower with a look of concern. "Do you at least believe me when I say that much?"

* Artifica_ agrees with Milia and gives Watch an impromptu snug for emphasis.

* Watch blinks a bit surprised. "well...I..." He pauses taken aback thinking back upon all those memories. "...guess you're right..." He is surprisingly touched that she remembered the whole reason he'd left for this journey. "well...if things continue this way...I might be finding a new home..." He smiles a bit. "Be it with you all...or with Rarity and co back-

<Watch> in new hope."

* Milia grins. "Or maybe all of the above."

* Watch laughs. "We all just crash at Rarity's place till the end times."

<Watch> "I...might like that."

<Watch> "well if Rarity allows it..."

* Watch sighs a bit. "I really hope she is okay..."

* Milia snorts. "Hey, we TOTALLY planned on swiping the product demonstration area for our new pad when we first went there I'll have you know. I mean, sure, we would have had to deal with paint bots constantly licking at us, and all the casual zebra racism being hurled around by the OTHER robots... but, at least it would be low rent."

<Watch> "Well I'm sure one of us will be able to get them to at the least stop the racism." He smiles.

<Watch> "I...will admit though...my feelings of detachment...were kind of only one part of what is bothering me..."

* Milia is intrigued. "Hmm?"

<Watch> "Well...honestly I can reasonably see Rarity and I...we're good friends and I'm happy with that...,but seeing all my other friends hook up does kind of leave me feeling lonely." He rubs the back of his mane again.

<Watch> "I guess I'm just in that awkward place between relationships?"

* Milia 'mm-hmm's to herself. "Well... that one's a bit harder... and I'm definitely not the zebra to be giving out relationship advice, considering I'm STILL not quite sure how I managed to blunder into getting lucky enough to have the affection of one of the single most beautiful, kind, smart mares ever to trot her way around the wasteland... but I guess, uhm... my best advice

* Milia there would be..."

* Milia shrugs, looking rather defeated. She really was hopeless when it came to romance, considering she was mostly flying blind herself. "Be true to yourself. Even if things didn't quite work out with Rarity for... whatever reason, be it Spike, or the age difference, or the functional immortality on her part or what have you... there is someone out there who will be able to make

* Milia you happy." She lets out a rather dry chuckle. Goodness, when did she get so corny?

<Milia> "That's what I believe, anyhow. You just can't force these things."

* Watch chuckles. "I was planning on that...,but I'm afraid you all have mostly just gotten to see the best of me. You've never really gotten to see me when I sulk."

<Watch> "I'm probably going to stick with things at least until I get to talk with Rarity again." He smiles. "Best way to figure out where things ultimately stand."

* Milia blows a raspberry. "Everyone needs a chance to get sulky once in a while. Celestia knows I'd be a hypocrite if I said otherwise."

* Watch smiles. "You know...you remind me a lot of a Sheep that used to tutor me...Dolly always managed to say the right thing when I needed it." He chuckles.

* Milia stares up at Watch Tower. "Don't ewe dare turn me into a shee-e-ep."

<Watch> "Well when I sulk I can literally do this fortress of solitude thing with pillows and shields." He sticks his tongue out in response.

* Watch blinks and then pictures it and then cracks up laughing.

<Watch> "ewe must be joking. The things arty would do to me would be b'aad."

<Watch> "You wool'nt to worry I don't have a proper spell for that."

* Milia chuckles. "Good. I don't think I can deal with wool. Would be a total fuckin' buzzkill with the whole fire theme I've apparently got going on now."

* Watch chuckles again. "speaking of fire...I know this is probably weird to say...,but doesn't it bother you everypony flirting with her...and she is what...a couple days old at this point?"

<Watch> "and also like your pseudo daughter?"

* Milia shakes her head. "Hey, she's a spirit of passion. As long as things stay healthy and consensual she's free to cavort with whoever she wants. I uh..." she ponders Mercy's nature for a moment. "...I don't think spirits quite work like ponies? I think? Maybe? Also, hey, she's been alive for longer than that; she's only been on /this/ side for a couple days. I also don't, uh...

* Milia think of her so much as a daughter considering... you know... she's tried to make out with me a couple times now. That would be kind of weird. And by kind of, I mean super."

* Milia stares back at Mercy. Or at least does her best to. "...how old /are/ you, anyhow? Like, do you know?"

<Watch> "ah...well...I guess I just kind find it weird...I mean like I like Lavender, but I definitely think of her kinda like a daughter...especially considering the whole spirit egg thing...what was with that anyway?"

* Milia shrugs and shakes her head at Watch Tower. "Spirits're fuckin' weiiiiiiird, dude." is her expert shaman's opinion on the whole thing.

* Watch laughs. "you know that's my excuse for magic too." He grins

<Watch> "I can usually spin some kinda logical sounding thing together but most of it just doesn't make sense."

<uSeaGM> Mercy shrugs. "There were explosions big enough to breach the other side. So whenever those happened, I guess."

* Milia 'huh's in response. "Okay, so...'bout 200 years young. Rad. I think that's old enough to pursue a nice and active sex life."

<Watch> "Yeah...,but without knowing what she is...or about certain things."

* Watch shrugs. "as long as you're okay with it I guess."

<uSeaGM> "Hey! I may only be 200 years old but... I make up for it with enthusiasm!"

* Milia snickers. Mercy was nothing if not enthusiastic.

<Watch> "Anyway uhh...something occurs to me...did you ever make Lavender's fetish? If not...it occurs she has been managing quite nicely without one."

* Milia shakes her head. "Nope. Haven't exactly had time for arts and crafts, considering things. I'll get to it when we have a moment... or when Lavender finally can't take her, uhhh... 'sister's' enthusiasm any more and begs me to make one."

<Watch> "well considering she pretty much made out with her of her own accord..."

<uSeaGM> "And I fear I may have created a monster..."

* Milia purses her lips, recalling that... spectacle, really, was the only word for it. More specifically, the poor memory spirit's reaction afterwards. "Sooooomthing tells me that won't be happening too often."

* Watch laughs. "well if you ever need a place to get away from her...You've tailed me for months no reason to stop now...still need to find out why you were doing that."

* Milia nods at Lavender. "Well if you're willing to take the blame for /that/ one...."

* Watch nods and grins. "Yup Mercy is all your fault now...have fun with that Lav."

<uSeaGM> Strange Mercy bats her eyelashes at Lavender.

<uSeaGM> Lavender groans.

<uSeaGM> ***End of Session***