

Pony-mon: Gotta Friend 'Em All!

by RaspleZS

Chapter 008: Go On to the Next Room

It was about dusk as the next idea was being tested. "I hope the gardener does not mind." Miles said, for Fluttershy's sake, as they entered the royal garden.

"I just don't get why the garden's wide open while the castle itself is blocked," Twilight Sparkle tried to wrap her head around it.

Miles explained, "It is an all around game-trope. There is almost always a secret entrance, somepony who knows a secret entrance, or a key item hiding in the royal garden. Maybe we can sneak into the castle to get to Princess Celestia..." *'I doubt that, one can never sneak into the champions room,'* Miles thought to himself, *'but I do not want to get their hopes up on finding an 'Elite 4' member here.'*

"I will not scream at the animals... I will not scream at the animals..." Fluttershy was chanting to herself.

Rarity saw this and told Fluttershy, "Don't stress yourself like that, dear. You're not here to find them, so don't try to. If they do want to be friends, they'll come out on there own."

Fluttershy looked at her friend, "You're right, Rarity. I can't let it get to me. I just wish I had stayed back with Rainbow Dash, Little Strongheart and Chief Thunderhooves..." Miles had figured the buffalo would be a bit too big to sneak through the garden, and somepony needed to stay with them. Rainbow Dash seemed like a logical choice (and drew the short straw).

"Why?" Pinkie Pie asked, "Those two buffalo aren't much fun right now, all bothered by a city. Sheesh."

"Shh..." Miles stopped and pointed. "Somepony else is here, as I suspected there would be," he whispered.

Across the path they were just off of sat a light-blue maned, grayish-purple winged-unicorn. She was doing some calculations on an abacus, clicking away. She was concentrated on her paperwork and wouldn't hear the group unless they yelled.

"Who is that?" Miles asked, figuring at least she was an 'Elite 4' member. "I thought Princess Celestia had a light-pink coat."

Since it was very common knowledge who Princess Celestia is no-pony pointed out that Miles shouldn't know what she looked like. In any case, Twilight Sparkle answered Miles's question, "That's Princess Luna. She's Princess Celestia's younger sister, and controller of the moon."

"How should we approach her, then?" Miles asked to everypony's surprise.

"Hold up now, Miles." Applejack said, "Ya don't really think she's one of the 'Elite 4', do you?"

"I do not know. It does seem unlikely, if she is the 'champion's sister. But it is not impossible," Miles said.

Spike had his arms crossed, tapping his foot, "Oh, come on. I'll do it, then." He went over to Princess Luna, got out a "Hi, Pr--" before...

An "eep" escaped Princess Luna as an explosion of magic shook the area. As the smoke cleared, Spike was wobbling, smoking and charred. Princess Luna wasn't there, though.

"Well, that didn't work..." Pinkie Pie frowned. "Now what?"

"Do 'Elite 4' escape usually?" Fluttershy asked, remembering she was the one to escape before.

"No. They usually sit in their own rooms waiting for challengers," Miles answered, "But this has not been a straight forward Poké-adventure yet..." He looked at the bench Princess Luna was sitting on and saw her abacus laying there! "I think I have the solution to befriending Princess Luna when we find her again, though!" Miles picked up the abacus and put it in his key item pocket.

"Well, then, where do we start to look for her, darling?" asked Rarity.

"She probably teleported to her room, which means we won't be getting to her unless we can get past the guards," Twilight Sparkle conjectured, "Which if we can do that, then we can go straight to Princess Celestia..."

Miles shook his head, "I am going to assume that will not work. We already found somepony with a key item," he patted his pocket, "which drastically lowers the chances of there being a secret entrance. But, what might work is leaving the area and coming back."

"Oh, ya think she'll come back looking fer her abacus?" Applejack assumed, "How far outta the area do ya think we need ta go?"

“Just outside the garden, I imagine,” Miles answered, “But I also think Spike should go check on the other three.”

“Oh, fine! Blame the dragon!” Spike huffed, crossing his arms again.

“Actually, how about just Applejack, Pinkie and I stay? Three earth ponies would be the least threatening, maybe,” Miles suggested, partially to appease Spike.

Twilight Sparkle raised an eyebrow, “Are you *sure* you don't want Princess Celestia's most faithful student with you when you find her sister again?”

“No, I am not sure,” Miles admitted, “But, if she escapes again, we can come back out and she'll be there again... If she's there again in the first place...”

“All right...” Twilight Sparkle rolled her eyes as she, Rarity, Fluttershy and Spike left.

Miles, Pinkie Pie and Applejack followed to just outside the garden.

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“How long do we need ta wait?” Applejack asked.

“About that long,” Miles responded.

“Really? That's was super-duper quicky-wicky!” Pinkie Pie exclaimed.

“Yep,” Miles responded.

“So, why ain't we goin' in?” Applejack asked.

“No reason, really...” Miles shrugged, and lead them back into the garden.

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On the same bench was Princess Luna, this time frantically searching for her abacus. Miles approached her, with the other two earth ponies following.

“Hello, Miss...?” Miles started, pretending to not know who the princess was.

Princess Luna “eep”ed and teleported in an explosion of magic again. Miles's quick guard had Aerolithos up and open in time, so the earth ponies weren't damaged like Spike was.

“Well, that did not work...” Miles said.

“Ya think?” Applejack and Pinkie both said. And all three went out of the garden again.

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“Didn't work, did it?” Twilight Sparkle asked as she returned with everypony, including the buffalo.

Miles hung his head, “Nope...” He thought about it for a moment, *'Why did I just rush in? I did not even consider which 'Elements' to use...'* He looked at each pony in turn, thinking of who to take in again. *'OK, I now know Princess Luna is quiet, shy, learned and full of magic. It seems 'Magic' and 'Kindness' would be best. But I think I need someone Princess Luna would not be mad at for taking her abacus...'* “I wonder...” he looked up into the sky, then said, “MUFFINS!”

Ditzy Doo came flying in, package in hoof looking like she was in process of delivering it when she was summoned... “Muffins?” she said, very surprisingly outside of a text box. Miles was just surprised she came at all.

“Sorry, Ditzy Doo, no muffins. But I do have an apple,” Miles now remembered the apples he received on the way to the library in Ponyville. “Can you do me a favor? Can you deliver this abacus,” he pulled the key item out of his pocket, “to the grayish-purple pony in the garden? I will go with you. And I will pay you with an apple. OK?” He still hadn't got any actual money...

Ditzy Doo nodded, “Soint-en-ly!” She grabbed the abacus from Miles and ran into the garden. Miles grabbed Fluttershy and Twilight Sparkle as he ran in after Ditzy Doo.

At Princess Luna's bench, Ditzy Doo was handing over the package she hadn't delivered to the proper pony before being summoned. Princess Luna, too confused to run away, was about to grab it as Miles, Fluttershy and Twilight Sparkle arrived. This made Ditzy Doo realize her mistake and switched what she was delivering. The princess grabbed her abacus and held it close.

Miles spoke up at that moment, “I found that earlier, Miss...?” He kept playing dumb, being extra careful.

"I'm PRINCESS Luna," answered the winged-unicorn, "And I do thank you for returning my Abacus. I just wonder why you didn't return it yourself."

"To be honest, I was afraid you might throw me in a dungeon or something..." Miles was actually not sure she wouldn't still.

"Oh, I would have!" Princess Luna was serious. "But seeing that you have the 'Element of Magic' and the 'Element of Kindness' with you I'll ask what you're doing here instead."

Twilight Sparkle answered for Miles, "He's trying to get to Princess Celestia, your Highness. He came here to Equestria with a quest to 'Friend 'Em All'."

Princess Luna looked to Fluttershy, expecting her to add something. Fluttershy just shrunk at the presence of royalty. The princess asked, "Why haven't you just gone to her, Twilight Sparkle?"

Miles decided to take Twilight Sparkle's words, since she had done it to him at least twice, "Princess Celestia told me and Twilight, and the other 'Elements of Harmony', to befriend other ponies in Canterlot before we are allowed to go to her. My belief is that we need two more." He decided to be extra honest, "I also believe you are one of those two, Princess Luna, ma'am."

Princess Luna waited until Miles finished, "Of course my sister would do something like that," she rolled her eyes, "Though I can't blame her for finding entertainment somewhere outside of her political and sun duties..."

"So, you will be my friend? And help me finish my quest, please?" Miles looked hopeful.

Princess Luna looked at Miles with an air of royal annoyance, "I would... but then you're quest would be too easy."

"But... I returned your Abacus!" Miles pouted.

"Yes, but you could have just as easily left it where you found it. No-pony else has been through the garden, and thus it would have stayed put." Princess Luna glared slightly.

Miles thought for a moment, "That is true. And I do apologize, your highness." He bowed, to add to the effect. "Is there anything else I may do to befriend you?"

"Hmm..." Luna thought, tapping her chin for a moment, "Bring me an apple from Sweet Apple Acres." She tapped her front hooves together in a somewhat evil manner, "That should at least take some time."

“Oh,” Miles said as he reached into his item pocket and pulled out two of the seven apples he had total, “Here. And the one I owe to Ditzzy Doo,” He gave an apple to Princess Luna and tossed one to Ditzzy Doo. The grey pegasus pony caught it, saluted, and flew off to finish her deliveries.

Princess Luna looked at the apple with suspicion, “How do I know it's from Sweet Apple Acres?”

“Because Ah'll vouch fer it!” Applejack and the other 'Elements of Harmony', plus Little Strongheart, had shown up wondering what was taking so long. Spike had stayed with Chief Thunderhooves just outside the garden.

“Oh, the 'Element of Honesty'.” Princess Luna looked surprised, of course, “and the other 'Elements', too.”

“Your Highness,” Rarity bowed, being the proper pony she was. Little Strongheart felt the need to bow as well.

Princess Luna looked at small buffalo, “And what are you doing in a big city like this?”

Little Strongheart spoke without looking up, “I don't know, ma'am. Chief Thunderhooves and I are quite lost, actually.”

Miles looked solemn, “I believe it is partially my fault. There was also a griffon out of place, here in Canterlot. After I befriended her she flew off, back to where she should be.” He then pointed to the small buffalo, “I also befriended Little Strongheart and her chief, but they do not have the wings or other means to get home quickly by themselves. Our hope is that when I 'defeat' Princess Celestia they will suddenly be back home, and everything else will be back to normal as well.”

Princess Luna smiled a serious and kind smile, “How noble of you, Miles. I shall be your friend, for now. And I will also send Chief Thunderhooves and Little Strongheart home immediately.”

♪ da-da-da-dadadada-dada ♪

[Miles befriended Princess Luna! ▼]

Little Strongheart looked up, still bowing, and said, “I would like to stay and help Miles through to the end, if I may.”

“Of course!” Princess Luna smiled bigger at the magic of friendship Miles had gathered and brought with him. “Now, where is your chief buffalo?”

"Just outside the garden, ma'am," Applejack answered.

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^ / \ / \ / ^ *snort* "Thank you Miles. I would of never have expected something
| / \ | | | | ^ | like this." Chief Thunderhooves smiled a big buffalo smile. "And you take
| | | / \ | / care, Little Strongheart."
/ - - - \ |
| Canterlot | Miles, Princess Luna, the 'Elements of Harmony' and Little Stongheart
/ _____ / had left the garden and met up with Chief Thunderhooves and Spike.
\\ _____ / "Ready?" Princess Luna asked. The big buffalo nodded. Princess Luna's
\\ _____ / horned glowed and Chief Thunderhooves disappeared in a flash of magic.
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Little Strongheart expression was somewhere between sad and guilty, "I must not worry. He is safe, and I must make it back safe later."

Fluttershy comforted the buffalo, "There, there. You'll be fine, we're here with you."

Miles was busy talking with Princess Luna, though, "Princess Luna, may I ask another favor? I think you may be the key to defeating the last 'Elite 4', 'The Great and Powerful Trixie'."

The princess nodded, "If it annoys my sister, sure." She then tilted her head, "But, who is that?"

"Wow, you have really been out of it, haven't you?" Twilight Sparkle said, forgetting she was talking with royalty. This was mostly because she was still annoyed that she had to deal with Trixie, even through proxy.

Princess Luna glared. But before she could reprimand Twilight Sparkle, Miles answered her question, "She is a blue unicorn that travels around from town to town, performing a magic show. She is in Canterlot currently, quite possibly because me or whatever sent me to this world."

"Ah," Princess Luna nodded confused, "And what do I need to do?"

"We do not know for sure," Miles said, "but I think you showing her up on magic might weaken her confidence enough so I could maybe befriend her..."

"Ah...ha..." Princess Luna still looked confused.

Rarity joined the conversation, "Why my dear princess, instead of trying to understand

what he says, how about you come along with us and see Trixie for yourself?"

Princess Luna nodded, still confused, "Might as well..." With that, the group of eight ponies, one dragon and one buffalo headed back to Canterlot's Main Square.

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The 'Elements of Harmony', Spike and Little Strongheart were really surprised to see a crowd, the same crowd in fact, around Trixie's stage despite it being nighttime. Princess Luna didn't know something was off, and Miles knew why/what was off

Applejack tried to shake the confusion from her head, "What the hay is goin' on here?"

"It is the same game-trope that happened with Princess Luna," Miles explained, "Events will repeat indefinitely. Until a key change is made, breaking the loop."

"Wha...?" Princess Luna's head started spinning.

Pinkie Pie simplified Miles's explanation, "Stuff keeps happening, 'til it doesn't!"

Princess Luna was not having any clearer idea, but just smiled and nodded anyway, "Yes... That makes more sense..."

"Our seats are still here from before, too!" Little Strongheart said, excited to see the show again. Even if it was going to be the same thing as before, only in the dark this time.

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Once again, Spike, Twilight Sparkle, Applejack, Rainbow Dash, Rarity and Pinkie Pie stayed outside of the performance area. The show itself was the same as before, only flashier because it was night.

Also once again, 'The Great and Powerful Trixie's show was full of fireworks, and horn-glowing telekinesis, and other such tricks. Trixie had kept the boast about beating an Ursa Major on her own, but she didn't play it up as much, again. She also skipped the part of the show where she challenged the audience to 'anything-you-can-do,-I-can-do-better', again.

This time, at the end of the show, Miles didn't rub his nose suspiciously, but he did head to the stage with Princess Luna in tow. Fluttershy once again kept Little Strongheart company at the edge of the area, this time because the young buffalo herself wanted to watch.

On the stage, after she finished bowing, Trixie looked over to see Miles jumping up. "You again?" she asked.

Miles was taken aback, and thought to himself, '*She remembers me? She must be a little more powerful than Twilight thinks!*' He then said to her, "Hello, again, Trixie. I am not here to try to impress you with well timed umbrella tosses."

"Hmph. I certainly hope not!" Trixie turned away, and started walking to her dressing room.

Miles continued talking, assuming Trixie was listening, "I came to impress you with royalty." He looked off the stage to the winged-unicorn watching the conversation, "If you would please join me up here," he paused briefly to add suspense, "Princess Luna."

Princess Luna sighed, then nodded. Her horn glowed and she floated herself up onto the stage (flapping her wings would have caused too much wind). "Well, now what?" she said, waiting for something to happen.

At her highness' voice, Trixie spun around faster than a Sonic Rainboom. "P-P-Princess Luna?!?!? What ARE you doing with this drive?!"

Miles thought to himself, but did not say aloud, '*Hay!*'

"This young stallion here has informed me that he requires assistance getting back to where he belongs." Princess Luna looked from Trixie to Miles, "He also informed me that he had, in a way, asked for your help," she looked back to Trixie.

Trixie was fighting the urge to shoot knives out her eyes at Miles, " 'The Great and Powerful Trixie' does not remember this... colt... here asking anything like that!"

Miles interjected at this point, "This is true, your highness. I did not ask plainly for her help. Listening to the 'Elements of Harmony' I believed I would need to go about a sneaky route. I do not blame them for it, though." He hung his head ashamed, "At best, I beat around the bush to try to get Trixie to be my friend. At worst, I down right tried a flimsy trick."

"Hmph," was Trixie's response.

"I see," Princess Luna said. "At least, as I've heard it, he did not awaken a sleeping Ursa

Minor for you to defeat.” Her highness started to play a little dirty.

“But... It was... I...” Trixie stumbled at the memory of her worst night ever.

Miles saw it was going the wrong way, he gave a 'whoa' motion, mouthing “Too far!” towards Princess Luna. The princess stopped herself and covered her mouth.

Miles thought, *'Oh, geez! I need to fix this!'* He looked at Trixie and decided to try to soothe her spirit and stroke her ego. “Trixie, I know that night and event in Ponyville was not your fault. And it was unfair for you to be run out of town.” *'I'm sure she sees it that way...'* “You ARE great and powerful, but you can always be even greater and more powerful, right?”

Trixie's lip was still trembling, but she managed to get out a meek “Yes...” and then she closed her eyes, cleared her throat and gave a properly proud, “Yes!”

“Princess Luna,” Miles turned back to the winged-unicorn, “You want to mess with your sister, Princess Celestia, correct?”

Her highness looked at Miles, guilty for pushing Trixie's wrong buttons. She thought back at being the younger sibling. She finally sighed a guilty sigh, and answered, “Yes. But nothing too far, mind you.”

“Of course,” Miles nodded, “How would you feel about mentoring Trixie? Let her be the 'Twilight Sparkle' to your 'Princess Celestia'?”

Princess Luna thought about all her daily duties and was about to say, “No.” But then she remembered her sister did at least as much work and still corresponded regularly with her own faithful student. “I would be fine with that,” she said, with an air of confidence.

Miles was glad to hear it. He then turned to Trixie, “Now, Trixie. Put your pride aside for a moment and think about this. The moon herself is offering to mentor you. I have no idea what that would encompass, but I can be at least certain that it would not be 'friendship reports' everyday.”

'The Great and Powerful Trixie' automatically started to say “No,” but she stopped herself and seriously thought about it. “I refuse to change my schedule and stay in one place. And just how would we share the lessons?”

Princess Luna could appreciate Trixie's unbending will. “I have no qualms with you continuing your traveling show. And far as correspondence goes, we can figure something out.” She stuck out hoof to Trixie.

'The Great and Powerful Trixie' hesitated on the hoofshake, partly from very minor

germaphobia, but she finally shook Princess Luna's hoof. "Alright, but only because you're Princess Luna..."

♪ da-da-da-dadadada-dada ♪
[Princess Luna befriended
'The Great and Powerful Trixie'! ▼]

Miles looked around, '*Did it work?*' He then asked the new 'teacher', "Princess Luna, do you happen to sense if your sister would allow me to face her now?"

Princess Luna shook her head, "No. I'm sorry Miles, but we don't have a connection quite like that."

"That is all right," Miles said, "I will go check at the castle myself. And, in the mean time, I will leave you two alone here to iron out the student/teacher details." He jumped off the stage and left the area to meet up with Fluttershy and Little Strongheart.

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Spike had taken Fluttershy's place waiting with the small buffalo. He had an official looking scroll in his claws, "Miles! Princess Celestia just sent this! It says she's ready to 'battle' you!"

Miles breathed a sigh of relief, "It did work! I am glad, too. I did not *really* want to be Trixie's friend anyway..." '*Such an ego!*'

Little Strongheart bounced with excitement, "The other ponies headed to the castle already! Let's go, Miles!"

"Let us!" Miles agreed, and the small trio galloped (or rode, in Spike's case) to Princess Celestia's Castle.

Next:

Chapter 009: [You have one challenge left....](#)