

In another world, there lives six friends. Each one is different, but they don't care. They have disagreements, arguments, sometimes they fight, but they're all friends and those differences get worked out in the end. They live in a magical world where friendship is magic. Literally, the strength of their bonds translates to enormous magical power. Enough to turn a common unicorn into the fourth princess of this magical land along with the princess of the sun, the moon, and of love.

This is not their story. Watch the TV show if you want that one. Instead, this is a story of another group. They never got along when they first met, but over time they put aside their differences too. Enough to get the attention of the two most powerful alicorns around.

Many dangers blight the land of Equestria and while Twilight Sparkle and her friends can help in one part, a more mobile and flexible force is needed for the rest of the land. As you are summoned to Canterlot, you can't help but wonder: What do the Princesses have in store?

OOO stuff

As you can tell, this is being more based off of the show. At least, as closely as I can. Some elements of headcannon, be it personal or otherwise may slip in.

Linked backstories ARE allowed and in fact, encouraged. Much like Twilight, I'd like for us all to be friends from the get go.

character building stuff

Game system: Pathfinder, + Ponyfinder addons

4d6, highest three for HP, roll for remaining (one reroll if needed). Free 18 replaces lowest value rolled

Level 2

standard feats at level 1, 1 flaw per feat, max of 5.

Level 2 standard money (1000 gold)

DM boons: Each player gets ONE FREE HOUSE in Canterlot. Decorate it as you wish.

Each player will be given vouchers to obtain things like food, drink and shelter for all towns.

Usual Banned Books are banned.

Race guide: See below

Additional: <http://www.fimfiction.net/story/245393/25/clueless-in-equestria/diversion-equestria-rules-for-ponyfinder> Quick and helpful guide for Everglow to Equestria and additional rules that may be used.

this takes place (in the show timeline) around Season 4 before the end, but after twilight got her wings

Characters so far

Yellow 13: Star Sword the Batpony: <http://www.myth-weavers.com/sheetview.php?sheetid=1069335>

Grey: Silver Edged Stroke http://www.myth-weavers.com/sheet.html?_id=1429653493#id=174361

Feenie: Chitter the Changeling: http://www.myth-weavers.com/sheet.html?_id=1429653493#id=174214

Aieah: Sea bubble the Merpony: http://www.myth-weavers.com/sheet.html?_id=1429653493#id=192214

Irbynx: Galvan the Griffon: <http://www.myth-weavers.com/sheet.html#id=196841>

Mew77: iinsert character here....

char idea:

<http://orokos.com/roll/277573>

6#4d6k3: 6 #

14 [4d6k3=[6, 6, 2], 2]

15 [4d6k3=[5, 5, 5], 2]

11 [4d6k3=[6, 3, 2], 1]

9 [4d6k3=[4, 3, 2], 1]

14 [4d6k3=[6, 5, 3], 1]

16 [4d6k3=[6, 6, 4], 1]

stats: 14 ,15, 11, 14, 16 18

Tia the Little Dragon: <http://www.myth-weavers.com/sheet.html#id=200081>

hopefully the 16 helps me mitigate the 9

free 18, mew.

yay

Dracoling(? We can't use true dragon considering that well... dragons are real in PF. and in MLP. As much as it'd be cool to have a dragon wyrmling on the team, that won't work.)

Size: Small

Slow Land Speed (-1rp) (Well, smaller creature, reletivly slower, yeah.)

+2 Con/Str , -2 Cha (1rp)

Fire Resistance 5 (1rp)

+1 Natural Armour (2rp)

Greed (Members of this race gain a +2 bonus on Appraise checks to determine the price of non-magical goods that contain precious metals or gemstones.) (1rp)

Dragon Fire (1d6 fire spell. 1 adjacent target.) (1rp)
1perday 20foot line 1d6 fire breath weapon (1rp)
Bite (1rp)
Claws (2rp)
Prehensile Tail (2rp)

Base
Size medium
Fast Speed(1rp)
Cutie Mark [bonus feat] (4rp)
Armless (-9)
Quadruped (2rp)
Fingerless [as per Everglow Ponyfinder](2rp)
-Touch attacks with hooves/horn/wings
-Unarmed: hooves/teeth/slam, rated by standard unarmed values
-Mouth is primary hand, hooves are secondary and treated as off hand for all things

Pegasi

+2 Cha, +2 Dex, -2 Wis
Flight [30ft, clumsy] 4rp
Cloud Walker [Can treat fogs, clouds and such as solids OR vapours] 2rp
+2 Perception (2rp)
+4 racial bonus on saves vs altitude effects (1rp)

Unicorn

+2 Int, +2 Dex, -2 Con
Horn Magic [telekinetic force of strength character level (min 1)+modifier of one mental stat (set at time of character creation) as effective strength at will, (25 ft. + 5 ft./2 levels)] 4rp
Light spell [at will] 1rp
+2 Spellcraft 2rp
+1 Caster level to 1 school of magic [choosen at character creation] 2rp

Earth pony

+2 Str, +2 Con 2p
Static Feat Toughness 2rp
Bound to the Land [At character creation, pic a favoured terrain. Gain +2 AC on that terrain] 2rp
+1 skill point at first level 1rp
Stubborn (Add +1 to one save (choosen at character development) and 1/day, reroll a failed save and use the second result) 2rp

alt: Hardy [+4 bonus on Fortitude saves against disease and poison.] {replaces Bound to the Land}

Lunar Pegasi (nocturne, bat pony, {thestral??})

+2Wis/Dex, -2 Con

Flight [30ft, clumsy] 4rp

Cloud Walker [Can treat fogs, clouds and such as solids OR vapours] 2rp

Low Light vision (1rp)

1d3 bite (1rp)

+1 perception and stealth (2rp)

Light sensitivity, (-2rp)

Lunar Unicorn (Lunacorn? Noccorn?)

+2 Int, +2 Dex, -2 Con

Horn Magic [telekinetic force of strength 1/2 character level (min 1)+modifier of one mental stat (set at time of character creation) as effective strength at will, (25 ft. + 5 ft./2 levels)] 4rp

Light spell [at will] 1rp

+2 Spellcraft 2rp

+1 Caster level to 1 school of magic [choosen at character creation] 2rp

Low Light Vision (1rp)

1d3 bite (1rp)

Light sensitivity, (-1rp)

Crystal Pony

+2 Con, +2 Cha, -2 Dex

Static Feat Toughness 2rp

+1 skill point at level 1 2rp

Crystalline Form [+2AC vs Rays, deflect 1ray back per day] 2RP

Eternal Hope [Members of this race gain a +2 racial bonus on saving throws against fear and despair effects. Also, once per day, after a natural roll of 1 on a d20 roll, members of this race may reroll and use the second result.] 2rp

Zebra

+2 Wis, +2 Con, -2 Str

Resistant [+2 racial bonus on saving throws against mind-affecting effects and poison.] 2rp

Skilled [gain an additional skill rank at 1st level and one additional skill rank whenever they gain a level] 4rp

Zebra Training [Zebra are exposed to different skills early. Pick one skill. Gain +2 racial bonus and treat it as a class skill] 3rp

Bound to the Land [At character creation, pic a favoured terrain. Gain +2 AC on that terrain] 2rp
{replaces Resistant}

Seaponies (aquatic subtype) [total]

Size medium

+2 Cha, +2 Con, -2 Dex

Swim speed 40 (3rp)

20ft land speed (-1rp)

Amphibious (2rp)

Cutie Mark [bonus feat] (4rp)

Aquatic subtype (1rp)

Low light (1rp)

+8vs trip (2rp)

Sociable [When members of this race attempt to change a creature's attitude with a Diplomacy check and fail by 5 or more, they can try to influence the creature a second time even if 24 hours have not passed.] (1rp)

Fingerless [as per Everglow Ponyfinder](2rp)

-Touch attacks with hooves/horn/wings

-Unarmed: hooves/teeth/slam, rated by standard unarmed values

-Mouth is primary hand, hooves are secondary and treated as off hand for all things

Armless (-9)

Changeling

Drawback: lose lvl 1 feat

+2 Cha, +2 Dex, -2 Con, -2 Wis (-1RP)

Flight [20ft, poor] 4rp (Why poor and not clumsy?)(Because changelings seem to have slower flight but more precise handling than the average pegasi.) (fair enough) (makes sense, you tried swatting a fly before? Those buggers turn on a dime, and dragonflies are like helicopters)(As a surreal Russian song goes "А муха тоже вертолет" which means "And the fly is a helicopter too")

Lesser Horn Magic [telekinetic force of strength equal to 1/2 character level + the modifier of one mental stat (set at time of character creation) as effective strength at will, (25 ft. + 5 ft./4 levels)] 2rp

Cloudwalker 2rp

Lowlight vision 1rp

Change shape [lesser] 5rp Alter Self (changeling version) as a spell-like.

- Spell has a single 'default form' unique to each changeling, made when they were young, that is their pony alterform. It would be of one of the ponykind races common around their home hive. They can maintain this form without effort.

Weakness:

Changelings feed on emotions. I have no idea how to stat this...

Nor I. At best, this would be an added thing to them since they don't (according to Derplicity at the least) get any nutrients from other sources. More like their intrinsic abilities runs on emotions. If a changeling only uses their default form, they can survive off the passive emotions of interacting with others. Active use of abilities (horn magic, active shape changing and so on) builds hunger faster.

- active feeding: touch of idiocy (last 1hour/4levels) can only be used on a prone figures.

This would be more baseline changeling. They can 'level up' to get the perfect mimic trait.

Change shape [greater] 6rp (duration 1hour/level)

Perfect copy 2rp can mimic specific individuals

good*

Hmm... let's say each hour of active ability use adds +1 to the con DC vs energy starving

Not fingerless races:

Griffon

+2 Str/Wis, -2 Cha

Quad. 2rp (land speed down 50% on two legs)

[No independent arms (use them in locomotion)] -3

Flight (40ft, clumsy) 5rp

Cloudwalking (2rp)

Claws: Griffons have natural claw weapons at their size (1d4). Fear them. (2rp)

+2 perception (2rp)

Dracoling(? We can't use true dragon considering that well... dragons are real in PF. and in MLP.

As much as it'd be cool to have a dragon wyrmling on the team, that won't work.)

Size: Small

Slow Land Speed (-1rp) (Well, smaller creature, relatively slower, yeah.)

+2 Con/Str, -2 Cha (1rp)

Fire Resistance 5 (1rp)

+1 Natural Armour (2rp)

Greed (Members of this race gain a +2 bonus on Appraise checks to determine the price of non-magical goods that contain precious metals or gemstones.) (1rp)

Dragon Fire (1d6 fire spell. 1 adjacent target.) (1rp)

1perday 20foot line 1d6 fire breath weapon (1rp)

Bite (1rp)

Claws (2rp)

Prehensile Tail (2rp)

Inside Canterlot castle, two proud figures stood, waiting, eyes fixed on the ornate doors which lead to the throne room. One of them was massive. Easily eight feet tall approximately with a shimmering, flowing mane, iridescent with all the colours of the rainbow, hiding one of her eyes. Her tail was a similar colouration, blowing in an unfelt breeze. Her fur was that of the purest ivory, her body adorned with golden jewellery fitting a queen. Even if she was a Princess. Her flank held a sunburst on either side, her gaze radiating the warmth of that celestial object. There was kindness in that one, visible eye. Kindness, an endless patience, with a hint of mischief. There was also another hint of something far darker. Remorse, pain, and regret which flashed only for an instant as Princess Celestia, ruler of the day and mistress of the sun looked to her right at the other figure.

This one was slightly shorter than Celestia was no less regal. Adorned with silvery jewellery, her body was a deep, deep blue. Her mane and tail also billowed in an impossible indoor breeze, but were more akin to a living night sky or a far-off nebula in the depths of outer space. Her posture was more assertive than Celestia's, a holdover from almost a thousand years ago. Her cutie mark a crescent moon which was mirrored on a necklace she wore. Princess Luna caught her elder sister's eye and relaxed, chuckling a little. Yes, she had been a fish out of temporal water for some time now. Banished almost a thousand years ago when she allowed darkness into her heart, Luna had since been redeemed. She still hadn't forgiven herself for it though.

Tilting her head, Princess Luna's horn glowed a deep blue and an abacus, held by a member of the Night Guard, levitated towards her. Tongue in the side of her mouth as she concentrated, Luna did several things at once, while Celestia did one thing. It was evening time in Equestria and that meant the lowering of the sun, and raising of the moon. Luna's thoughts were also pre-occupied with a conversation the two had had almost a month ago.

[i]"Sister, do you have a moment?" Celestia asked, looking about ready for bed, much like she was now.

"Of course, Tia. What's on your mind?"

"Well... I've been thinking lately. Many of our old enemies are seeming to gather again, along with new ones coming in to take their place. Nightmare moon," Luna flinched at the mention of her dark self while Celestia continued. "Discord, Sombra," A shudder this time from the princess of the night. "Queen Chryssilis and who knows who else?"

Luna nodded. "But Twilight and her friends have pushed them back each time. They even did things we could not do."

"True, and yet no one saw the changelings coming. We both should have seen through Chryssilis' disguise."

"I confess, I failed in that manner." Luna admitted. "Cadence recalled some nightmares she had which I could not assist. The vile enchantress put a fog over my head it seems."

"Exactly. Which is why I think we need something else. Something new. Are you familiar with the Aspects of Virtue?"

"We considered those, yes." Luna replied. "Just before attacking Discord, but as we recall, we could not find them and resorted to the Elements of Harmony instead."

"Maybe the reason we couldn't find them was because we weren't worthy. Didn't show the right strength of character. And because the tree of harmony was an actual location. But if we were to

find a group of friends who DID possess those elements, or at least had the potential to discover them..."

*"Then we would not have to rely on Twilight Sparkle and her friends." Luna finished. "Much as We are loath to admit it, even they cannot be everywhere at once. Excellent idea, sister! **WE SHALL FIND THE BEARERS OF THE ASPECTS OF VIRTUE!!!**" Luna boomed, lightning sparking and lancing out behind her, nearly hitting one of the Day Guard as she flew off to rest for the night as a minor 3.5 Richter scale earthquake rocked the castle and buffeting Celestia with a windstorm.*

"Ummm, sister?" Tia whispered, a humorous glint in her eye. "Remember Fluttershy's lessons?" "Oh... Yes, we still do that when we get excited." Celestia smiled. "Enjoy your evening, sister."

That had been one month ago and the two, after much deliberation, had finally come to an agreement on who the most likely candidates would be. Luna's abacus, clearly carved in with her name, cutie mark, and the word's "Princess Luna's Abacus. DO NOT TOUCH ON PAIN OF BANISHMENT! If Found, please contact the Canterlot Castle guards."

-----Meanwhile-----

Star Sword, or just Star to his few friends waited outside the gates to the castle, hoping he'd see his friends soon. They had all been called together for just this reason and with him being off duty, he was quite excited and almost goofy looking. Not at all like the intimidating, strong member of the Night Guard that he usually was at this time.

"It's too early for this," Silver groaned as he trotted up slowly, his mane messy, squinting against the light. One of the younger of the twelve lunar unicorns, noxcorns? Either way, he he still hadn't fully adjusted to... okay, fine... He had been on a nocturnal lifestyle for years, between schooling, studying, reading habits, and such... but the more biological calling to the nocturnal lifestyle...

A comb held up in his silver magic tried to put some order to his mane as he yawned again. It didn't help that he was been up most of the night before for astronomy studies, then up most of the morning transcribing a few things, so hadn't gotten to bed till around noon..

"Hey Silver!" Star said, walking on two legs, carrying a pair of milkshakes. "Want one?" he offered. "Mango, pineapple and dragonfruit in this one," he raised his left hoof. "And vanilla, strawberry, kiwi in this one." He said, gesturing with his left.

"... why do you have milkshakes?" Silver grumbled after a moment.

"Because I was hungry and a little thirsty and thought you might be too." Star replied. "So I ask again: want one?"

Silver's eyebrow twitched. With one final grunt he snagged the strawberry kiwi one. "If you weren't my best friend..."

Star smiled and dropped back down onto all fours, keeping his left hoof above the ground to drink. Mmmmm.... Mangos. Pineapples. Heaven! Dragonfruit was kinda meh compared to that, but still... Mmmmmmm! He looked around for Chitter as he drank.

"Who exactly are we waiting for?" Silver asked.

"Chitter for one. Have you seen him anywhere?"

Grey fire engulfed Silver silently and Chitter was in front of Star. Chitter opened his mouth, looked a bit thoughtful, then closed it with a roll of the eyes (as much as changeling eyes could roll) and the illusion, for that's what it was, faded back to Silver.

"Too early to try and think up what Chit would say..." Silver grumbled.

Greykit rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $9+2+4=14$ *Concentration*

Greykit rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: *1+somethinghaven'tfinishedsheet bluff*

Star chuckled. "Nice try though," he said and licked his lips. "Anyways, how's life been treating ya?"

"Canterlot nobles are annoying," Silver whined, sitting in the shadow of the wall. "If they aren't busy hinting that some pony from a backwater town has no business being a noble, despite being one of the progenitors of a new tribe, they are trying to maneuver you into something."

"On the plus side, at least they're not looking down on you for being a commoner or something similar." Star replied.

"Because looking down on you for being a 'fake noble' is so much better," Silver said, rolling his eyes. "At least between the new houses Night Court is getting some more action."

"Personally, I'm still wondering why Luna didn't bother to create Lunar earth ponies. It was just batponies..." Star mused. "Ah well. Can't complain though."

"Earth pony immutability is one of the theories. Luna didn't deliberately 'make' lunar ponies, according to some theories. The first ones were born after years of exposure to the magic that was slowly making her nightmare moon. Again according to some," Silver yawned again. "It was way too early to be up again. Other ponies say she bites ponies and make them lunar, like a vampony alicorn."

"All I know is that it took the explosion of the contained remnants of Nightmare Moon's magic after a failed containment to make the lunar unicorns." Silver pulled Star's cup from him with a bit of magic. "Being in the hospital for a month and slowly mutating was no fun."

"I know. I was there through as much of it as I could." Star said and shrugged. "Ah well. We're going to see her soon anyways. Or in like... two minutes if Chitter doesn't get here. "

"We could issue a warrant for his arrest," Silver grumped. He was going to grump about a lot of thing for a while.

"I'm sure he'll turn up." Star said brightly. "And what's wrong, Silver? Somepony ate your lunch?" Star was beginning to move to the castle.

"I should be in bed for two more hours..." Silver muttered.

Meanwhile Chitter was, in fact, already there, standing somewhat nervously in the foyer and trying to ignore the guards while waiting for the others to arrive, also wondering what's taking them so long.

As the two advanced with Star trying to cheer up Silver, he caught the changeling's eye and galloped over to him, booping him when he got close. "Hey Chitter! There you are! We were waiting for you outside! Boop!"

"Seriously? You let him walk past you an... gah! Never mind," Silver grumbled, rubbing the bridge of the muzzle. Then he'd go a 'boop' him. Star and the word 'professionalism' were like Lady Pie and the word 'diet'.

"I was probably getting my milkshakes." Star mused. "Oh well. Anyways, you two ready?"

"No Star, I got out of bed this soon because I thought 'why not operate short on sleep today? Just for a change?', and then I took a pleasant stroll here to the castle. Just for the sights." Silver deadpanned.

"So yes. And you, Chitter?"

Chitter blinked and stiffened slightly when he was booped due to still being a bit tense and, likely would've said something if stick in the mud Silver didn't start complaining for reasons unknown, "Umm, yes, I'm ready. Is Silver...?" he looks at him and wisely decides to bite his tongue on the matter since Silver looks abnormally pissed today, "Nevermind."

"Then let's go!" Star said and began heading for the throne room. The day and night guards regarded them as they past, some holding a bit of contempt for Chitter's form. After all, the changelings did cause a lot of havoc, but he wore the vest of the court which marked him as a citizen. Reformed changelings often had those on to distinguish them as allies. There was little fanfair as the doors to the throne room opened and Princess Celestia motioned for them to come in.

Star, when he was close enough, bowed respectfully before them. Luna, out of force of habit, stepped forward and, at first, looked as though she was going to strike the bat pony, but held her hoof a few inches away, which Star kissed, then rose. Celestia rolled her eyes, one hidden behind her mane as always.

"Hello my little ponies," Celestia began. "I'm sure you're wondering why we called you here today. Well... That requires some explanation. First off, I would assume you're all familiar with the Elements of Harmony?" Celestia and Luna both knew that Star and Silver would, but separated from Equestria and with the hive mind for all his life, they weren't sure if Chitter would know too.

Skill check time. Feenie, roll a DC 15 Knowledge (history OR Arcana. Local for who the bearers are if you want.)

Chitter History and Arcana: unable to roll.

Chitter Local: 1d20+7: **27** [1d20=20]

Silver (Arcana) The die showed: 18+9

Arcana: **Yellow 13** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 9+6=15

Chitter, upon realizing he was asked a question, beseeched the Hivemind for information on the Elements of Harmony, only to remember that he was completely cut off from that, and therefore all the knowledge it held. He sighs at how stupid he was in his 'past life' relying on that so much and focuses on the knowledge he DID makept and can use, "I know the six ponies who bare the Elements of Harmony and that they're important, but nothing more then that." He kept the lament of all the knowledge that is lost to him thanks to the Queen's folly with the invasion to himself for obvious reasons.

"The fruit of the tree of harmony, powerful crystalline matrixes that channel the six aspects of the Magic of Harmony, currently wielded by the Bearers who reside in ponyville, lead by Princess Sparkle," Silver summarized, smothering a yawn. "But princess, were the elements not returned to the tree after the Magic of the Everfree went wild?"

"Plunder seeds, but yes." Luna said. "Still, that is correct. Me and Tia went to collect them to combat Discord over a thousand years ago. However, the Elements of Harmony weren't the first objects we wanted to seek out. Instead, there were the Aspects of Virtue. We were unable to find them, and with the Elements now sealed back within the tree, we need another way to defend equestria if it's needed. Beyond..." Luna stopped and shook her head when Celestia gave a subtle shake of her head. Classified information. Not that they knew what the box was even for.

As the Princess spoke, Silver tried to remember where he had heard that term before. Aspects of Virtue... it sounded vaguely familiar...

Greykit rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 7+4 *History*

Greykit rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 11+9 *Arcana*

(I'm begining to think Silver only reads magic books...)

Silver knows of them. Stumbled across the name once or twice. Similar to the Elements of Harmony, but the exact details escaped him.

"I see you are familiar with the name, Silver?" Celestia asked.

"Somewhat, Princess," Silver said, a bit on the evasive side. "It's come up before in my studies and research. I... can't remember much, so I assuming it was more of a passing mention. Probably somewhere with the other High Artifacts. Elements of Harmony, Alicorn Amulet,

Crystal Heart, Tear Drops of the Night, Locket of Light, Bell of Darkness... Sometimes fact and legend get crossed."

//made up one, pulled two from the earlier gens.

"Indeed they do, yes." Celestia continued. "And the Aspects of Virtue are among those. However unlike the Elements of Harmony, the Aspects don't normally take on physical forms. Instead, they present themselves to ponies when the pony does something extraordinary fitting with their theme. They are Respect, Courage, Honour, Righteousness, and benevolence."

Star nodded, understanding. "And we're to go and find them?"

Find them? Silver's thoughts raced. Where would you find something like that? The elements were in the wildest hub of untamed magic, would the Aspects be in a place like that? Maybe the badlands? But then the changelings would have found them... The fields of chaos..? Were made during the battle against discord... The Flame Geyser Swamp? Ghastly Gorge? The frozen north? The Seas of Despair? The Cape of A Dozen Voices? The Forbidden Archives? The Old Country? Maybe they were in his bedroom. Silver missed his bed.

Luna shook her head. "In a manner of speaking, yes. What we require you to do IS to find the Aspects, but along the way, assist the civilians of Equestria in any way you can. Speaking of which..." Luna turned and looked off to the far end of the throne room where a pony shaped bulge was hiding from behind one of the tapestries. "You can come out now!" And as if reading his mind, Luna smiled. "Fret not, you can go back to bed if you wish once we're done here."

The bulge meeped softly, but stepped forward revealing a pink mare with a cream mane emerged. "H-hello," She said softly, practically inaudible from the distance. It seemed like she had been taking lessons from Fluttershy on quiet speaking. Her cutie mark was a magnifying glass superimposed over a heart. "M-m-my name is L-Looking g-g-g-g-glass." She stuttered.

Silver flushed and dipped his head in an apologetic fashion at his princess. "I'm sorry, Princess Luna, I still haven't fully adapted to a nocturnal or even crepuscular schedule." He blinked at the mare. "Hello?"

The mare meeped again and brought her mane over her body, hoping to hide away. "H-h-h-h-hello..." She said nervously.

Chitter looked at Looking Glass, questioning why a pony this shy is here. *'well, no sense in being rude... surely she's just nervous.'* Chitter clears his throat and takes a tiny step forward, "um, Hello Looking Glass, my name is Chitter, its a pleasure to meet you." He gives a cute little smile as he looks at her, doing his best to help her ease up, "If you don't mind me asking, why were you hiding before now?"

Diplomacy! 1d20+7: **21** [1d20=14]

Looking Glass gasped suddenly as though seeing Chitter for the first time and in a poof of dust, she zipped over and began examining him with a magnifying glass. "A changeling? Here in

Canterlot!? Oh my what a find! You must tell me! Is it true that regular pony food gives you no sustenance or nutritional value?"

Chitter meeps and his body stiffens from the sudden gasp and extreme burst of speed that came from the shy pony and the next thing everypony knew, Looking Glass was very excited about him and he was the one trying to hide himself (with no real success) while he was bombarded with words and a magnifying glass and a question and complete destruction of his personal space and, wait, a question? Quick! Answer and maybe she'll stop! "I-I, u-uhh, u-unless the f-food is made with l-lots of love and care, i-it doesn't." He slowly tries to back away, "A-and even then w-we're only able to f-feed on the l-love that w-was placed into the f-food." He meeps again and stares at her with fear in his eyes.

"Uh... curious," Silver murmured.

"Fascinating!" She said, looking over his tattered wings and the holes in his legs. "Were you born with these or did they develop over time? And if the latter, was it painful for you? How do you maintain hoof stability with these gaps?" She blushed and backed off. "Sorry... I'm a scientist. hippology in particular. I'm working on a doctoral thesis on changelings."

"I... u-uh..." Chitter can feel the walls of his personal space being reduced to dust the more this over eager pony examined him, even going as far as to examine his wings and looking really closely at the holes in his legs. He gives a pleading look to the Princesses for help and that's when she explained her profession. He wasn't sure how to feel or what to say about being a literal gold mine for her, so he continues to cower from the pony.

Silver shuddered slightly, remembering that he'd already been approached by ponies wanting to study the new lunar tribe. Princess Luna had stepped in and rather firmly ruled that they be given at least a year to get used to it, but he still occasionally had flashbacks to Princess Sparkle's 'enthusiastic' approach. "Princess Luna, is there a reason for Miss Glass is here?"

"It isn't to turn me into a test subject is it?" Chitter asked in a scared voice with a face to match. It was actually kinda adorable.

Looking Glass blushed. "Hehehe... Sorry about that."

The princesses smiled reassuringly and Luna spoke again. "Miss Glass here came to us not long ago. She's looking for safe passage through the outskirts of the Everfree Forest where a queenless Changeling hive is located and she would very much like to study them in a natural environment."

Looking Glass nodded. "I would never make it there without some help, so I asked Princess Celestia for help and she referred me to you. I can't say I knew about these Aspects of Virtue... Maybe it was just to kill two birds with one stone?"

Tia nodded. "It was, yes."

"Oh. Well, thank you though." Looking Glass said and bowed slightly.

Silver... wasn't quite fond of changelings. Chitter was fine. Chitter was a friend. But he had bad experiences with changelings during the invasion attempt. Most of the night guard who were in the city did. Being on the night shift, the guard had mostly been sleeping. And changelings abused it, trying to trap them in a delusion that was somewhere between dream and illusion.

It hadn't been pleasant at all.

Looking Glass lowered her head and looked at her hooves when she caught Silver's look of contempt for the subject of her studies. "I... I can pay you, of course." She added. "For safe passage. You don't have to stay."

Silver murmured something. "There is a hive that close to the home of the bearers? And it has been leave all this time?"

"A queenless hive. They stick to their own territory and don't concern themselves much with others provided they don't show hostility first."

"And I take it exactly how and where they feed will be on your list?" Silver asked in a neutral tone.

Looking Glass began to shrink away, trying to use her mane to hide herself. She hated confrontations. And when she had written to them, they had seemed so nice! "I..." She looked to the princesses nervously, hoping that she didn't make a mistake. "I'm hoping to find that out, yes."

oookay, *'mental note, LG is Shy turned up to eleven.'* Chitter, being a Changeling himself, tries to think of questions to ask, "...I trust that you already know whether they're friendly or not towards outsiders entering their hive?" If that's a full blown hive minus the Queen, well that's still a lot of numbers if they decide to try and keep the others for, well, food reasons. No offense to his own kind mind you, but he'd rather know these things then not.

"They're friendly, yes." Looking Glass said nodding and getting a bit more confidence back. She liked talking about it, and more then that, she liked people that would listen. "I even had written correspondence with them before the mail pony... What was her name... The one with the bubbles for a cutie mark? Anyways, she lost the return mail in the everfree forest last week."

The everfree was yet another place Silver had less than stellar memories of. Granted; most ponies had less than wonderful memories of that forest, but still. "I don't suppose we could continue this conversation at a later hour?"

"I... I suppose we could..." Looking Glass said looking away. Just before she started to pick up steam and yawned.

Chitter stood there thinking for a moment about that grey mailpony. He feels like he seen her before, but he can't quite grasp the name... oh well.

local! 1d20+7: 19 [1d20=12] :p

Chitter saw the mare in passing, but doesn't know her name. Or at least, he thinks he does.

"Princesses," Silver said, inclining his head in a polite bow. "Is there anything further you require of us? And do we have access to any particular resources?"

"You will, and have always had, access to my library." Princess Luna replied. "Along with my armoury. Take whatever you think you'll need from it."

Celestia nodded. "And mine as well. If you happen to need anything from there." She paused for a moment before her horn glowed it's golden hue. "Oh! I nearly forgot. You each will need these." From a nearby guard, she drew three slips of paper and passed one to each of the three ponies. "Those are vouchers for food, shelter, and drink. Use them however you see fit."

Luna nodded. "Just... Don't let thy greed get the better of thee. We track the expenditures attached to those. and we may decide to remove them if thou overspend."

"That's, rather generous, umm, thank you, Princesses." Chitter bows.

"Thank you, Princess Luna, Princess Celestia," Silver said.

Chitter looks at Star nervously and pokes him whispering something very important, "oi, vouchers, Princesses, thank them, quickly." He isn't sure what he should be more worried about, Star being thought less of if he doesn't, or the fact that he is following this culture better than him.

Star bowed respectfully and ignored the poking. "Thank you, Princess Luna and Princess Celestia."

If the two princesses noticed the favoritism for Luna over Tia, they didn't show it. They nodded and Tia yawned, looking to the doorway as a familiar sight for her emerged.

"Oh Tia, my darling!" The strange creature said. He had the head of a pony and a body of... Well, everything else. "Are you finished with your little ponies? Oh! and a changeling! how adorable! But come!" He said and slithered over to Celestia's side, sweeping off her hooves with a yelp.

Princess Luna sighed loudly and facehoofed. "What she sees in that creature, I have no idea..." Luna muttered and went to do the rest of her nightly duties.

Star blinked and looked to the others. "Did... Did Discord just pop in and abduct Princess Celestia?"

Chitter stares at what just happened and blushed slightly at one of the emotions he detected from the very odd couple, "umm... Are those two act-"

"NO MORE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DRACONEQUIS!!!!" Luna roared suddenly, lightning crackleing outside the castle window.

Star meeped softly and put it out of his mind, wondering what he could get from the armoury.

Chitter meeps loudly and hides behind Star. Canterlock voice + angry Luna = do not want to deal with, help adorable changeling now.

"... Should I get Princess Celestia a card?" Silver asked. It wasn't about the Draconequis.

Luna stiffened some and relaxed. "If you wish, yes."

"Don't worry, princess. The children still like you more," Silver said, smothering another yawn.

Luna nodded again and dismissed the two ponies and the one changeling in audience before her. That done, she began to go do her nightly duties, first looking through the telescope on her tower to make a check on things. Looking glass meanwhile headed out and went to her house to await word on if the group the princesses picked would help her.

"So... That was interesting." Star said as he walked. "Can't say I expected something like that from them."

"That we'd be asked to search for an ancient set of relics on par with the elements themselves? What else would we have been called to do?" Silver asked blandly. "Find out the origins of the changeling race?"

"Well Looking Glass seems to be one that wants to find that out." Star said. "Still, more power to her. I think it's kinda interesting. In a... Weird sort of way. No offence, Chitter."

"None taken." Chitter said as he wondered which armory to check out first. He'll likely check both out.

"Just wait until she starts the gender and reproduction studies," Silver snickered. Right... he needed to get Princess Celestia a card... Congratulations on getting a coltfriend? "Can we go to the armory if we are going. I need at least another two hours sleep before I tackle the archives."

"Uhhhh..." Star hesitated. "I don't think it's something that Velestia wants to advertise. You saw how Luna reacted. Still, have a good nap!" Star said and took to the skies, flying to the armoury to get his share of the equipment.

"... Velestia?" Silver looked up thoughtfully. "For some reason I'm picturing Princess Celestia as a wasp..."

"Celestia i mean!" Star called back and chuckled. "Misspoke. Sorry." Star continued his flight, heading to the armoury to get the things he'd need.

Chitter was only allowed access to the most basic of equipment sadly enough (none of the fancy enchanted stuff), oh well, surely the best light armor he can find along with a beautifully crafted rapier will be enough, he used a rapier before and he can recall his skill with it, it shall be enough.

Star arrived soon after and began looking through things, knowing where most of the equipment was already.

Bubble walked into the armory "Meh seen bigger" he joked "Hows it going fellas?"

"Wow, that was fast." Star said, hearing Bubbles here too. "Did everything go smoothly with Princess Luna?"

Bubble nodded "I ran here as fast as i could, i didnt want to miss you guys" Bubble cashed in his token for a longsword and rose wood armor along with some other goodies for the trip, strapped to his wheeled walking assistance machien (wheel chair) was some bottles of AJs that he brought from his home.

Chitter's head pokes up from behind a set of armor to look at the new pony that walked in, "...Hello Bubble!" His head disappeared behind the armor and he walks around it, trotting over to Star and Bubble, "Just got here?" He was already wearing a set of studded leather armor with a rapier at his side, he also made darn sure the vest that grants him immunity in social and political engagements was over the armor and as visible as possible.

Star smiled. "Still, good to see you. I'm wondering where Galvan is though..." He shrugged and took hold of his sickle and took some experimental swings. "Hmmm... I wouldn't object to a sword at some point, but I don't know how to use it..." He said from around the handle.

"Could you help with this" bubble struggled to get the armor over his wheelchair.

Star nodded and helped his armour on to the sea pony. "This would be easier if Silver was here..." He chuckled. "Unicorns are always better at this."

Chitter chuckles and helps with the wonders of green coloured magicks! [Telekinetic effective strength score = 5] "I can use this pointy thing on my head you know." He grins, mostly at Star.

"Really? i thought it was just for show..." Bubble stuck his tongue out.

"Yeah, where is he by the way?" Bubble wondered.

"Sleeping. This was a bit too early for him." Star explained. "Still, I'm sure we'll see him around. Anyways, everyone got what they need?"

Bubble drew his sword and practices swinging it at a training pony.

Aiah (pc) rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 3

Chitter shugs and draws out his rapier, practicing against a spare one like Bubble is, "Well out of the items I'm allowed to take? Yes." Chitter grins when he got in a couple good blows in rapid succession, although he ponders for a moment. He goes to pick up a Dagger as well just in case and trots back to the group, "Ready~"

Fenix rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $12+8=20$. second= $12+3=15$

"Ready!" Star said and reared up into the air, kicking his forehooves in excitement. "What about you, Bubble?"

Bubble flicked his flippers "I'm ready also." he grabbed a bottle of water from the pack and pored it into his gills then stuck it back in the pack.

Chitter jumps into the air to pose for a moment before a thought came to him, "so... now what? Silver went back to sleep and Looking Glass never did told us where she lived, unless we're meant to tell the guards to tell her when we're going." Chitter thought a bit more and scratched the back of his head, "Kinda hard to do things when the group is split before things even began I think."

"I think we just tell the guards, yeah." Star said and chuckled. "Well... Guards beyond me." Star looked to one of the batponies who was supervising the armoury. A quartermaster as they were known.

"Have everything you need?" She asked and looked over the assortment of the inventory, making detailed notes of what was being taken on 'indefinite use'.

"I think so, yeah." Star replied and smiled. "By the way, think you can--"

"Send a message to the Princess and Looking Glass? Sorry, couldn't help but overhearing. Sure thing." She took hold of a pen in her mouth and wrote up the note and sent it through to the outbound box along with the records of what was being taken. "It'll be taken within the hour, I'm sure."

Chitter blinks, "Well... that part was easier than expected."

"Good" Bubble coughed a little as his gills switched to air breathing, he got use to it by now but coughing was inevitable.

//everyone to the bottom please

Bubbles went to see the princesses after waking up late "*Ah crap i missed the princesses announcement*" He went to go see them anyway maybe the others were still there.

//roll perception

Aiahe (phone) rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $12 + 6 = 18$

Bubbles saw a faint shape in the sky and from the flying style, he could guess that it was a batpony flying into the castle.

"i wonder if thats who i think it is" Bubbles thought, "HAY STAR HAAAAAAAY!!!" he shouted trying to get his attention, grabbing the attention of everypony nearby in the proses.

Star stopped in mid air and looked down, seeing Bubbles waving to him. Grinning, he dove down and stopped, flying above Bubbles. "Hey there! What's up?" He asked.
Perception: **Yellow 13** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 6 +10=16

"You are up" bubble Joked "what did i miss?"

"Well... The princesses wanted to us to go out and find the Aspects of Virtue to replace the Elements of Harmony." He chuckled. "I'm sure if you hurry, you can get a voucher to Princess Luna for housing, food, stuff like that. Probbaly even the stuff from her armoury. Which I was heading to get now."

"Right, welp you best get over there ill join you shortly" bubble bowed his head and dashed off to the day, night sisters.

Princess Luna was eating her breakfast, her horn glowing as she expertly and delicatly ate her food. When Bubbles entered, she set a cupcake down and smiled. "Ahh! Bubbles, I presume? Has thou come about the quest we have given?"

"Yes princess" Bubble bowed "i saw Star sword on my way here, he gave me the low down."

"I see. Well, good thing we had these printed up ahead of time." She made a tutting noise and one of her guards stepped forward, giving Bubbles the same voucher that Chitter, Star and Silver were given.

"Thank you m'lady" Bubble bowed once more then scampered off to the armoury to find the others.

Silver headed home. He locked the door behind him, though Star should have a key if he really need to get in. Silver wasn't kidding when he said he was exhausted though. He figured, two, maybe three more hours sleep, then he could head to the royal archives and spend a bit of time finding related myths and possible locations. Maybe, if he were lucky, there would be a reference guide. One that talked back and sassy ponies that disrespected it... in a library filled with other talking books.

He passed midstep before shaking his head. "I really need more sleep..."

In his need for sleep, Silver saw, or thought he saw, a giant fluffy pink thing blowing a raspberry at him... but it was just a very fluffy pillow. A big, fluffy pink pillow that his mother had bought for him.

//Bubble: *blows a bubble*

Luna meanwhile looked over a list of ponies that were supposed to be there, but weren't. A young dragonling and a griffon by the name of Galvan. She could sense his dreams, but was at a loss as to why he hadn't shown up. Still, nothing for it. She closed her eyes and transported herself to the dream plane, expertly navigating the normally treacherous landscape until she found him.

"Well met by moonlight, Galvan." She said softly.

That was a very fine dream. The one where he didn't have to shoot at this guy for five hours while he was tracking him with a giant bird (why bird all the time?), at least, wasn't here. And he was kind of enjoying it, when suddenly...

"...moonlight?" Galvan asks, recognising the face, "Oh, but it's day, isn't it?"

"Not at all. I apologize as we seem to have interrupted a good dream, but we were wondering why thou did not attend the meeting with thy allies?"

"Allies?" Galvan asked, "Meeting?"

Wait a second. He looked around. Wait, right... He wasn't a loner for quite a while now, after he managed to escape for just enough distance to hide amongst the creatures no one was going to look through. Right. Right.

So wait... A dream? Yeah, that might have been a dream. Luna, however, was quite notorious for actually getting into the dreams personally. He started to remember and shivered. Right. The meeting.

"...oh crap, right, sorry," he apologized as his thought process swiftly passed by and gave him an epiphany, "I... Maybe I overestimated my fortitude and stuff and fell asleep too late and kinda forgot to wake up early..." He moved slightly away. If he was a cat, his ears would have dropped down, because he seriously started feeling nervous and anxious about failing to do that sort of thing.

Luna held a hoof to silence him. "Apologies are not needed. First chance you get though, you must come to see us or our sister. Although the reason we called for you was because we need you and thy friends to locate and recover the aspects of virtue. We know not where they are, however we're certain that they will come to you by completing various quests and helping the land."

"Seems like quite a leap of logic taken there," Galvan thought out aloud, "And so you are assigning the quest to us, right?"

"That and generally helping out the people of the land." Princess Luna replied. "Would thou be interested in accepting this task?"

Galvan thought for a moment and nodded, replying, "Sure, I guess. Any catches, good or bad?"

"We do not know where the Aspects of Virtue are. We assume it shall come to you."

"Right," Galvan said. Let's hope these aspects won't be akin to the other stuff that usually came to him on its own volition.

"We are pleased to hear it." Luna smiled gently and looked up. "Ah, somepony else seems to need me. Come to Canterlot castle posthaste to acquire a voucher for gear and supplies." With that, Luna vanished from the dream, making sure to leave Galvan still dreaming.

"...grand," Galvan said and shrugged. He should probably wake up, like, right now. That thing is really important. And he did so, waking up, slowly throwing off the weariness and, after a quick dealing with early preparations, swiftly headed out to the castle to wrap up the business.

Luna seemed to be having a busy first few hours to her night as she chuckled and waited for Galvan in the main dining hall, the voucher all set and ready to be handed off. Her ethereal mane blowing behind her in an imperceptible breeze as she waited.

Galvan moved as quick as he could, taking some shortcuts that his wings allowed him to and finally arriving at the castle, looking around.

The castle was grand. Massive and regal. A testament to Equestrian engineering and design. Almost 1000 years old and beyond some routine maintenance, it was in pristine condition.

Galvan did see the castle on one of his 'sightseeing' tours. Mainly because he was used to gathering information about the places he stopped at just to be sure they were safe enough. He didn't want his foes to catch up on him with an advantage after all. He looked around for an entrance and walked (not flew) over to it.

The entrance was flanked by two batponies in full armor, each one part of the night guard. They nodded once and stepped aside to let Galvan inside before taking up their normal guard positions. Soon, two more ponies, relief for the two guards came in and they swapped places.

Inside the castle was no less impressive than the outside with dozens of ponies milling around doing their royal duties. They looked to Galvan curiously. After all, it wasn't everyday you saw a griffin around Canterlot. Well, beyond Gustave who seemed to come there more often.

"Uh... Hi," Galvan said to one of the guards, question - implying intonation in his voice. "I need a voucher for arms and stuff like that," he then added, "Where can I get it?"

'As if I need it much,' he thought, remembering that he never let himself go low on ammo nor did he let himself to go far away from his gun much, the only way he knew he'd be safe from the foes that could be after him. This wasn't even paranoia, he had legitimate concerns!

"Follow me," The guard said and began to lead the way and opened the door. "So, what do you think you'll need?" She asked, trying to make small talk. "Name's Nightshade Blossom, by the way."

"Eh..." Galvan said, figuring that he might not need too much, "I'm Galvan," the master of conspiracy, knows the rules of not telling his own true name everywhere. Oh wait. "Don't think I will need much actually. Gunpowder, maybe some metal for bullets, I'm actually quite self sufficient. I doubt I'd find food, potions or stuff like that down here, right?"

"Not here, no. But around Canterlot, yes." She replied and knocked on the door to the armoury, entering soon after. "I'll leave you too it then. Your friends are on the castle grounds." Nightshade saluted and shut the door, leaving Galvan with the quartermaster.

Galvan blinked and turned to the quartermaster, "Uh. Hi. You have gunpowder? I think that's going to be all I need for now," he said, "I got used to keeping up with my own equipment, after all." He showed the musket as an additional proof of his preparedness.

The quartermaster nodded. "SOME, but not much. Beyond unicorns, very few ponies use it. For obvious reasons," He said tapping a hoof on the desk. "And it tastes horrible for the others to consider it. Still, we have some imported from time to time. Just got a fresh shipment this week. Two barrels of the stuff."

Okay, hold on for a second.

"...tastes? Someone eats the powder?" Galvan asked, notably surprised.

=====

Tia rushed through the halls of the palace, she had lived in the palace most of her life, she learned fighting skills by mimicking the critters in the gardens. Regardless, she preferred to resolve things peacefully, hence why a large part was just practicing how to dodge things. This also made her a very alert attendant, who just happened to be hyperactive.

Ponies gave Tia looks as she ran, wondering what got the little dragonling in such a tizzy. A pair of Luna's guards stopped her as she was about to go into the dining hall where Luna was, still in her trance. "Halt!" The one on the left commanded.

Tia screeched to a stop and remained face to face with the guard, "What's going on here.", she asked.

"Princess Luna is communicating with another in the dream world. You'll have to come back later." The same one replied flatly.

"Why?", Tia asked the guard, it wasn't like the princess to be occupied so completely.

"One of the seekers for the aspect of Virtue failed to show up on time and he must be informed of the situation as soon as possible." The guard said, standing firm.

"Seekers, I could help them, I am ready.", Tia said to the guard.

"Allow her in!" Luna bellowed from inside, sending the doors shuddering some. The guards looked to each other and nodded. "You may enter." The more talkative one said and allowed Tia to enter, Luna waiting for her inside and gave her a slight nod. "Ahhh. A little dragonling. What is your name, little one?"

"Tia, Princess.", Tia said and curtsied to Luna.

"Ah, named after our sister, we assume? Curious. Anyways, we require brave ones like yourself to recover the Aspects of virtue." Luna explained what she was talking about and what she and the other seekers would be up against. "Does thou accept thy quest?" Luna said dramatically.

"This is rather sudden, I...I would be honored princess.", Tia said.

"Excellent!" Luna boomed and summoned a voucher for food and shelter. "Take this with you and keep good care of it. Take what you feel you'll need from my armoury. I shall inform the guard that you, at least, are interested in taking this challenge."

By the time the group was done in the armoury, the night had progressed swiftly. Star smiled as he looked at the night sky. "Well... As much as I'm at loathe to admit it, I think we should either get moving or get some sleep considering that Looking Glass is a day pony. Unless you want to find her now and get moving?" He offered.

"I'm up for a look around" Bubble said a little wheezyly.

"You okay there, Bubble?" Star asked, frowning. "We can take a break if you want."

"I'm fine" Bubble said his voice sounding a little better.

"That's good." Star said cheerfully and began making his way to the hotel. He'd need to talk with Looking Glass some more, maybe to find out why she was so interested in Changelings. And to tell her that they had accepted.

As the night wore on, Silver would finally wake up, rested and ready for the day. Well, night. Along with every pony else who was busy milling about. Looking Glass was camped out in her hotel room under the candle light and working on a new research paper based on her encounter with Chitter.

Star, Bubble, and Chitter meanwhile were chatting among themselves. They had been joined by a griffon named Galvan and a small dracoling by the name of Tia who were to be part of the journey. Star, being his usual happy self, embraced the two into the group, though at the same time, wondered what Silver would think. The new Lunar Unicorn had always said Star was too trusting for his own good... Star shook his head and looked around for his first and best friend. This was the time he usually got out of bed.

//'best friend' is now slang for significant other.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moS24lRvBIQ>

http://img07.deviantart.net/d638/i/2015/166/d/e/lyra_and_sweetie_drops_you_re_my_very_best_friend_by_drawponies-d8xgttg.png

Galvan replied to the hug with an (awkward) hug of his own, waiting for the stuff to happen without speaking much.

"Hehehe... Sorry." Star said, feeling awkward. "It's just something I do. Still, my name's Star. Star Sword. What's yours?"

"Hello... Griffon and dragon" Bubble bubble flicked some flies away from his tail "My name is sea bubble, my friends call me bubz."

//bubble: being socailally awkward since 1998

"Galvan," the griffon replied simply.

Bubble stuck out a webbed hoof for a hoof shake "ill let my associates introduce themselves."

Galvan shook the hoof with his claw.

"You all geared up?" bubble asked looking around for galvan's equipment.

Galvan grabbed one of the straps of his backpack and tugged at it with some force, the stuff inside making some noise it moved around; some noise was metallic, some sounded muffled, "Nah. I just decided to take some sandbags and stuff them into my backpack. And this gun strapped to the backpack? It's a decoration. A flagpole. Yeah, a flagpole. Not a musket."

After all, he had a full expedition set in his backpack. And quite a bit of ammunition.

"Better get your self some equipment then" bubble joked "so what brings you to canterlot, i'll share my story if you share yours."

Silver eventually showed up. No, this isn't lazy narration, he just eventually showed up. He had to shower, grab a bite (or 37) to eat, pack a bag (he still needed to head down to the armoury) before making his way to where the others were. And even then, he had no idea where they were meeting up. So he had to head up to the barrack and ask around before he could actually find out where they were supposed to be. So he actually had a reason to be somewhat irritated when he turned up. Not frowning, just a wry smirk on his face.

"Silver!" Star said happily and waved. "Bout time you woke up! How do you feel?" He asked happily.

Galvan waved at Silver and turned to Bubble, "I'm traveller. Decided that I was a little bit tired of scenery in the clouds over there so I got to see the clouds over here and stuff like that."

And the gun, Galvan, along with several dozens units of ammunition? And mithral, clearly military-grade armor piece on your body?

"Oh-- and don't worry about the gun. You know, there are bad things on the way, like bandits and wild animals and stuff, so I needed some protection, just some against minor threats." he then added.

Galvan rolled a die with 20 sides for Bluff. The die showed: $7 + 7 = 14$.

αιενα (ρϵ) rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $10+1=11$

"I see" Bubble replied "well i guess its my turn, im a mechanic from the black marshes of everdot and i came here to seek out new metals and alternate ways of handling them, then i found i made a pretty good singer, enchantingly so and here i am, a bard for the company."

αιενα (ρϵ) rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $5+2=7$

Galvan rolled a die with 20 sides for Sense Motive. The die showed: $8 + 9 (+1 \text{ for competitive?}) = 17 (18?)$

Galvan shook his head, "I feel like you might be making a fool out of me," he replied.

"Was it that clear?" Bubble joked "but for real im just a humble explorer looking around the equestrian continent looking for exotic waters" he pulled out a crudely drawn map of what he has found around equestria made from seaweed and burned charcoal for the drawings "haven't managed to visit the griffon kingdom yet" he smiled.

"Like I have to walk over a quarter of the city to find out where you were?" Silver commented blandly.

"Im a fish and ive walked more than you" Bubble snarked "Nice to see you Silver."

"Well... some introductions would be good," Silver said, quirked an eyebrow. "Star?"

"Oh, yeah. This is Galvan. He's from the Griffon Kingdom and he's here to help us. That dragon over there is Tia." Star replied, looking over the two of them. Tia waved hello, but otherwise didn't say too much, preferring to stick to the rear and not get involved.

"The dragon seems shy, its ok little one" Bubble smiled at the dragonling.

"And the merpony?" Silver asked.

"That's bubbles..." Star said. "You know him. We've been friends for almost a year now! You feeling okay?"

"I think silver hit his head on the way out of bed. How many hoofs am i holding up?" the sea critter rased a hoof.

"You know, I may have some doubts on the sanity of the entire expedition now," Galvan said, jokingly.

"Your quick to catch on" Bubble wobbled alittle.

"Nah, Silver's just getting used to a schedule change," Star replied. "Anyways, let's try to find Looking Glass to tell her we'd take on her mission." Looking to Galvan and Tia, he gave a brief outline of what the mission was. Namely, who Looking Glass was and what she was trying to do.

"You do remember I can have you all arrested, right?" Silver grumbled.

"Arrested for what? Existing?" Bubble patted silver on the head.

"I can find a reason," Silver said dismissively. "I actually got a book on the 'offenses a noble should not allow a commoner to escape committing' from one of the snottier unicorns. An actual book. About three hundred pages."

"How dose it define commoner?" bubble followed silver around.

"You really don't want to know," was all Silver was willing to say on the topic.

"Pfft, and here i was thinking id be welcome in a place of harmony, anyway TO LOOKING GLASS!" Blubble exclaimed.

"You're looking for a place of Harmony and you came to Canterlot?" Chitter asked with a face that suggests he clearly knows exactly how rich ponies tend to act. How is it that those that are closest to the two Princesses are the absolute worst examples of what they're trying to accomplish?

Galvan glanced at both of them, grasping at his musket as if inspecting it for reasons.

"If you want a place of harmony, I'd recommend Ponyville for the most part. Or the Crystal Empire." Star chimed in as they approached the hotel. The Consigage buzzed the room in question and after getting word that it was all right to go up, let them pass by.

"The postcards said this was the better place" Bubble shrugged "So Galvan, wanna tell me something about the griffin kingdom? i'll happily tell you more about my home." bubble looked over at the griffin.

"Eh... Well..." Galvan started saying, "There's not really too fancy about this place. If there was, I wouldn't be travelling this much without regrets, now, would I?"

Looking Glass' room was on the third floor and down the hall a little bit. it was a pretty nice place all things considered. An unassuming door on the right with the matching number. Star knocked on it and almost immediately, it flew open to reveal the mare in question. "H-hello!" She said excitedly. "Have you thought about my offer?"

"Aren't you... energetic today," Silver blinked. It was quite the change from her shirking violent behaviour the day before.

"Sorry! It's just that I've never had anyone seriously consider helping me with my research before." Looking Glass said and calmed down some. Inside the room there were research notes spilled all over the place. Anatomy, history, what looked to be copied tales from storybooks, a copy of a famous painting called "The Fall", along with numerous other things.

"I'll let these guys handle it, also Galvan, i come from Equantice, a quiet place with quiet people, bah who am i kidding its a huge metropolis bustling with all kinds of sea life" Bubble smiled taking a look around the place.

"How many ponies did you ask?" Silver asked, picking up a stray sheet in his magic and looking it over.

"Several. I tried the University of Canterlot, Princess Twilight, Princess Cadance and the Crystal College, the Night Guard, anyone I could find that would be of help." She replied. On the sheet Silver looked over was the estimated primary hive based on scattered reports of Changelings in the area leading up to the invasion... Of course, that lead over to the wastelands with a gigantic circular blob over most of it with the words "Main Hive?" written in red.

"Strike anypony else as odd that no one wanted to poke at the research about an entire species?" Silver mused out loud, turning the page on it's side and scrutinizing it as if it could hold more hidden information. "If only for military purposes. Or diplomatic? Or fun?"

There were faint impressions on the other side of the page as Silver held it next to the light. Words, lots of words and some numbers. "Well... Most people thought they were just from this," She picked up a book with her horn magic. A well known storybook from Equestria and placed it on the desk. "Sorry for the mess, by the way. I wasn't expecting company. Come in, come in! I'll get this place cleaned up."

Chitter took one look at the cover and couldn't help but let out a small laugh that no one took her seriously all because Changelings are apparently 'creatures from a fairy tale', as it were. He merely shrugs as she apologizes for the mess though, "Its alright, this much research probably takes up a lot of space."

"Didn't Princess Celestia's student realize a millennia old legend and save Princess Luna based on what she learned from foal and old mare's tales?" Silver commented blandly, setting the page he was reading down. Honestly. It was things like that why so many trials and disasters caught the nation off guard. Particularly in the past few years. "Nightmare Moon, Discord, Mad King Sombra, all old tales proven real."

Looking Glass nodded intently, then froze as something flashed before her eyes. It was gone so quickly she didn't recognize it or couldn't describe it, but it still felt wrong. But somehow important. "Is it cold in here or is it just me?" She asked and went to the thermostat to turn it up a notch.

"Please tell me you aren't researching windigoes as well," Silver said after a pause.

"Well... Not yet anyways. Maybe a little in my spare time. Why do you ask?" Looking Glass asked. "It's jsut... Did anypony else feel that?"

Galvan remained silent, just listening in. He didn't get to know too much about the recent events here. In fact, he knew mostly nothing. Mainly because he wasn't really 'local', although he could recall some talks and discussions.

"No, I don't think so," Silver admitted.

Looking Glass shrugged and continued orginizing, getting the most important papers she'd need into her saddlebags along with some paper, pens, and pencils. "Anyways... I've been looking through some maps and the fastest way to get to the nest is to head through Ponyville." She said and pointed the area out on another map, along with a dotted line to show the best and easiest path for everypony.

"Are you ok Glass? Its not even cold in here" Bubble asked with concern.

"I just..." Looking Glass began then decided against sharing. "Nevermind. It was nothing. Anyways, are you all ready to go?" She asked.

"Im ready when everypony else is" Bubble looked at rest of the party.

"Ready and waiting, myself." Star said confidently.

"Obviously," Galvan replied.

Concerned about Looking Glass, Bubble focused his energys into looking for magic.

[detect magic]

Irbynx rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $7 + 9 = 16$ (Spellcraft Identify)

"...you okay there, you two?" Galvan asked, rising his eyebrow. One feels weirdness another one starts looking for magic...

Bubble was too fixed on looking for magic to hear Galvan's question.

[Beyond the use of the levitation spell, Bubble doesn't seem to notice much else.]

Bubble phased back into the room "Not magic" Bubble pondered.

"What wasn't magic?" Looking Glass asked and shook her head as she finished packing her saddlebags. With one toss of her head to get her mane out of her eyes, she headed to the door.

"Let's get to the train station." She said, opening the door and heading out.

"You know, I'm kind of looking forward to going to Ponyville. It's been a long time since we were last there. Maybe there's another zap apple harvest?" Star said, licking his lips.

"Never stops thinking with his stomach, this one," Silver murmured.

"Hey!" Star said, giving Silver a look. "Have you ever tried Zap apple stuff? That stuff is TASTY!"

"Blast coral is the bomb" Bubble joked "No really that stuff is the best thing south of equestria."

"Might try some. Is it hard to chew? It sounds hard to chew." Star said and Looking Glass chirped up. "Somewhat. Though most pony cuisine that uses it crushes it into a powder to add as a garnish. It has a bit of a spicy taste to it. So I hear."

Star nodded and followed the unicorn to the train station, getting his tickets.

Bubble followed Star close "Glass knows her stuff, not many ponies I know, know that Blast coral even exists."

Looking Glass blushed. "Thanks. It comes from being a Hippologist." She explained as she began getting tickets for the others and handing them out to everypony else. "The train should be here soon. She suppressed a yawn and checked the time.

"In a land of love, a brigade of armed and armored ponies boards a train," Galvan said to no one in particular, looking at the skies, "I hope we will have some space for us, otherwise everyone'd get really freaked out."

Chitter just laughs, "As if a bunch of ponies with a Changeling and Griffin wasn't bad enough; we have weapons too."

"Are you feeling left out Glavan? would you like a hug?" Bubble joked and put his forelegs around the feline bird.

When the train came along not long after, the group took one of the cars towards the back for some additional privacy. Their weapons were checked along with whatever luggage they had and the train was on its way. Looking Glass yawned as she looked at one of the seats. "Well... If you ponies *yaaaaaaaaaawn* Don't mind, i'm going to get some sleep." She stretched out luxuriously like some kind of cat, taking up most, if not all of the seat as she gently rested her head on a pillow, head tilted ever so slightly.

Chitter blinks a few times when he looked at Looking Glass's sleeping form, for some reason the way she was laying down REALLY reminded him of something back when he was much younger then now, but what?

"Good idea Glass" Bubble started to sing a lullaby.

[lullaby will check cus sleep is important :D also if yellow is ok with it silver would be more susceptible cus hes tired :3]

"I'll never understand how some of you ponies think," Silver murmured.

Grey rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 11+5

Galvan decided to spend his time on an unrelated to sleep activity of gun cleaning and maintenance. It didn't really need it, but he did it anyway just in case.

Chitter rolls his eyes at Bubble's... bubbiness when suddenly the lullaby hits him harder then a fright train with rocket boosters strapped to it. The next thing he knew he drops dead sleeping, what he didn't know was he fell down in front of Looking Glass with his head resting against her barrel in a somewhat uncomfortable position (thankfully his horn isn't poking her), hell his position as a whole looked uncomfortable and ragdollish, "zzz..."

Fenix S4 rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 1

Silver pulled out a long and very questionable object. It was supposed to be a quill, but the end looked rather dangerous, resembling the one that adored his flank. Lost in thought, he started scribbling down his ideas. Just to get his ideas aired out. He didn't know that much about Ponyville as a community, but as a town? A location? He jotted down and roughed out the area, comparing them of what he knew of changelings (he glanced over at Chitter curled up beside Looking Glass and smirked) and started coming up with places to look.

Grey rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 3+4 local 2:00 PM Ponyville is a town consisting mostly of earth ponies and was founded by them. Princess Twilight Sparkle lives there.

Grey rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 16+4 geography 2:00 PM Silver knows the most likely locations of the

Grey rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 14+9 *Arcana* They are a mysterious, magical race. They've long been considered to be the stuff of fairy tales, but they seem to have been proven wrong. They are insectoid and can fly, as well as mimic the appearance of most ponies they see. They feed on emotions, preferably love. They have a hive mind, though can

live without it. Much like ponies, they typically have a queen who leads the hive and is adored by her subjects much like Princess Celestia. There are two popular theories as to their creation. The first being that Stawswirl the bearded discovered an evil tree in an evil bog which ate a fly and pony skeletons, merging the two together. The other is involved in some versions of the creation myth. By that, I mean the creation myth of Equis itself.

Bubbles lullaby ended and he glanced at everyone, only Chitter was effected "Cuddlebug needs a cuddle" He scooted closer to the changeling, kicked off his wheel supports and lied next to Chitter.

Chitter makes cute changeling noises, because he's deeply asleep and can't do much else.

The trip was quiet for the most part. Star relaxed and began to read through a book that he had brought with him. After all, in the pitch black night there was no way anypony could see anything as the trip went towards the destination.

"Hey Star," Silver asked softly, low enough not to disturb the others. "How do you feel about this mission?"

"What do you mean?" Star asked, equally soft. "I think it's a good idea, but personally, I'm wondering why it's just us. Or do you think the Princess has other ponies helping out with this?"

"I don't know. I haven't heard anything about this before we were told, but look at the roster." Silver cast a glance at the others. "Two lunar ponies, a changeling under Night Court Probation, and two ponies from outside of Equestria. The pieces don't seem to fit well together."

"Maybe not yet," Star added. "It could fit later. I mean from what I've seen of them, Lady Applejack and Lady Rarity didn't get along at all when they first met." Star thought for a moment. "Maybe Princess Twilight would know a bit about these aspects of virtue? We'll be in ponyville anyways." He shrugged and closed his book after he marked the page he was on.

"I'm more than just getting along," Silver shook his head. "It's... if you don't see it, nevermind then."

"Well, I'll admit that we are an odd grouping." Star admitted. "Though I don't think worrying about it will do much good. Least not yet. Anyways, how's mom? Did she like the Hearth's Warming Eve gift I sent her?" Star wasn't talking about a mutual mother, but instead Silver's. A lovely mare. The same couldn't be said of his father.

"Tickets to Manehattan to see Spirit of the Opera. Very nice," Silver nodded. "Wouldn't stop talking about it for weeks. Way to show me up."

"What did you get her?" Star asked, happy that she had enjoyed herself.

"Spa and shopping spree."

"Always a good fallback," Star replied.

"Better than the perfume idea," Silver shrugged. "So much easier if I could just give her the bits. But she likes getting 'stuff'."

"I haven't met anypony that would object to stuff." Star chuckled. "Speaking of, is there anything you'd like for your birthday?"

Silver raised an eyebrow. "Bits."

"I stand corrected. Then again, you were always a bit of a weirdo," Star said with a smile on his face. "Case in point, you willingly associate yourself with me."

"You can use bits to get stuff. Likely more stuff than what the pony would have gotten you with said bits," Silver said. Considering how smart he claimed (and often proved) to be, it was baffling how often he completely missed the point of gift giving. "I met you when you were but a foal. You were so hopeless that I could naught but take pity on thee."

"As I recall, it was because I took a beating for you and landed in the hospital because of it." Star replied, tapping his hoof against his chin. "Then you came to my birthday party on the weekend! And fell asleep halfway though the night."

"Like I said, hopeless," Silver nodded.

"Our whole cluster of friends is hopeless, aren't we?" Star asked. "Well... Except for Mels."

Silver raised another eyebrow at Star. "You do remember I'm a noble, right? Of a great house, at that."

"And I was the first of Perfect Blade's pick for the Shadowbolts." He looked at Chitter, but didn't bring up the changeling in question.

"And I was on CSGU's board after graduation. Before the ennobling," Silver grinned.

Star thought for a moment. "You know, we should really try to give Chitter a slot somewhere to work with us..."

"... you do remember that he's technically part of Night Ops, right?" Silver pointed out. "You know, Night Shadow? The part of the lunar guard that does the recon and secret and covert missions and all?"

"He hasn't told me about that yet. I'll have to congratulate him! When he wakes up." Star said happily.

Chitter's ears twitches a little at the sound of ponies talking about him. He hopped they are good things, also what is he snuggling? Should probably wake up for a moment or two.

Fenix S4 rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: $19+6=I$ can hear you you know. you can hear bubbles breathing also :3

"I think we woke him up," Star said and looked over at Chitter. "Sorry about that."

Bubble yawned and opened his eyes "Good morning everypony."

Star looked outside the train window and saw Luna's glorious night. The stars made even brighter due to the lack of a full moon. To minimize the glare from the rest of the train's dim lights, Star pulled his wings up and looked outside as a shooting star streaked past. "Still going to be night for another... 4 hours, I think."

Chitter yawned and stretched a little, unsure of a couple of things involving his... nap? Wasn't long enough to be sleep. Eh, details, although the ones about why he was on the floor next to Bubble would be nice... right, need to say something! "Um, good evening? And its alright."

"That's good," Star said, turning from Luna's night. "By the way, you were staring at Miss Glass there pretty intently before you fell asleep."

Bubble scooted to where his wheel frame was and slid into it "Good night then i suppose, hay silver what was it like to work under lunas army? i've been meaning to ask for awhile" he flicked his fins and made sure the strap was done up properly.

"Huh? What do you mean?" Silver asked.

"Well i assumed you served under lunas army right?" Bubble shuffled.

"Yes, and?"

"Well i was wondering what it was like to serve for the princess."

"Nothing all that special about it," Silver admitted. "I'm part of the guard. Not even her personal guard. I do investigations and covert ops. I've actually related to her more since being elevated to nobility."

"Oh cool" Bubble swished his tail in the brease "is this ponyville?"

Chitter looks outside in the direction Ponyville could be seen if they were near the town, mostly to see if he could see the town. Considering they were rolling up to the Elements' hometown, he felt a few nervous pings of *really* wanting to shapeshift.

"Almost, yeah," Star said looking out as night began to fade away to be replaced by day. "Pretty similar since the last time I saw it..." Star mused, recalling the times he had gone down.