

20 YEARS OF IDW
ISSUE 74
COVER A

my LITTLE PONY

Friendship is Magic



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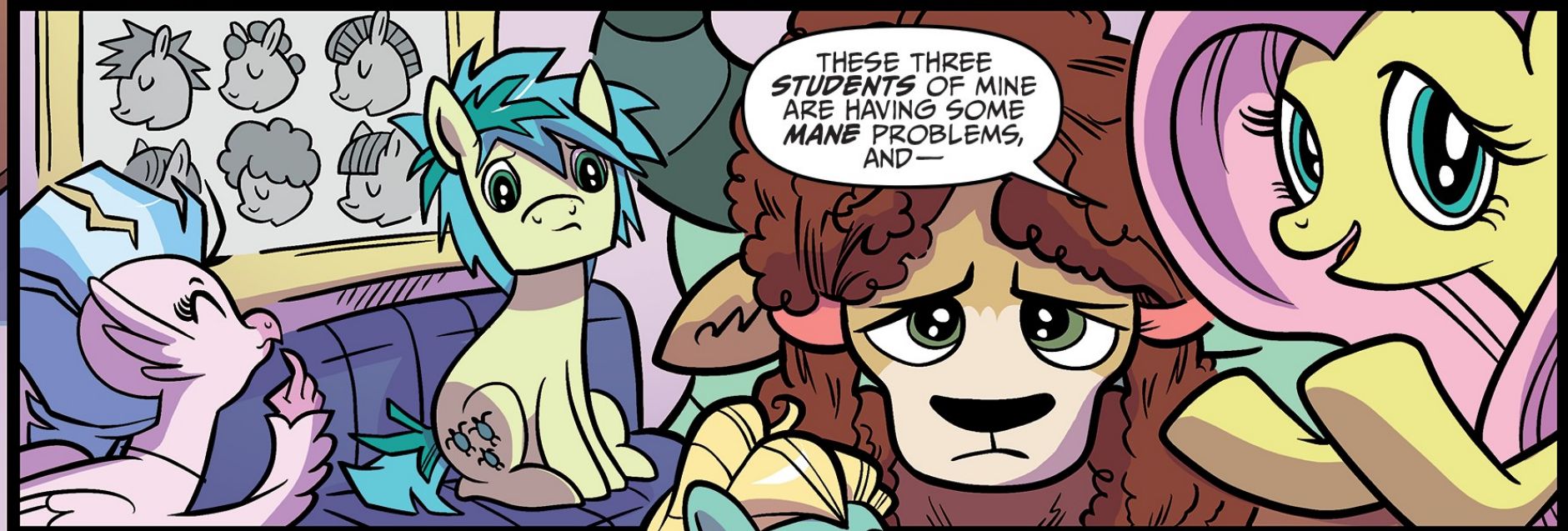


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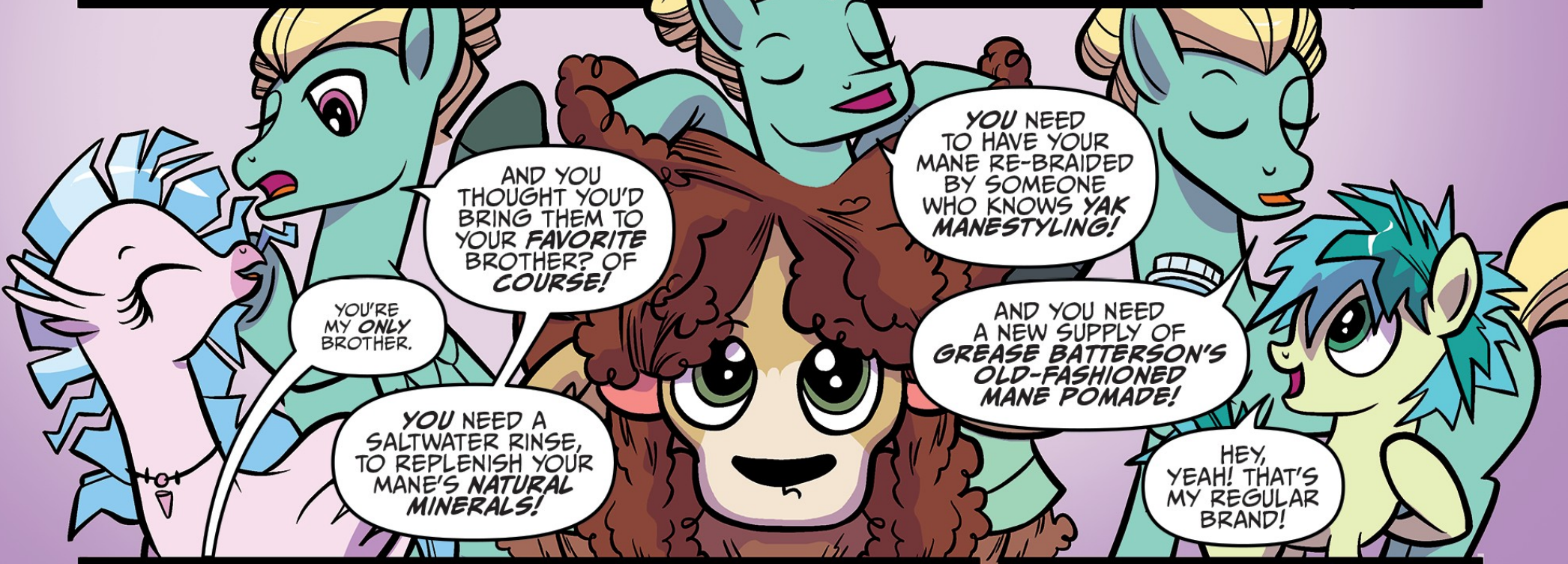


MY BABY SISTER FLUTTERSHY, COMING IN TO GET HER MANE STYLED!

NICE—OOF!—TO SEE YOU TOO, ZEPHYR BREEZE.



THESE THREE STUDENTS OF MINE ARE HAVING SOME MANE PROBLEMS, AND—



YOU'RE MY ONLY BROTHER.

AND YOU THOUGHT YOU'D BRING THEM TO YOUR FAVORITE BROTHER? OF COURSE!

YOU NEED A SALTWATER RINSE, TO REPLENISH YOUR MANE'S NATURAL MINERALS!

YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR MANE RE-BRAIDED BY SOMEONE WHO KNOWS YAK MANESTYLING!

AND YOU NEED A NEW SUPPLY OF GREASE BATTERSON'S OLD-FASHIONED MANE POMADE!

HEY, YEAH! THAT'S MY REGULAR BRAND!



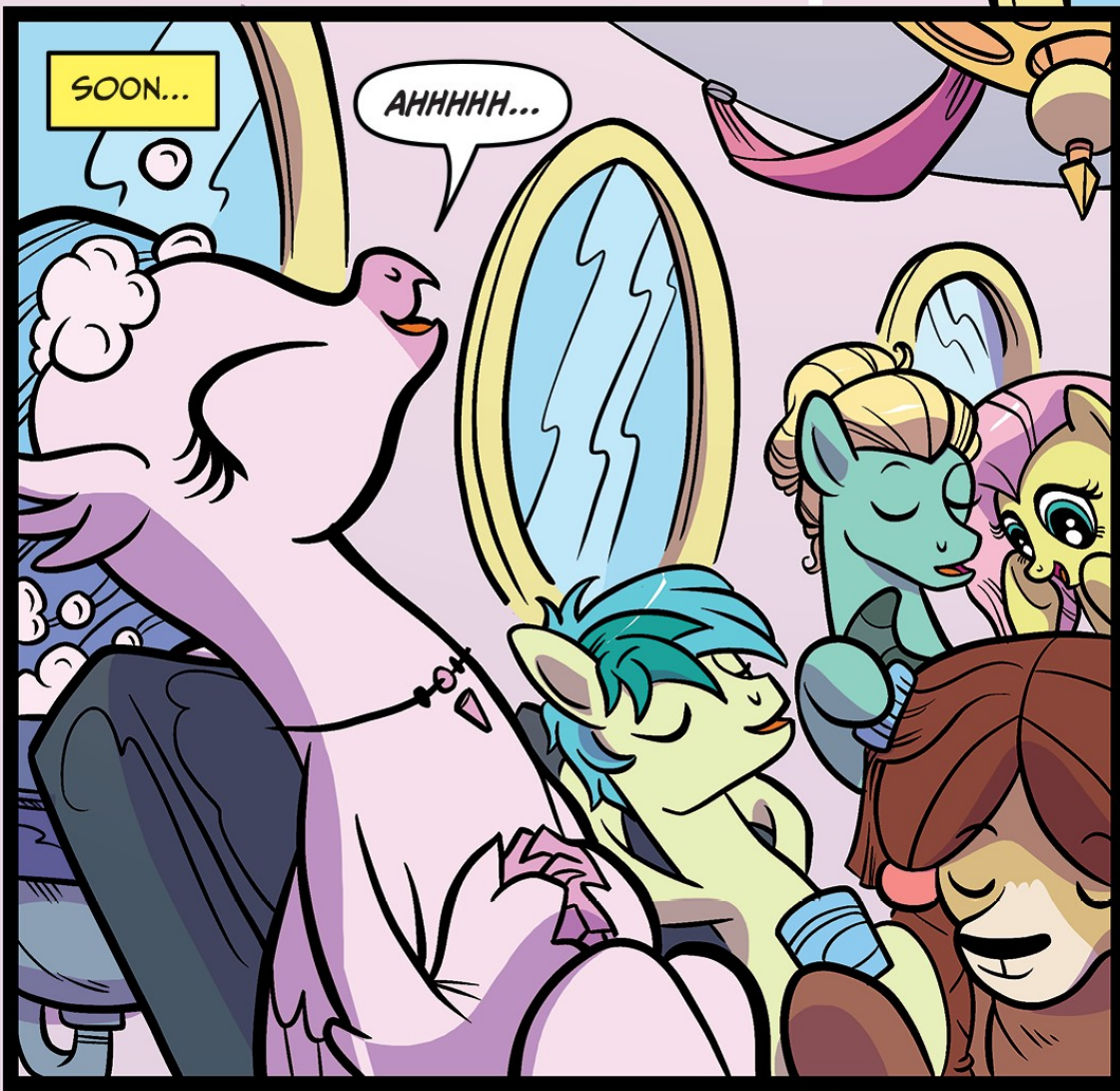
FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, I'M AN EXPERT MANESTYLIST AND CAN HANDLE ALL YOUR NEEDS!

RIGHT THIS WAY!



I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WANT TO TRY SOMETHING INTERESTING, LITTLE SIS? MAYBE A PERM? A BUZZCUT?

I'LL STICK WITH MY USUAL STYLE, THANK YOU, ZEPHYR.



ONE MANE FIX LATER...

SO...
...I MIGHT BE
A TEENSY BIT
STRESSED.

I'LL SAY! YONA'S
HAIR HASN'T LOOKED
THAT BAD SINCE SHE RAN
INTO THE LIGHTNING
PRACTICE FIELD!

SILVERSTREAM...

I JUST CAN'T
STOP WORRYING,
YOU KNOW?

EVEN
THOUGH I GOT MY
STYLIST'S LICENSE,
I STILL DON'T FEEL
LIKE A REAL
MANESTYLIST!

I FEEL LIKE AN
IMPOSTER! LIKE I
JUST THINK I KNOW
WHAT I'M DOING,
BUT I REALLY
DON'T!

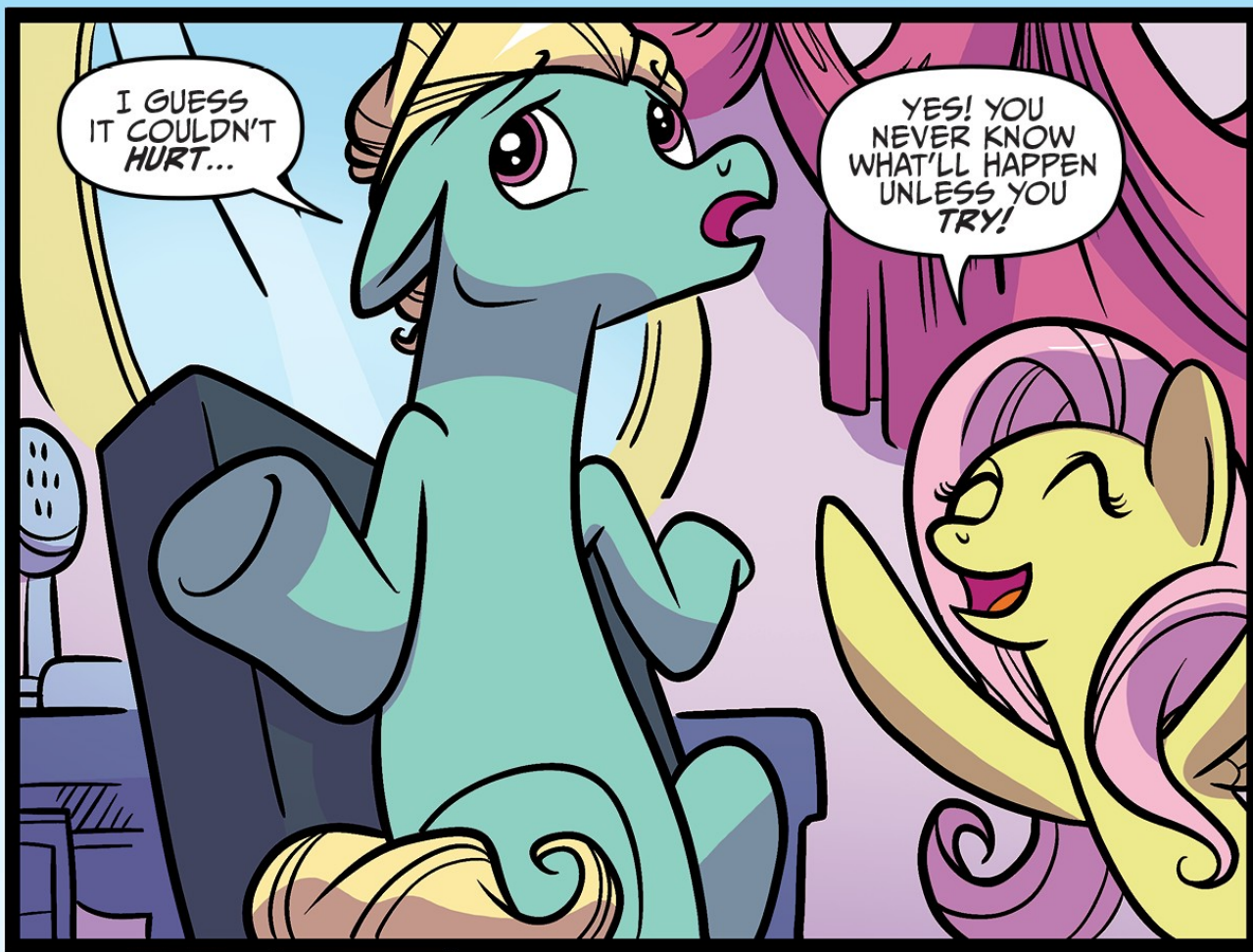
MAYBE YOU
SHOULD GO TO A
CONFERENCE OR
SOMETHING!

YOU KNOW, TO
PRACTICE YOUR
SKILLS? AND MEET
OTHER CREATURES
WHO ARE DOING
MANESTYLING?

HUH... YOU
KNOW, THAT'S NOT
A BAD IDEA.

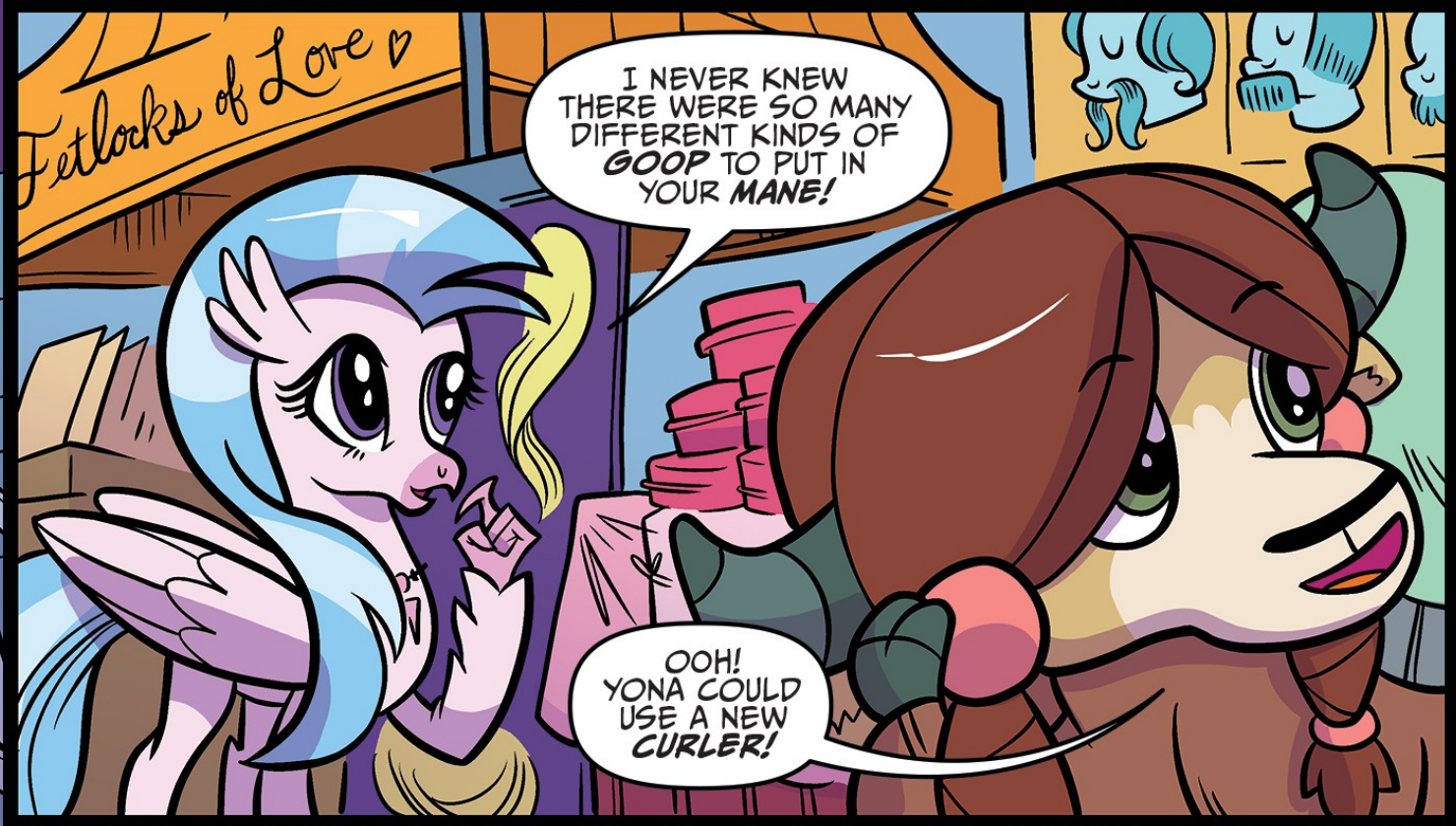
THE
ALL-EQUESTRIA
MANESTYLING
CONFERENCE IS
HAPPENING THIS
WEEKEND...

YOU COULD
GO! AND WE COULD
COME WITH!



SOON AGAIN...







AS YOU CAN SEE, A PROPER "QUIFF" HAIRSTYLE GIVES A SENSE OF ELEVATION AND LIFT WHILE REMAINING SHORT AND MANAGEABLE!

HMM, YES...



...REALLY, THOUGH, YOU SHOULD USE LESS POMADE ON THE BACK WITH THIS SORT OF CUT.

AND JUST WHERE DID YOU LEARN HOW TO COMB?!

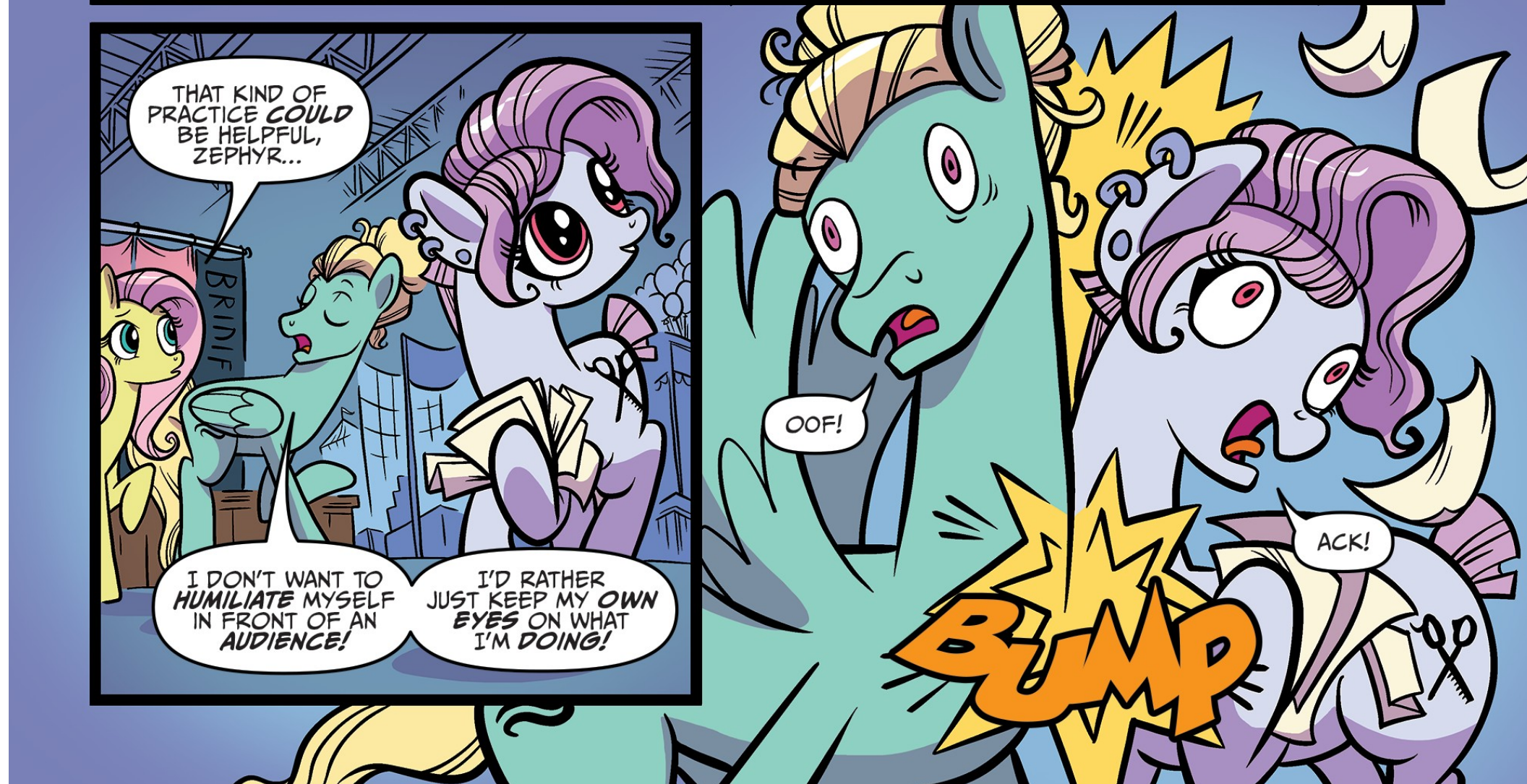
THE TRIM ON THE FRONT IS RATHER UNEVEN.



EESH...

GOING UP AND DEMONSTRATING A MANECUT IN FRONT OF A BUNCH OF EXPERTS?

I'LL PASS, THANKS!



THAT KIND OF PRACTICE COULD BE HELPFUL, ZEPHYR...

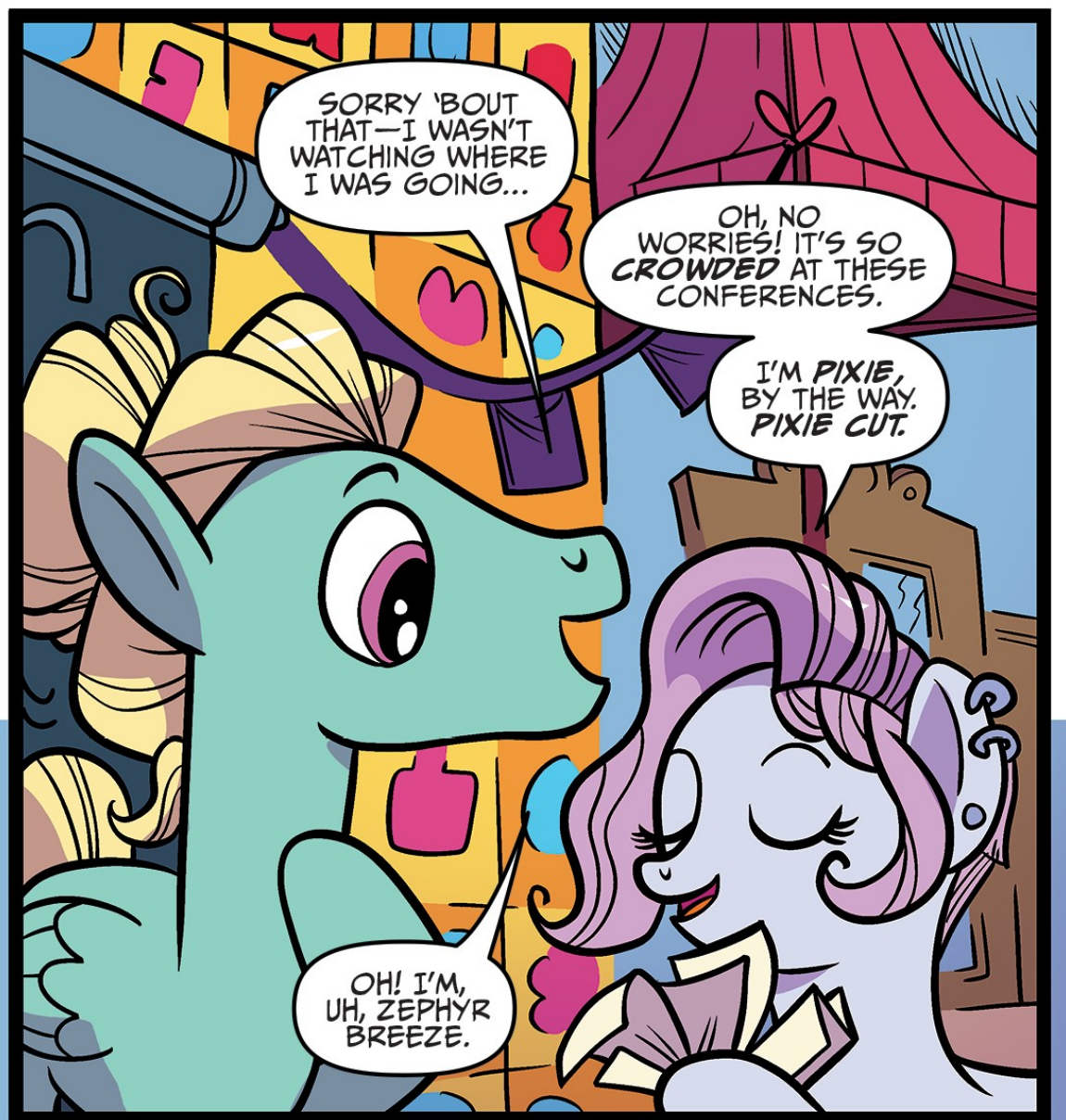
I DON'T WANT TO HUMILIATE MYSELF IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE!

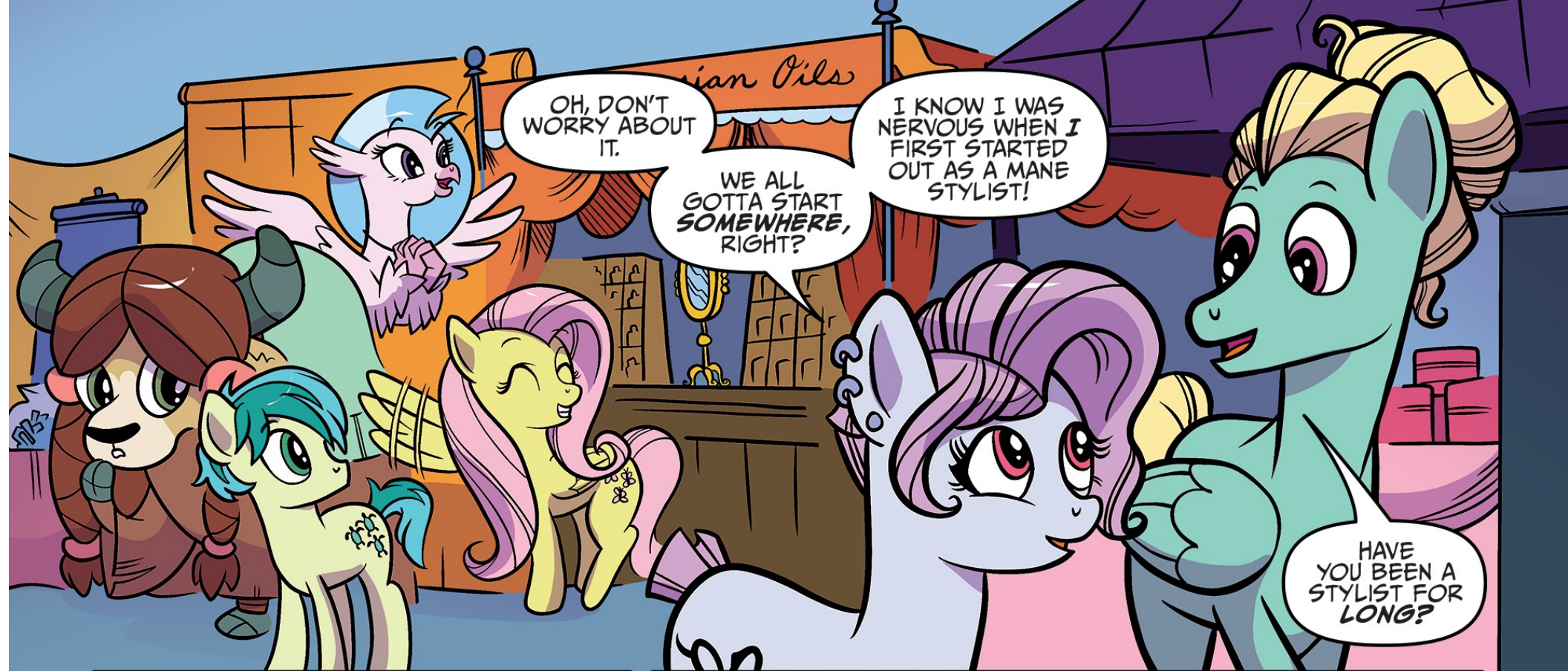
I'D RATHER JUST KEEP MY OWN EYES ON WHAT I'M DOING!

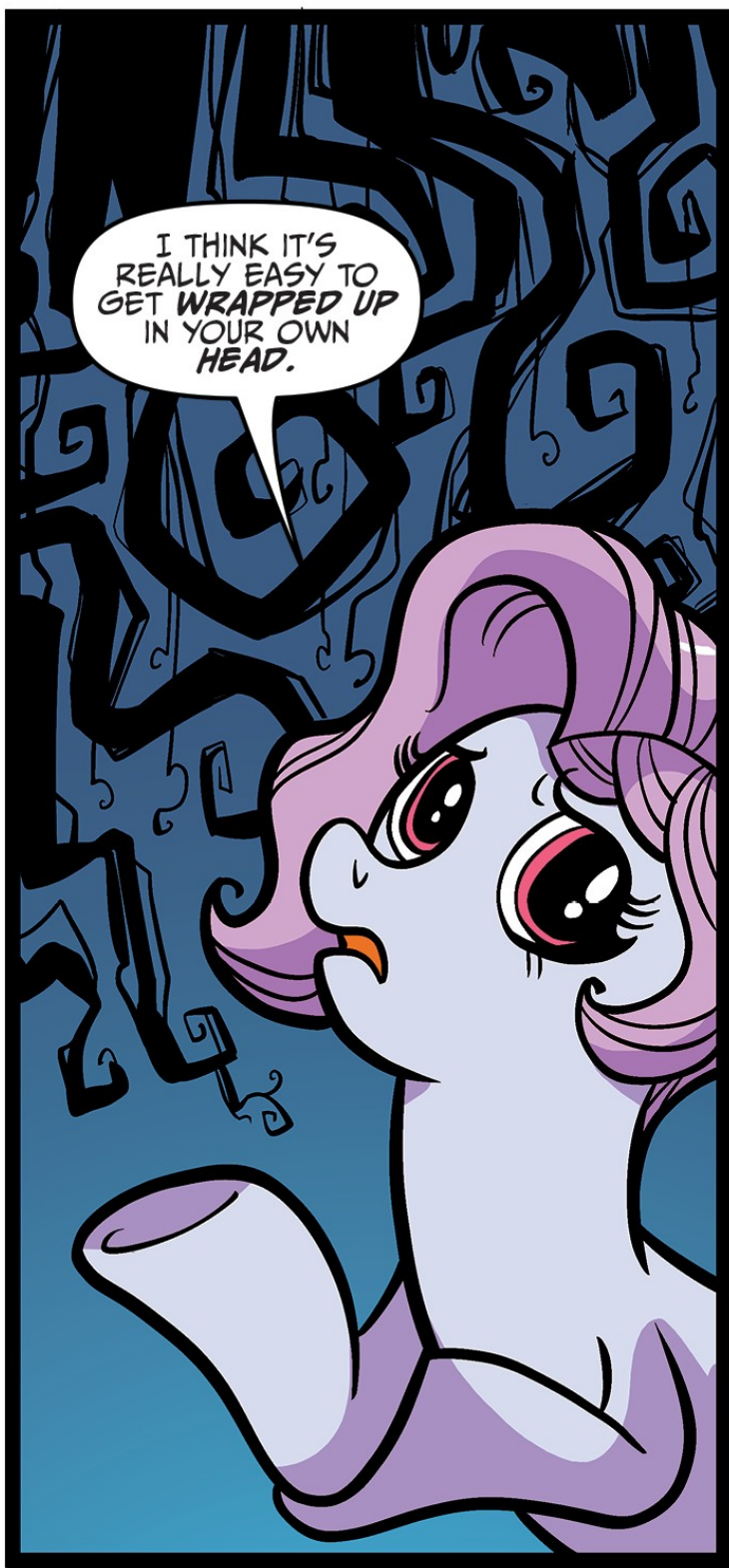
OOF!

ACK!

BUMP







I THINK IT'S REALLY EASY TO GET **WRAPPED UP** IN YOUR OWN **HEAD**.

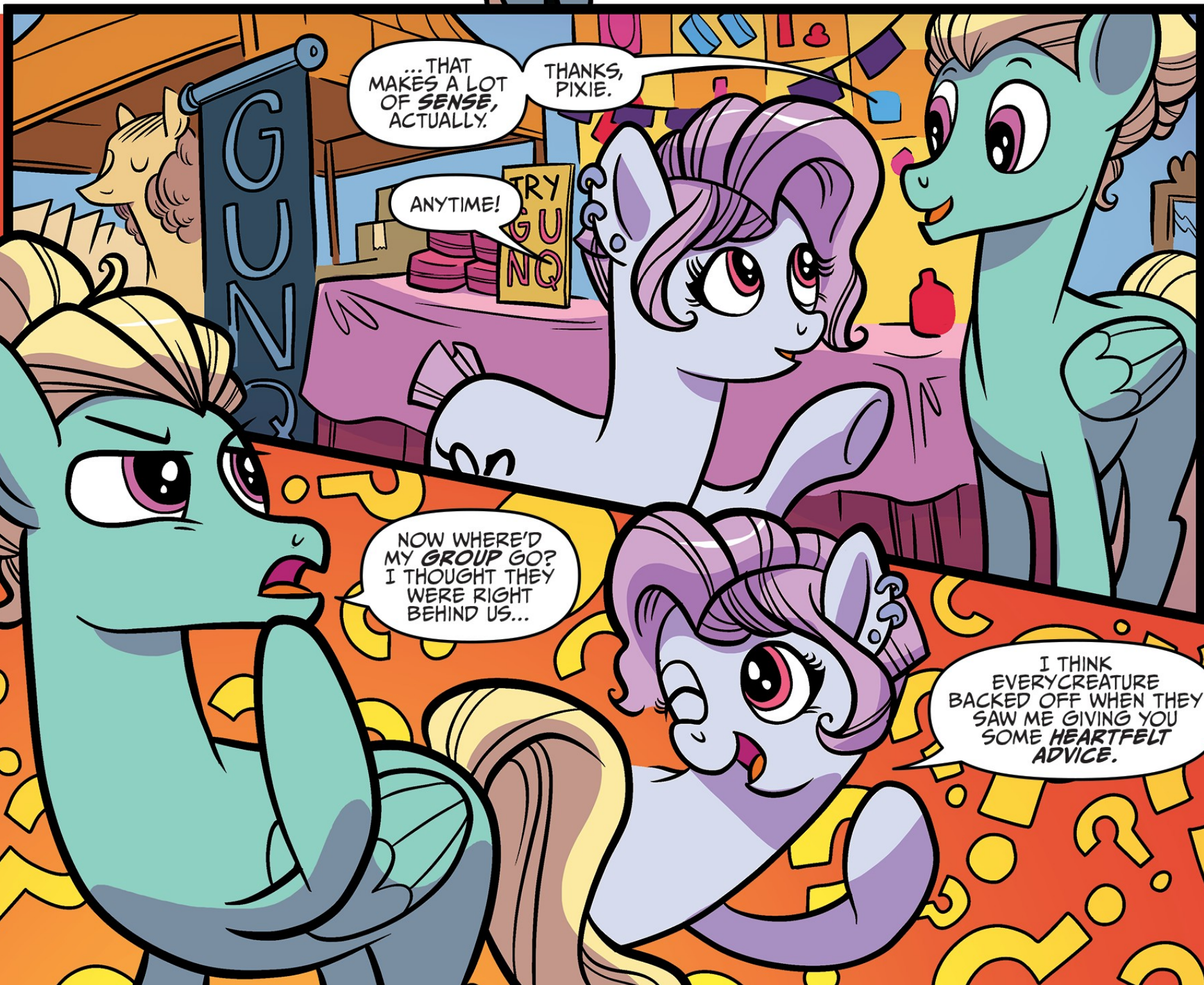


WHEN YOU WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT **YOURSELF**, YOU START TO THINK EVERYPONY **ELSE** IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, **TOO**.



AND OTHER CREATURES **WILL** JUDGE YOU SOMETIMES, IT'S TRUE!

BUT NEVER AS HARSHLY AS YOU JUDGE **YOURSELF**.



... THAT MAKES A LOT OF **SENSE**, ACTUALLY.

THANKS, **PIXIE**.

ANYTIME!

NOW WHERE'D MY **GROUP** GO? I THOUGHT THEY WERE RIGHT BEHIND US...

I THINK EVERYCREATURE BACKED OFF WHEN THEY SAW ME GIVING YOU SOME **HEARTFELT** ADVICE.



HEY, FLUTTERSIS!

MANE CON

MINE CON

BROTHER BREEZE!

DID YOU AND PIXIE HAVE A GOOD CHAT?



WE DID!

I ACTUALLY FEEL... A LOT BETTER!

THAT'S GOOD!



I NEED TO HEAD OUT—I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT.

WILL YOU BE AROUND LATER?

SURE! I'LL BE HERE!



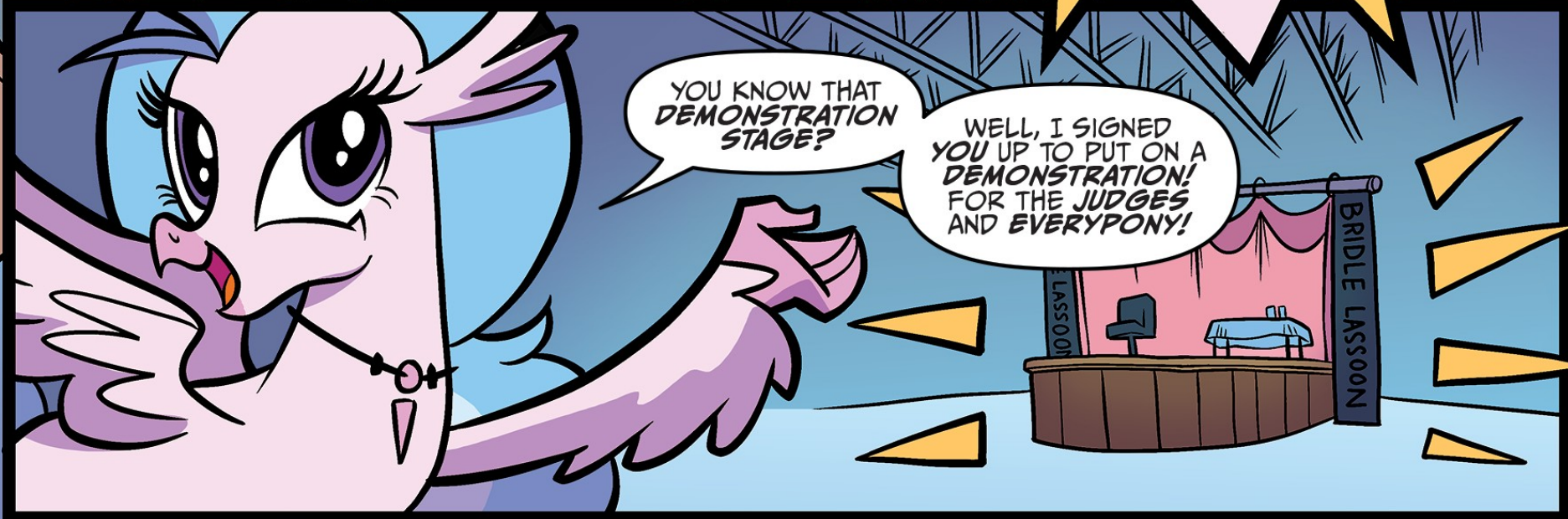
SHE SEEMS NICE!

SHE IS!

ZEPHYR! HEY, ZEPHYR BREEZE!

WHAT'S UP?

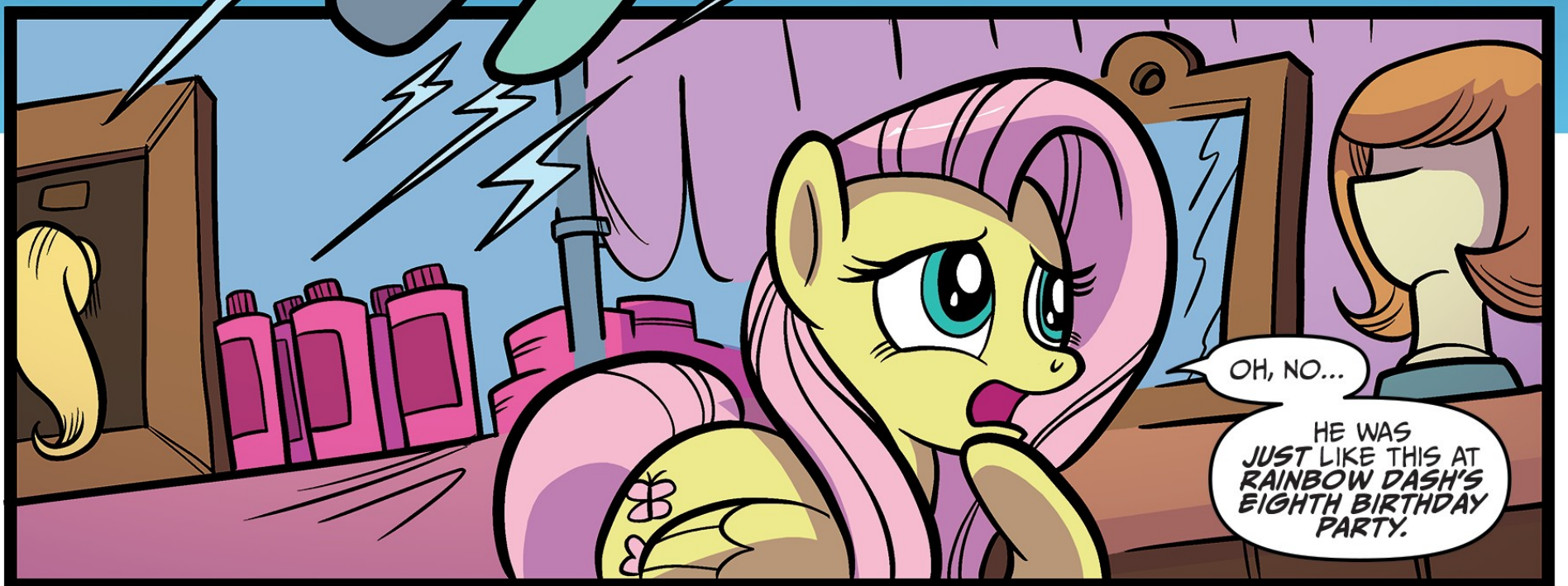
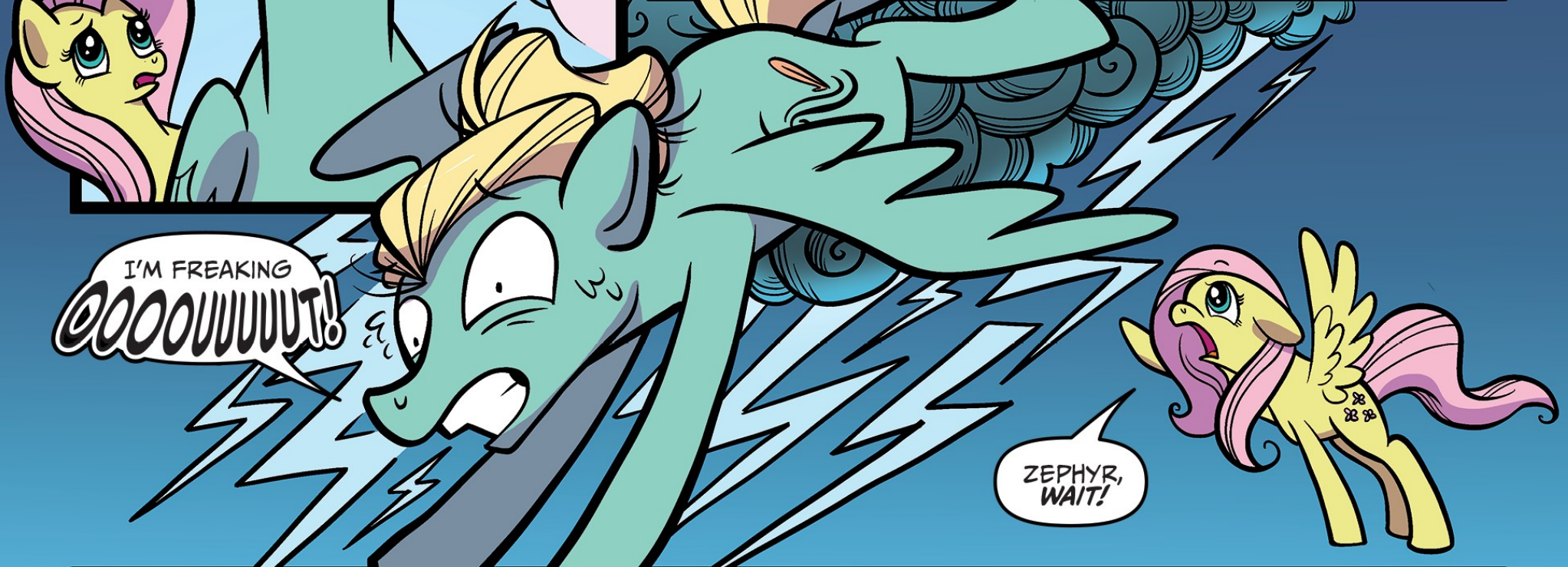
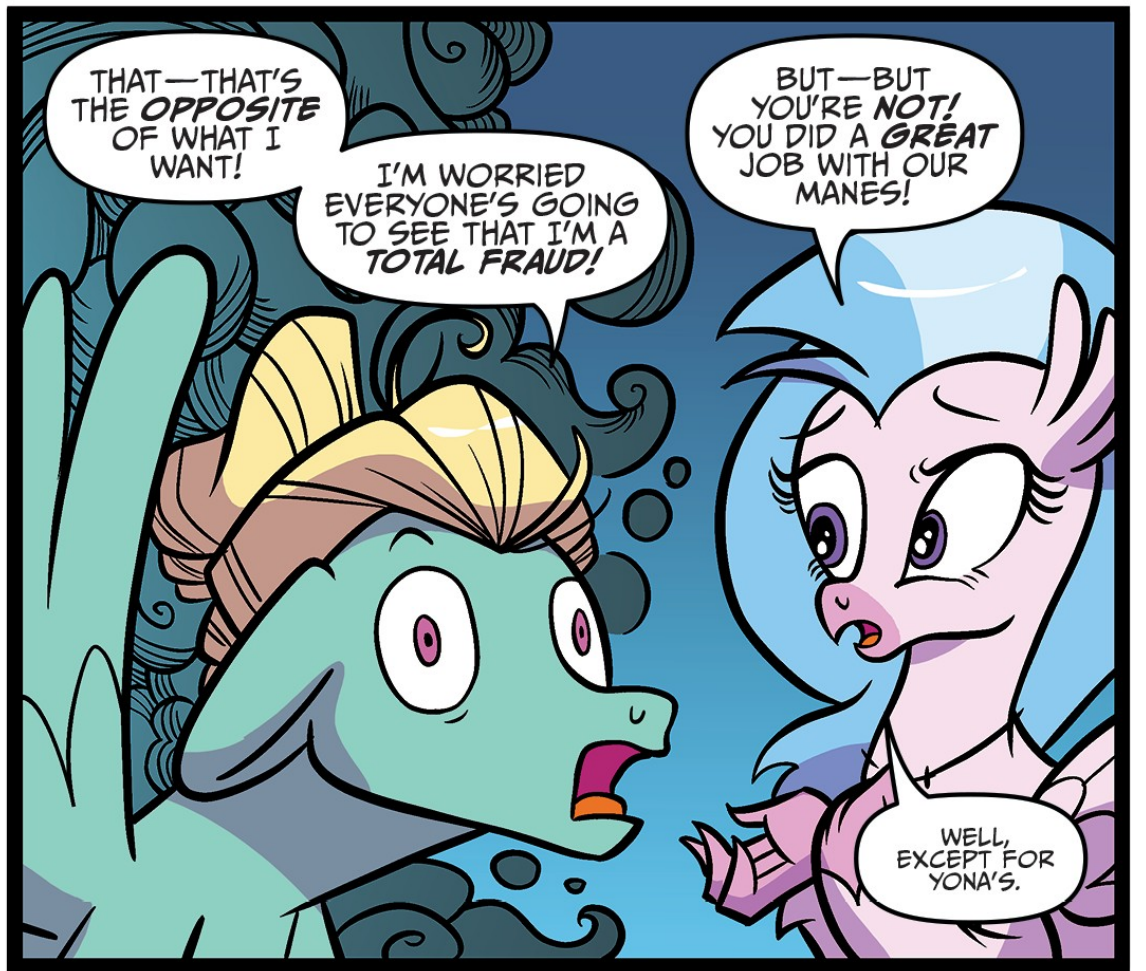
OKAY! SO! I HAD A GREAT IDEA!



YOU KNOW THAT DEMONSTRATION STAGE?

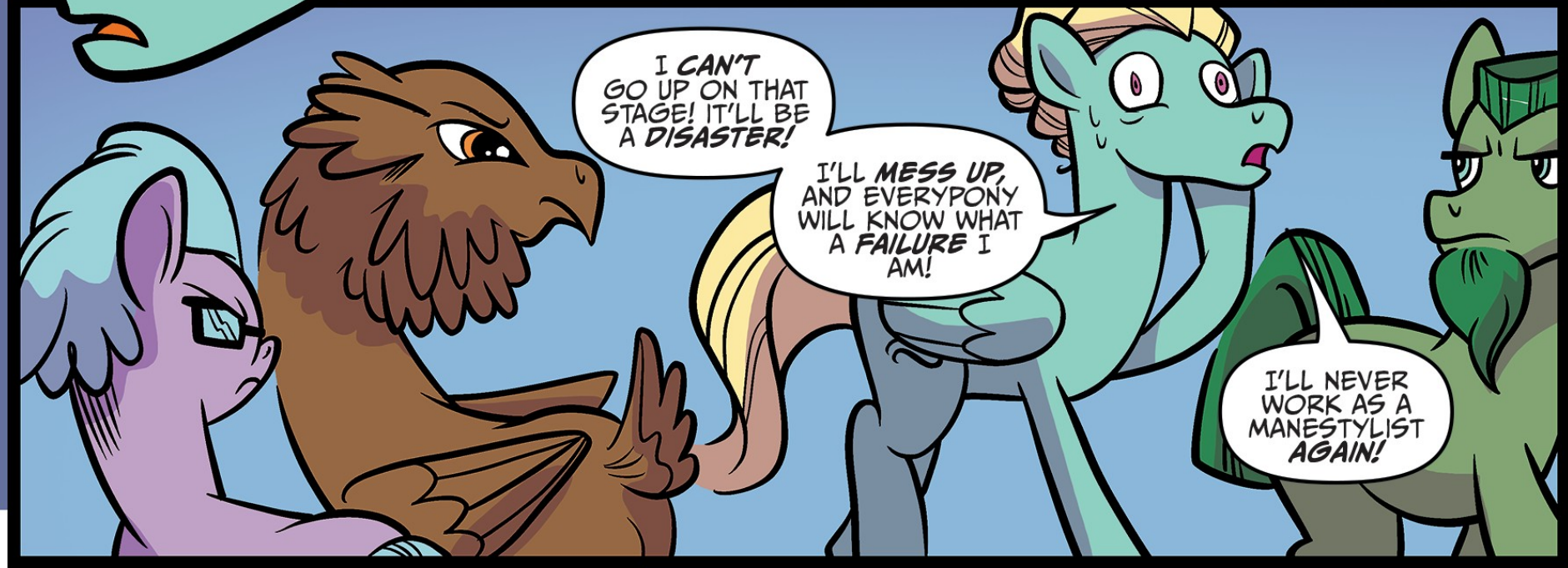
WELL, I SIGNED YOU UP TO PUT ON A DEMONSTRATION! FOR THE JUDGES AND EVERYPONY!

BRIDLE LASSOON





UGH... THIS IS AWFUL.



I CAN'T GO UP ON THAT STAGE! IT'LL BE A DISASTER!

I'LL MESS UP, AND EVERYPONY WILL KNOW WHAT A FAILURE I AM!

I'LL NEVER WORK AS A MANESTYLIST AGAIN!



JUST THINKING ABOUT IT IS FREAKING ME OUT!

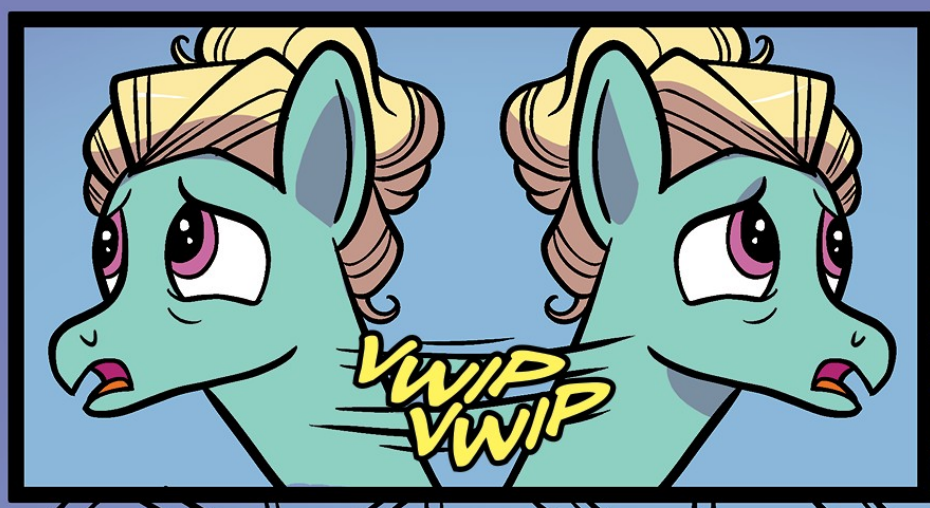
MY HEART'S POUNDING! MY HOOVES ARE SWEATING! MY WINGS ARE FRIZZING!

WHEEZE! WHEEZE!



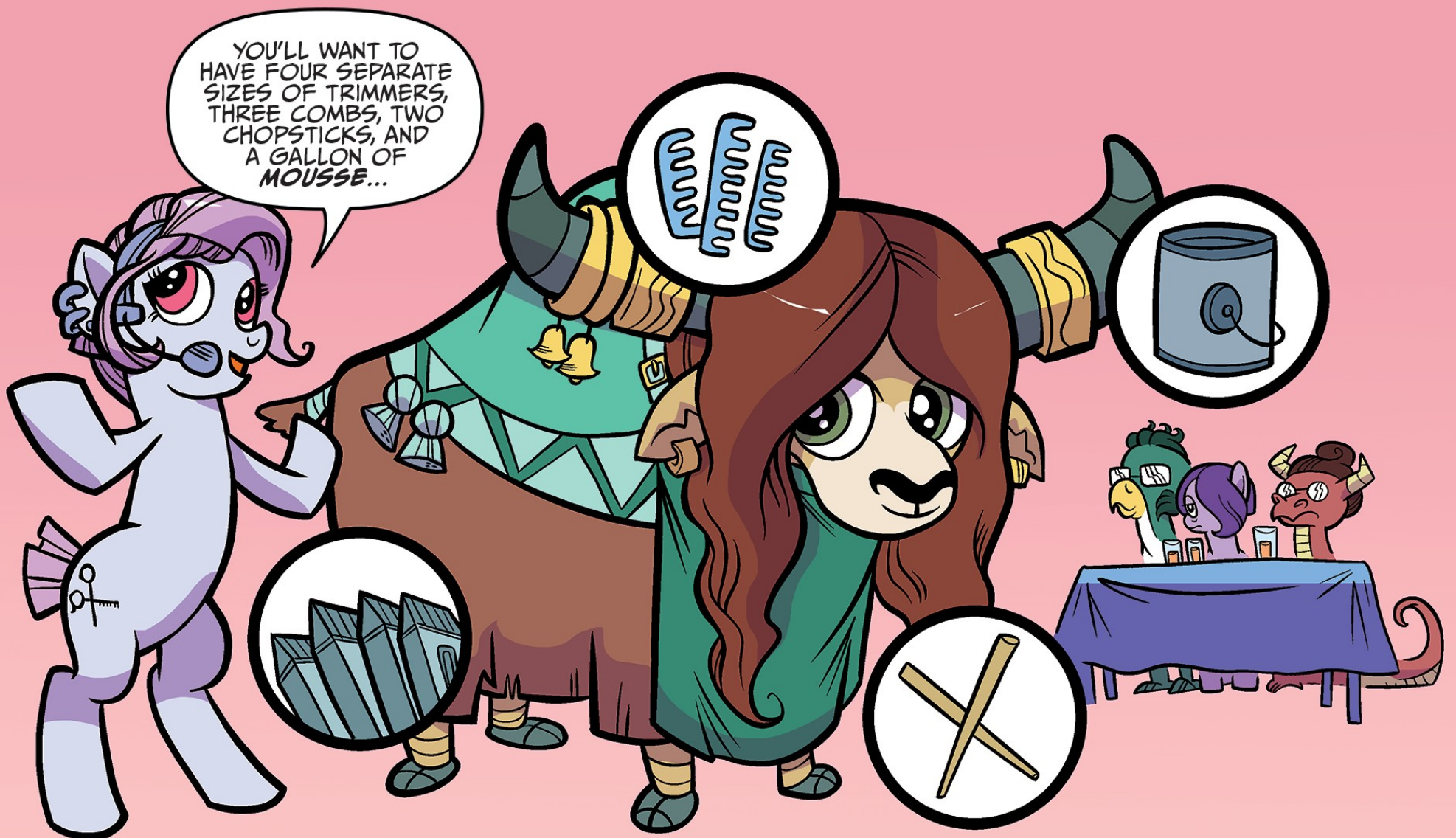
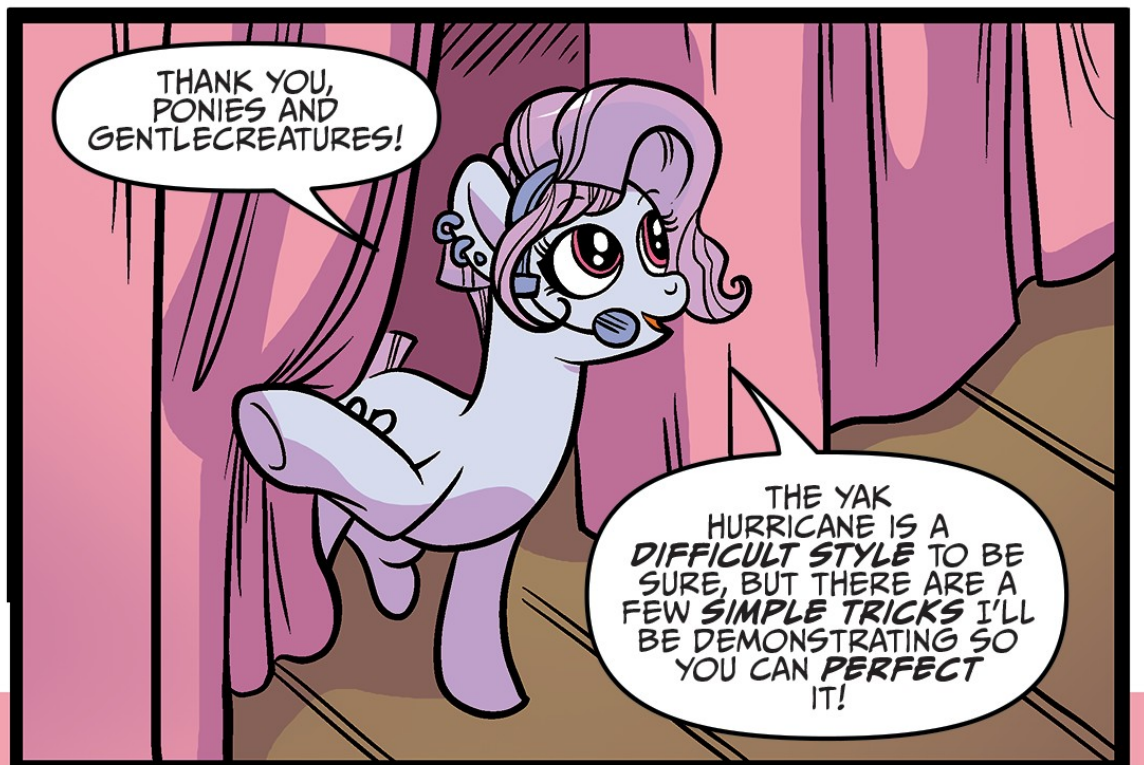
GOTTA CALM DOWN SOMEHOW...

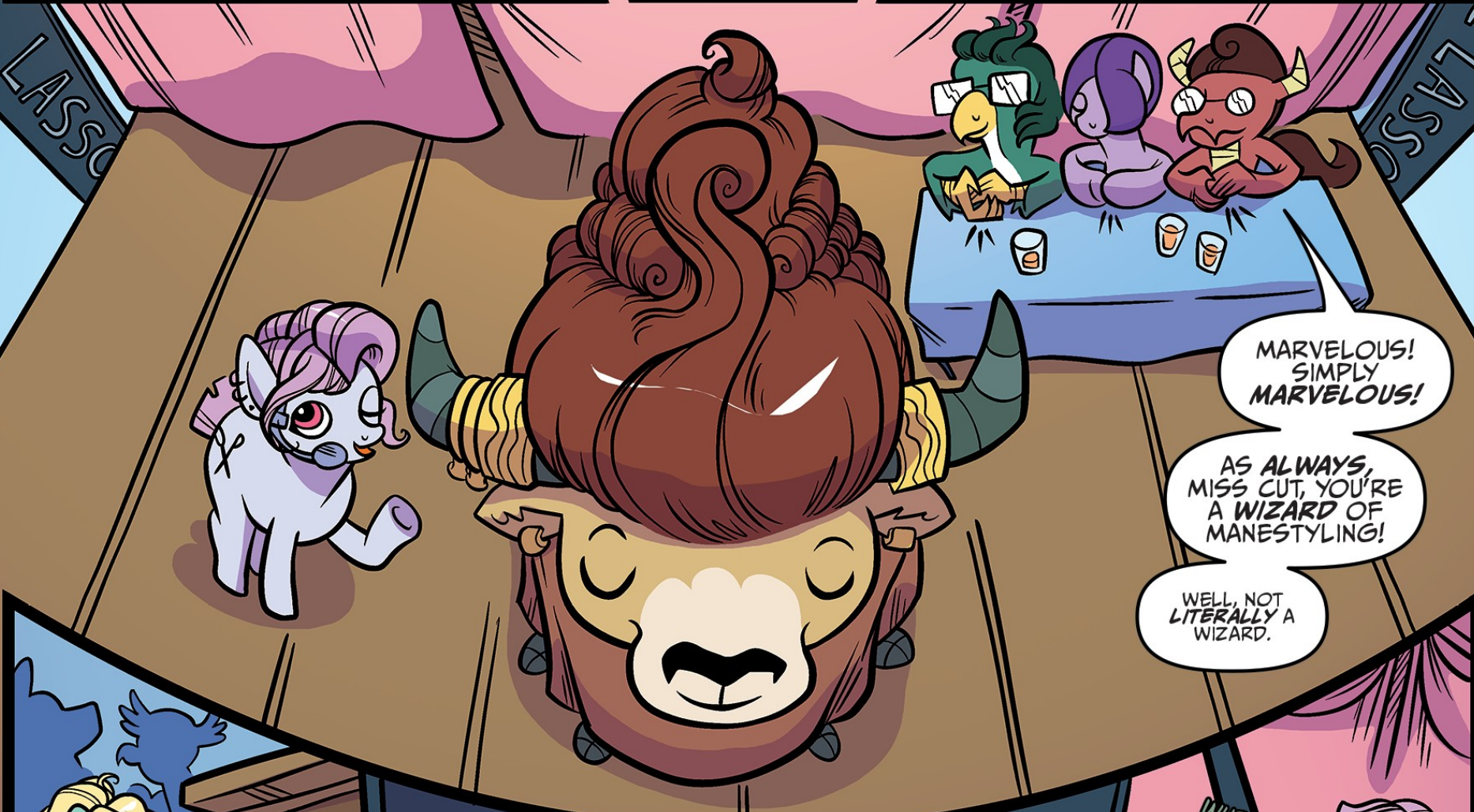
WHERE'S THE SNACK BAR? I SHOULD GET A HAYBURGER.



AND WHY AM I BACK AT THE MAIN STAGE AGAIN?!







MARVELOUS!
SIMPLY
MARVELOUS!

AS ALWAYS,
MISS CUT, YOU'RE
A WIZARD OF
MANESTYLING!

WELL, NOT
LITERALLY A
WIZARD.



THAT WAS
INCREDIBLE!

I SHOULD
GO BACK AND
CONGRATULATE
HER...



PIXIE?

WHEEZE!
WHEEZE!



OH, HEY, UH—

WHEEZE!
WHEEZE!

—JUST, UM, GIMME A SEC, ZEPHYR—



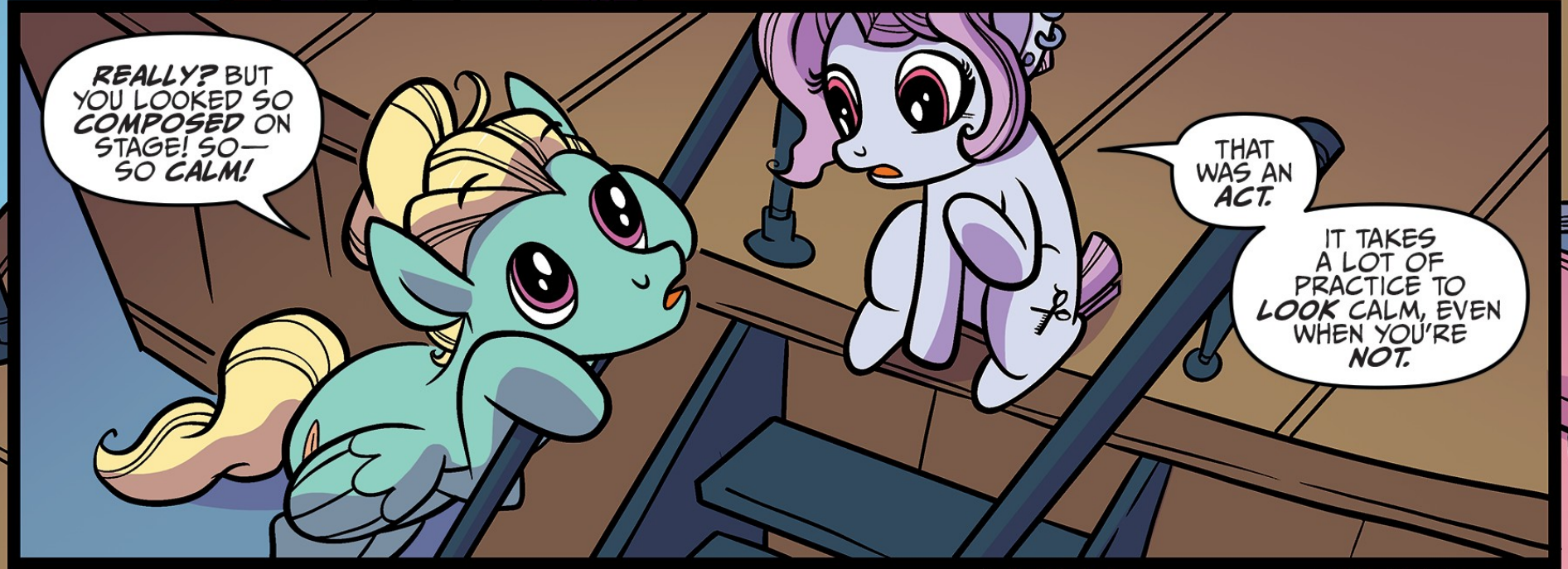
PIXIE!
ARE YOU OKAY?

I—I'M FINE! I JUST, I'M—



—OKAY, I'M NOT REALLY FINE.

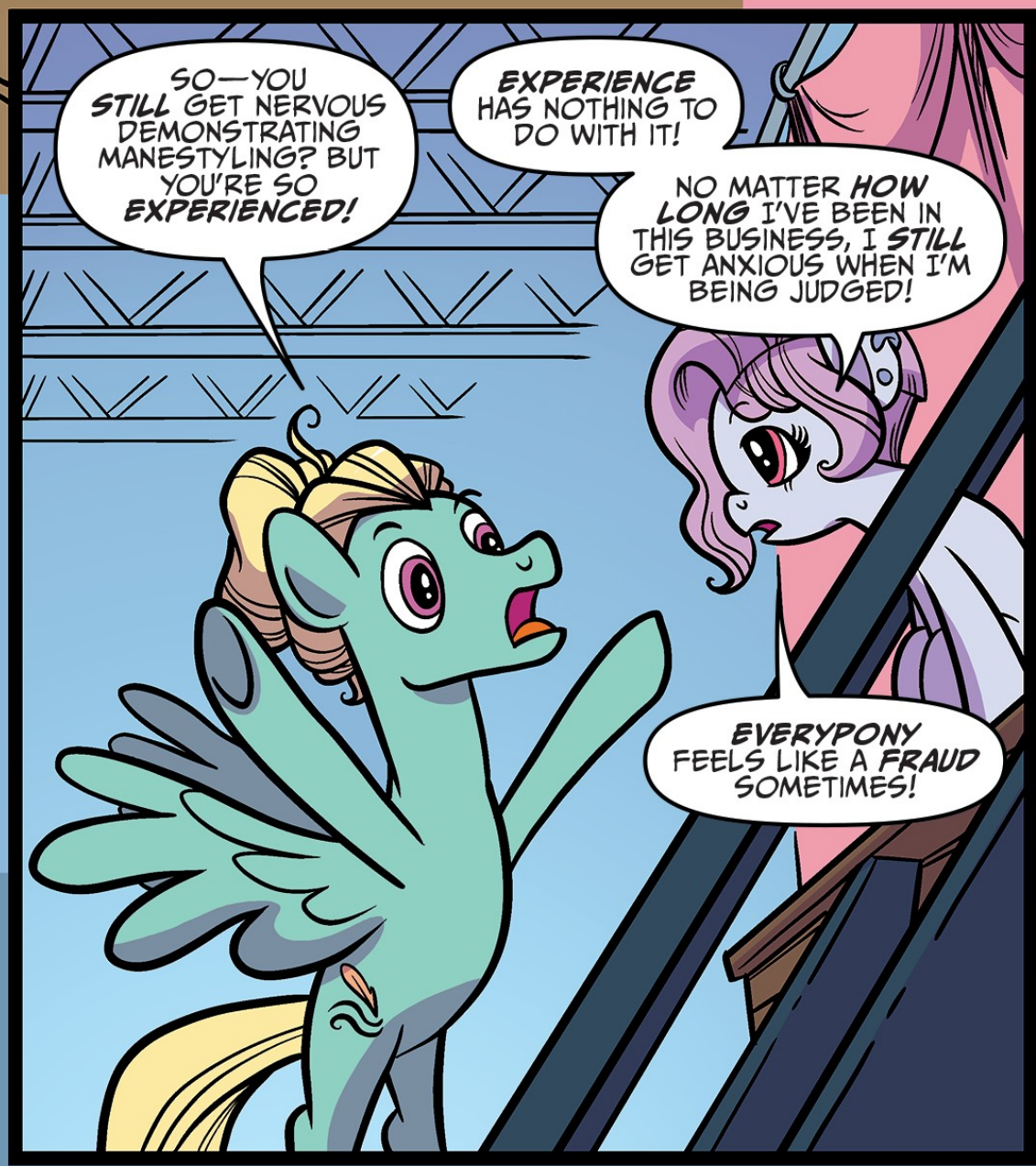
I'M, UH—I GET, WELL, PANIC ATTACKS SOMETIMES. LIKE WHEN I HAVE TO SPEAK TO A BIG CROWD, OR PRESENT SOMETHING...



REALLY? BUT YOU LOOKED SO COMPOSED ON STAGE! SO—SO CALM!

THAT WAS AN ACT.

IT TAKES A LOT OF PRACTICE TO LOOK CALM, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT.



SO—YOU STILL GET NERVOUS DEMONSTRATING MANESTYLING? BUT YOU'RE SO EXPERIENCED!

EXPERIENCE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

NO MATTER HOW LONG I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS, I STILL GET ANXIOUS WHEN I'M BEING JUDGED!

EVERYPONY FEELS LIKE A FRAUD SOMETIMES!



WELL, WHO SIGNED YOU UP FOR THE DEMONSTRATION? WHAT KINDA JERK WOULD PUT YOU IN THAT POSITION?

NOPONY!

I SIGNED MYSELF UP!



WAIT, WHAT?

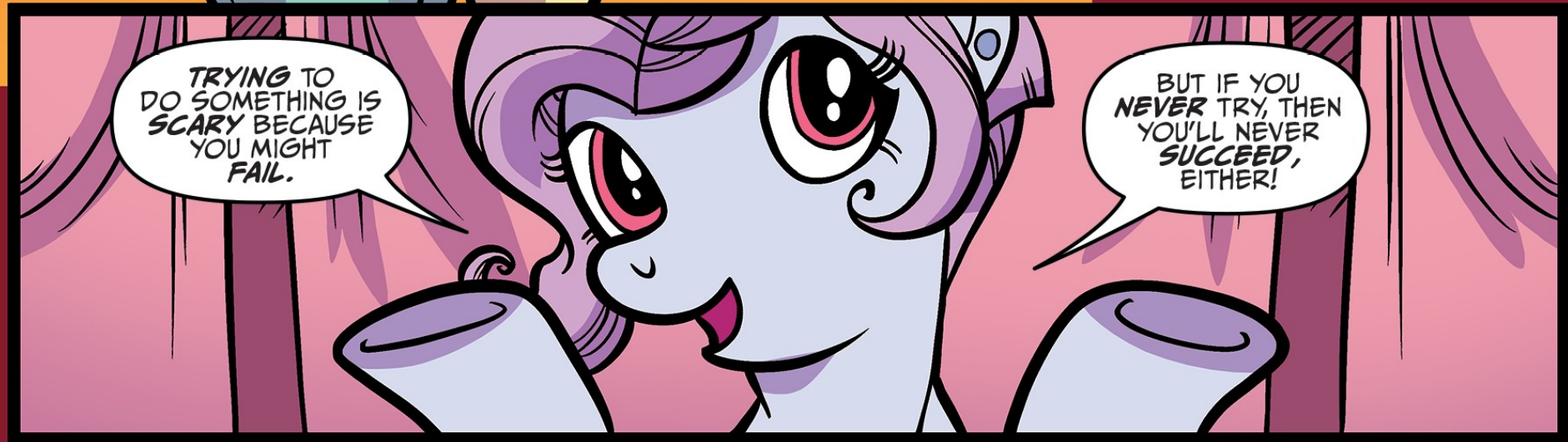
YOU VOLUNTEERED TO DO THAT DEMONSTRATION? EVEN THOUGH IT FREAKED YOU OUT?

YES!



IT'S SCARY TO STAND UP ON THAT STAGE. IT'S SCARY THINKING THAT EVERYPONY WILL JUDGE ME, OR LAUGH AT ME BEHIND MY BACK.

I NEED TO FACE THAT FEAR!



TRYING TO DO SOMETHING IS SCARY BECAUSE YOU MIGHT FAIL.

BUT IF YOU NEVER TRY, THEN YOU'LL NEVER SUCCEED, EITHER!



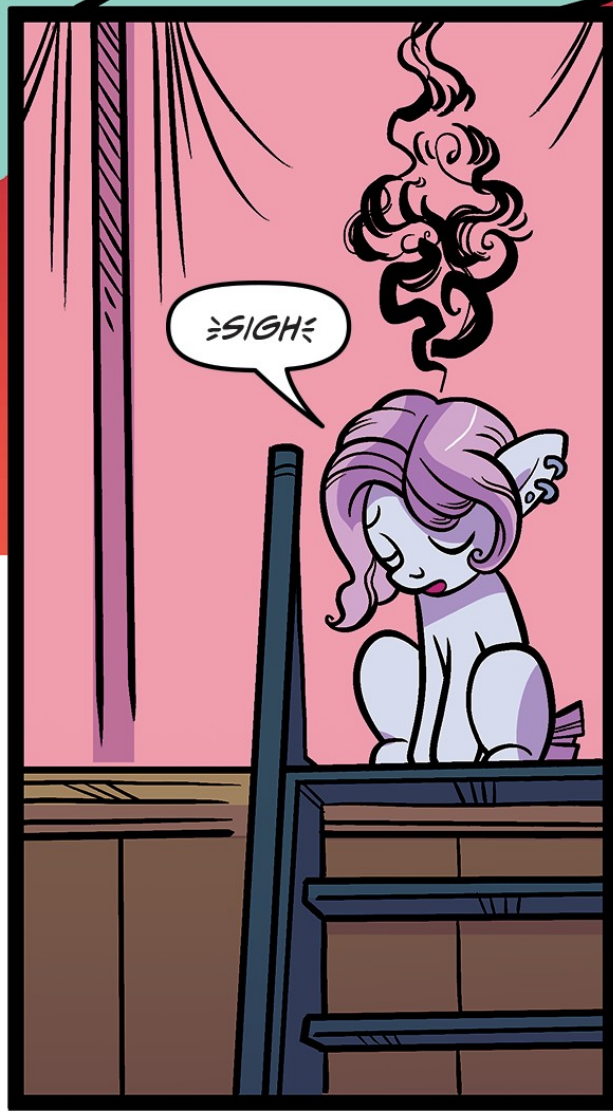
...YOU'RE RIGHT.



I'M NOT GOING TO LET MYSELF BE PARALYZED BY FEAR!

I'M GOING TO MARCH OUT THERE AND SHOW EVERYCREATURE MY SKILLS!

GO FOR IT!



≡SIGH≡



SORRY— ARE YOU OKAY?

SHOULD I GET YOU SOME WATER, OR—

I'M GOOD, I'M GOOD!

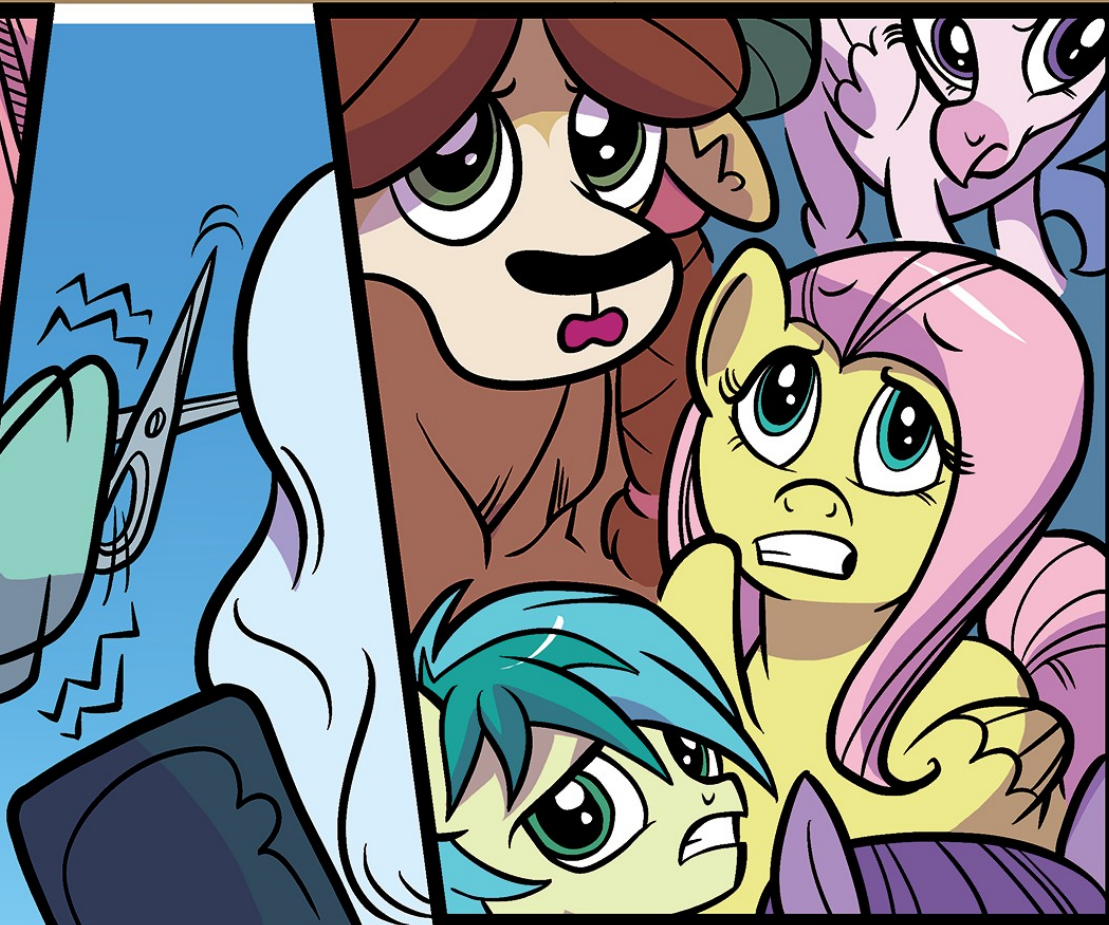
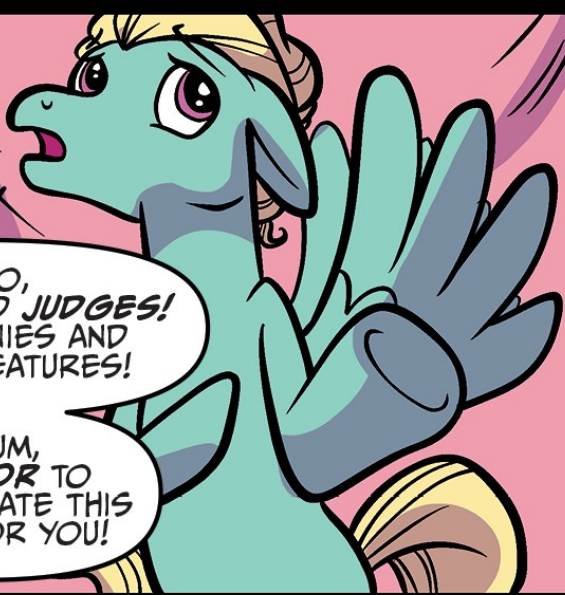
GO OUT THERE AND SHOW 'EM!

AND NOW,
ZEPHYR BREEZE
OF CLOUDSDALE WILL
BE DEMONSTRATING
THE CANTERLOT
LOB STYLE!



HELLO,
DISTINGUISHED JUDGES!
HELLO, PONIES AND
GENTLECREATURES!

IT'S, UM,
AN HONOR TO
DEMONSTRATE THIS
STYLE FOR YOU!



OOOO!





IMPRESSIVE WORK, MR. BREEZE!

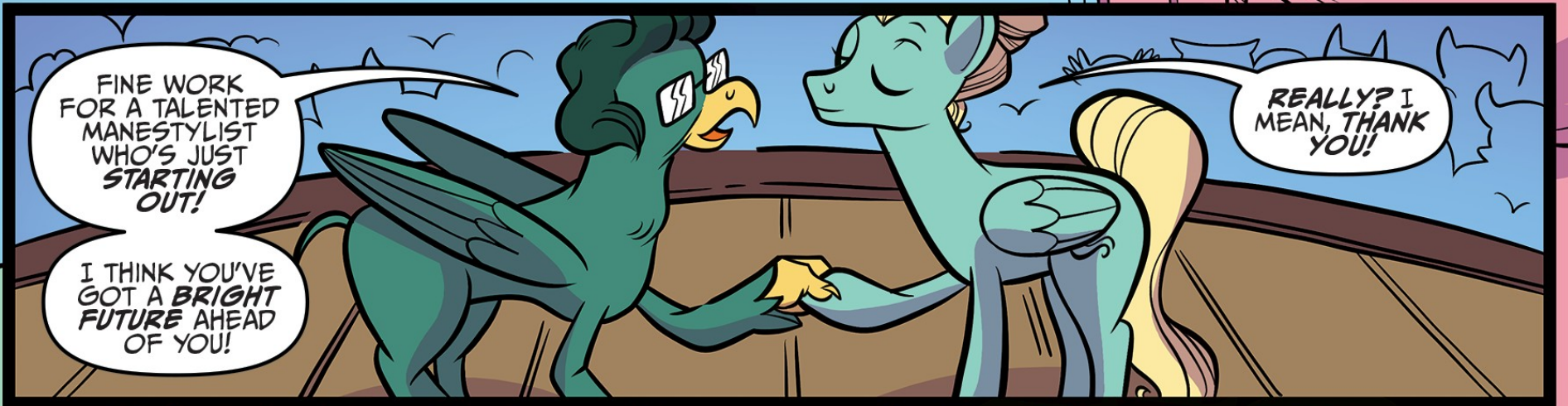
YES, QUITE IMPRESSIVE!



YOUR EDGES ARE A BIT UNEVEN...

AND YOU COULD USE A COARSER BLADE ON YOUR CLIPPERS...

...BUT I SUPPOSE YOU'VE MADE IT WORK.



FINE WORK FOR A TALENTED MANESTYLIST WHO'S JUST STARTING OUT!

I THINK YOU'VE GOT A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU!

REALLY? I MEAN, THANK YOU!



HEY! DID YOU HEAR THAT?

THEY THINK I'M TALENTED!

OF COURSE YOU ARE, ZEPHYR!



YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TALENTED.

I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE FINALLY GETTING TO SHOW THAT TALENT!



PIXIE! I DID IT!

THAT'S GREAT, ZEPHYR!



THANKS FOR THE PEP TALK, PIXIE.

IT HELPED A LOT.

NO PROBLEM!



JUST REMEMBER: IF YOU EVER GET TOO TRAPPED IN YOUR OWN HEAD...

...LOOK FOR A FRIEND TO PULL YOU OUT.



UM— SORRY FOR MAKING YOU DO THE DEMONSTRATION, ZEPHYR.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

HONESTLY, IT WAS JUST THE PUSH I NEEDED.



NOW WHERE'S THE SNACK BAR? HAYBURGERS FOR EVERYCREATURE!

THAT SOUNDS LOVELY!

I'M GAME!

AND THEN YONA WILL BUY ONE OF THOSE CURLERS!

TIME FOR A NEW STYLE!

The End!