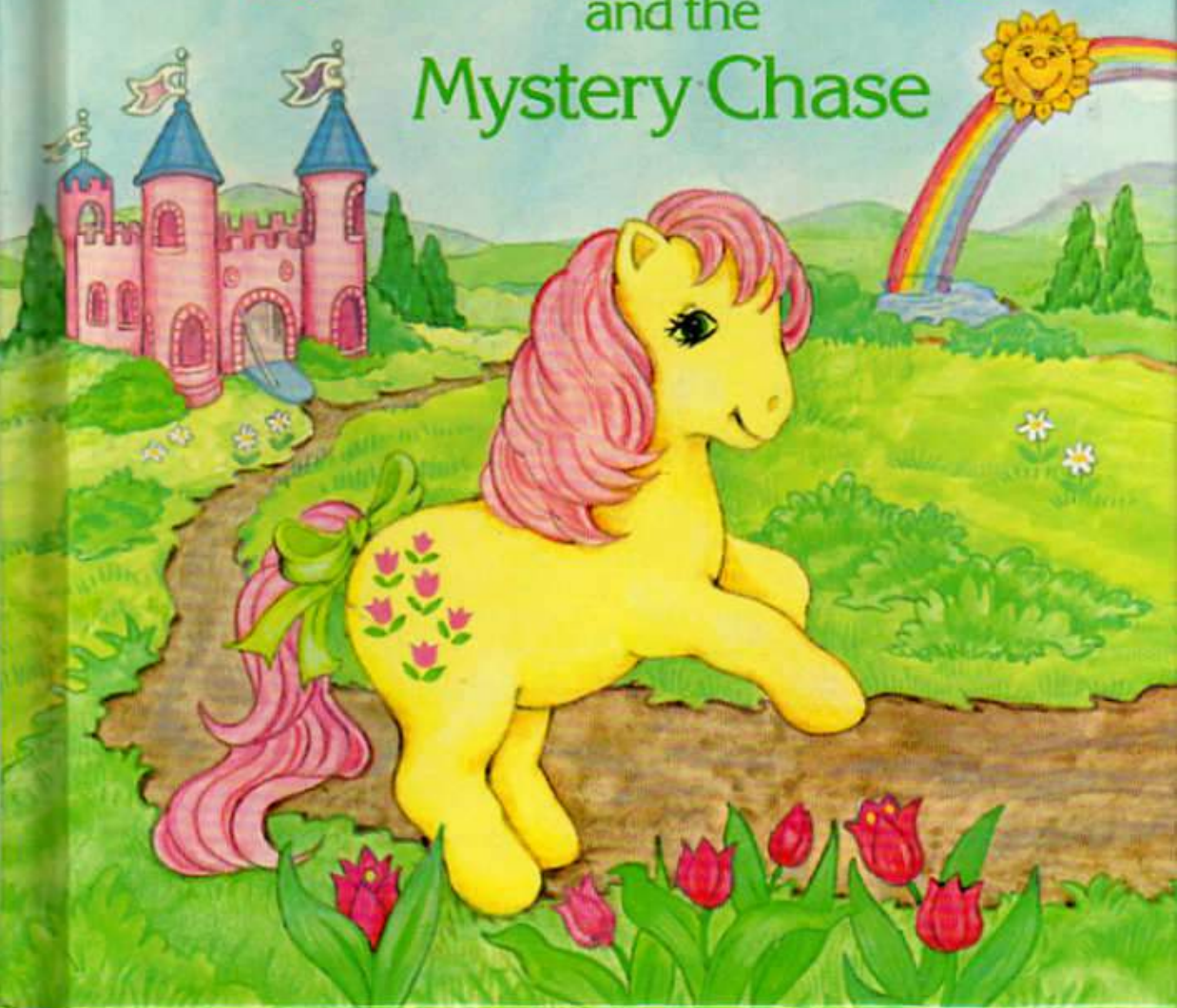


My Little Pony™

and the Mystery Chase








My Little Pony[™]

and the Mystery Chase

By Melinda Luke

Illustrated by Cathy Beylon

RANDOM HOUSE  NEW YORK

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It was a beautiful morning at the Dream Castle. The Little Ponies had a delicious breakfast of oats and molasses and went outside to play.

Posey gathered her tools and trotted off to work in her garden. Usually it was her favorite thing to do, but this morning Posey was unhappy.

"The ponies have forgotten that today is my birthday," she thought sadly. And it was true. No one had even said "Happy Birthday!" to her.



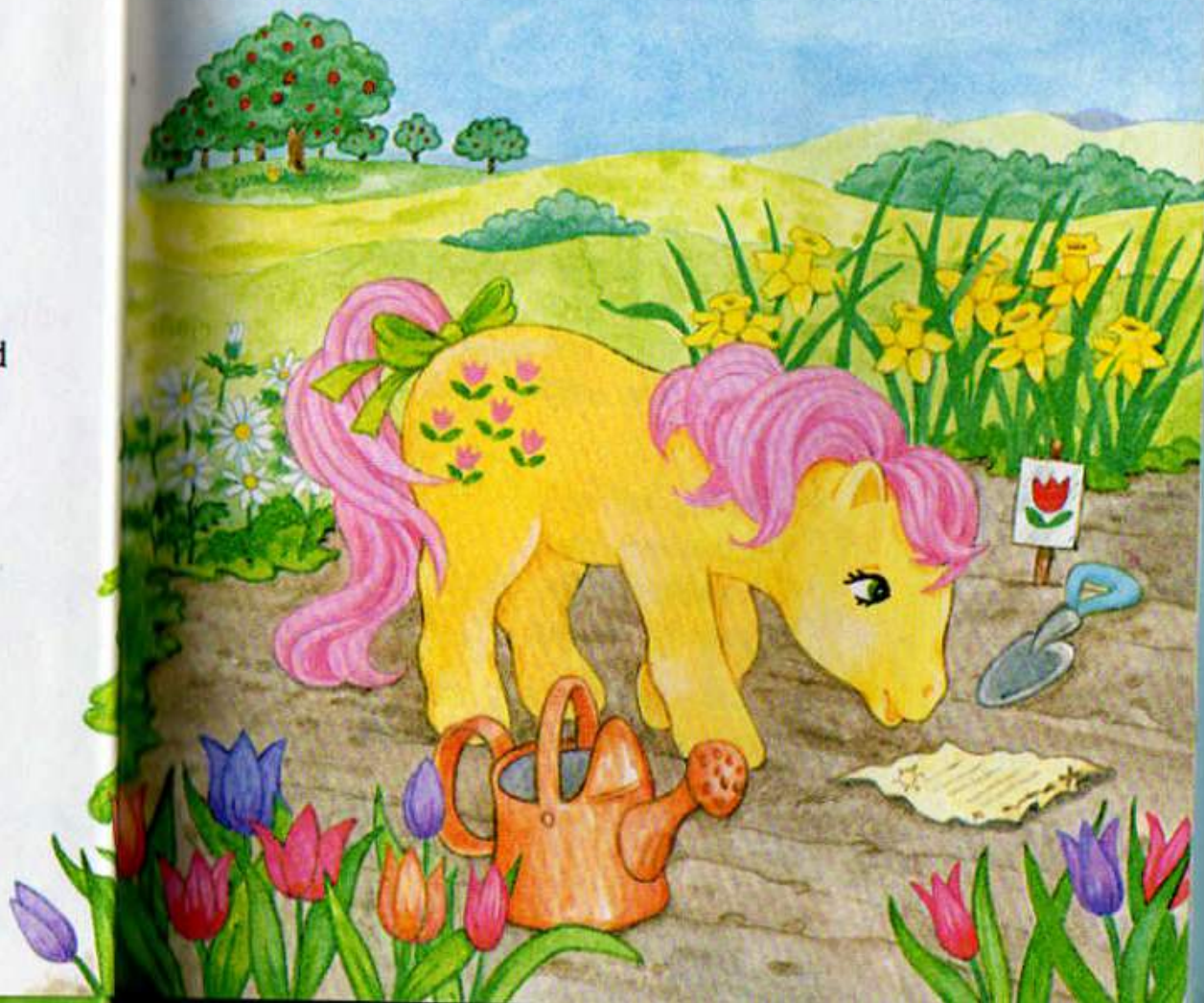
Posey tended her little garden carefully. She watered the daffodils, weeded the daisies, and planted more of her favorite flowers—tulips! Suddenly her hoof uncovered a curious-looking piece of paper. It was a map!

“What is this doing in my garden?” wondered Posey. The map was covered with odd signs and pictures.

“I found a treasure map!” she whinnied happily. It said:

A clue for treasure you will see,
If you look beneath an apple tree!

Posey folded her map and hurried off.

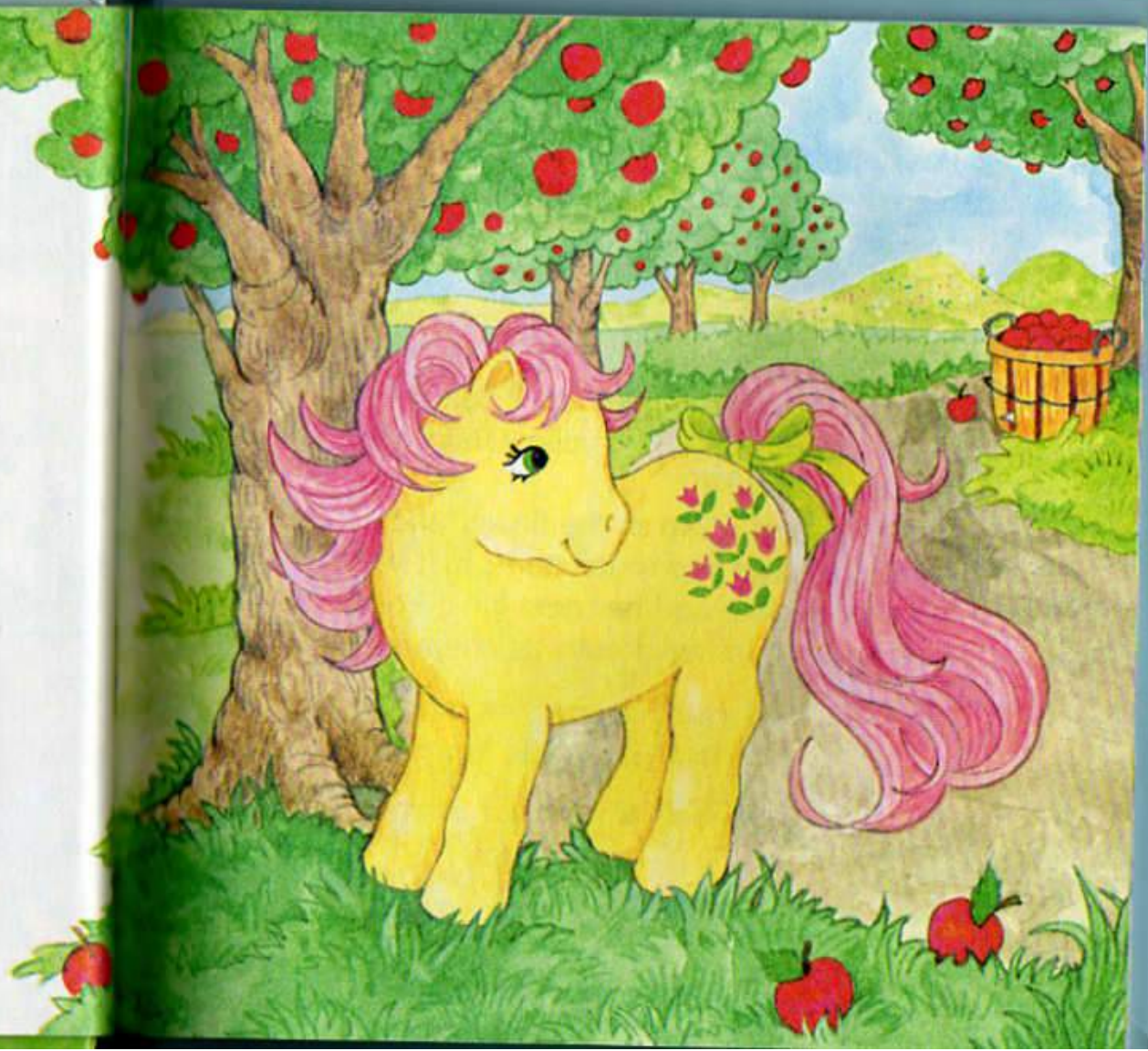


Soon Posey came to a small apple orchard. She went from one tree to another, searching for her next clue. Finally, in a far corner of the orchard, she spotted a bushel of ripe, red apples!

“These must be for me!” she said. When she had eaten the last one, she saw a note at the bottom of the basket:

Apples are red,
Berries are blue.
A yellow tulip
Is your next clue.

Posey checked her map and set off for a nearby hill where beautiful flowers bloomed.



Posey jumped a split-rail fence and cantered up to the top of the hill. All around her were pink, lavender, and white flowers—but none that were yellow.

"There must be a yellow tulip somewhere," she said impatiently.

"Did you say a yellow tulip?" asked a familiar voice. "There's a yellow tulip right here!" said Bow-Tie.

Posey peered down at the flower and saw a small package tied to its stem. In it was a lump of sugar—and her next clue! Posey let the sugar melt in her mouth as she read:

Bubbles, bubbles, big and small,
Now you must go to the Waterfall!

"Thanks, Bow-Tie!" she called as she hurried off.



"Come on in!" called Sprinkles as Posey trotted up to the Waterfall.

"The water's great!" quacked Duck Soup.

Just as Posey was about to hop in, she spotted a small pink bottle resting on a nearby ledge. "Pony Bubbles!" she exclaimed. "Let's take a bubble bath!" Soon they were surrounded by hundreds of floating bubbles!

"Look, everyone! There's a message on this bottle," said Posey. "It says:

'Your next clue soon will tell
If treasure hides in a wishing well!'"

"What does that mean?" quacked Duck Soup, but it was too late. Posey was galloping off to look in the wishing well at Megan's house!



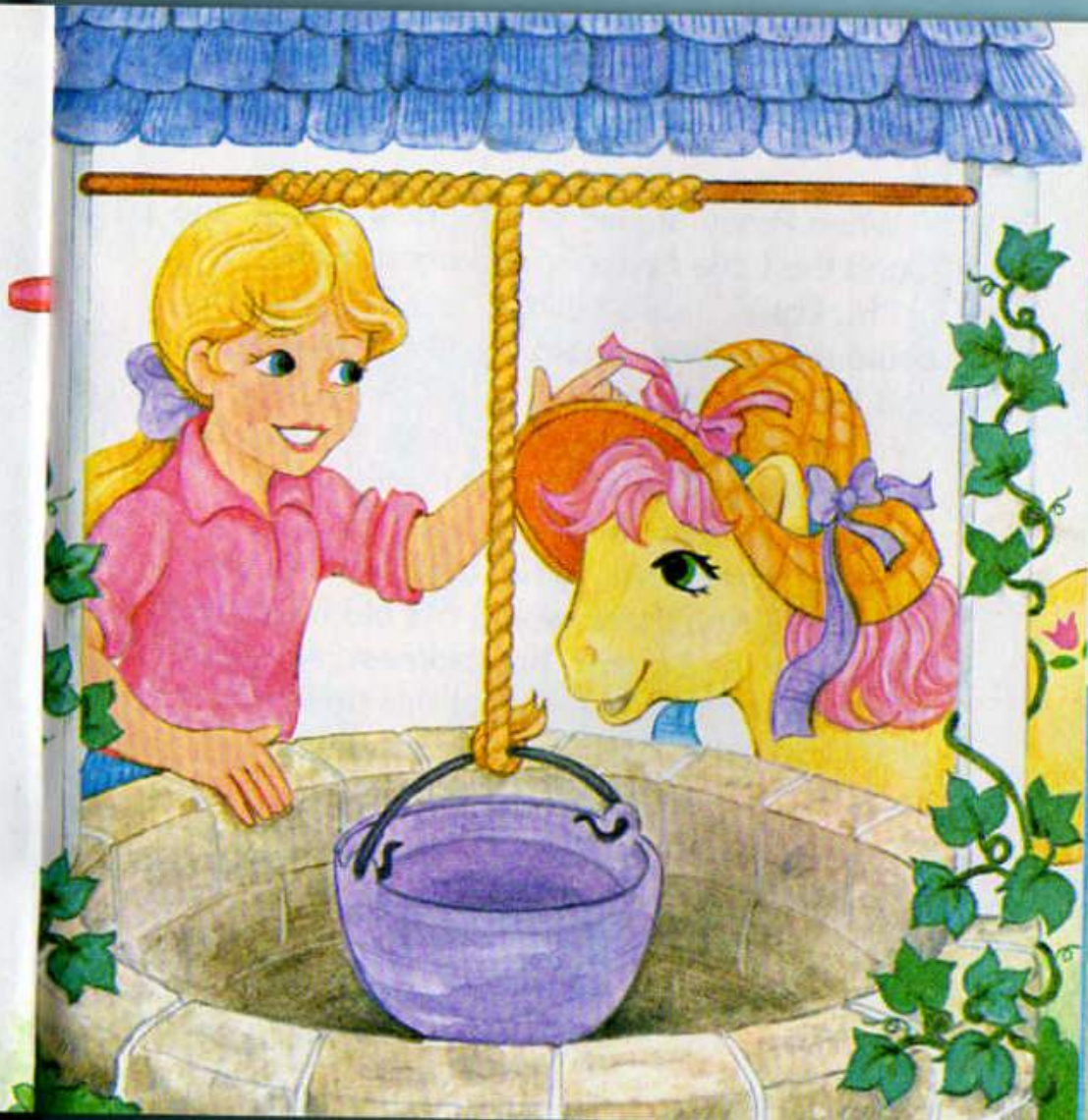
"Hi, Megan," said Posey as she trotted into her friend's yard. She explained that she was searching for treasure and showed Megan the map.

"It sure looks like our well," said Megan. "Let's have a look." She cranked the handle on the old well and brought up the bucket.

"Oh, my!" gasped Posey. In the bucket was a beautiful straw hat covered with pretty ribbons! Posey knelt down so that Megan could place the hat over her ears. "It fits perfectly," Posey nickered. "But I don't see my next clue."

"It's right here, silly," said Megan with a laugh as she plucked a note from the brim of the hat. "It says, 'Another clue you will gain, if you find a weather vane!'"

"That's easy!" called Posey as she galloped off. "It's at the Show Stable!"



When Posey arrived at the Show Stable, she found the Little Ponies' pet dragon, Spike.

"Hi, Posey," said Spike. "You look like you could use a good grooming. Come over here and I'll brush your coat."

"That would be very nice," said Posey, who hadn't bothered to brush her mane or tail since her bubble bath.

Posey trotted over to her tack trunk to get her brush. And there, where her old brush had been, was the biggest, handsomest, strongest brush she had ever seen! But this time, instead of a clue, there was only a message:

Follow the rainbow!



"Now what will I do?" wondered Posey.
"There is no rainbow outside, and there aren't any more clues!"

Spike brushed Posey's coat until it shone brightly. Then he trimmed her mane and braided her tail.

Soon Posey began to feel sleepy. "I think I'll have a little nap before I go home," she said to Spike. "It's been a long day."

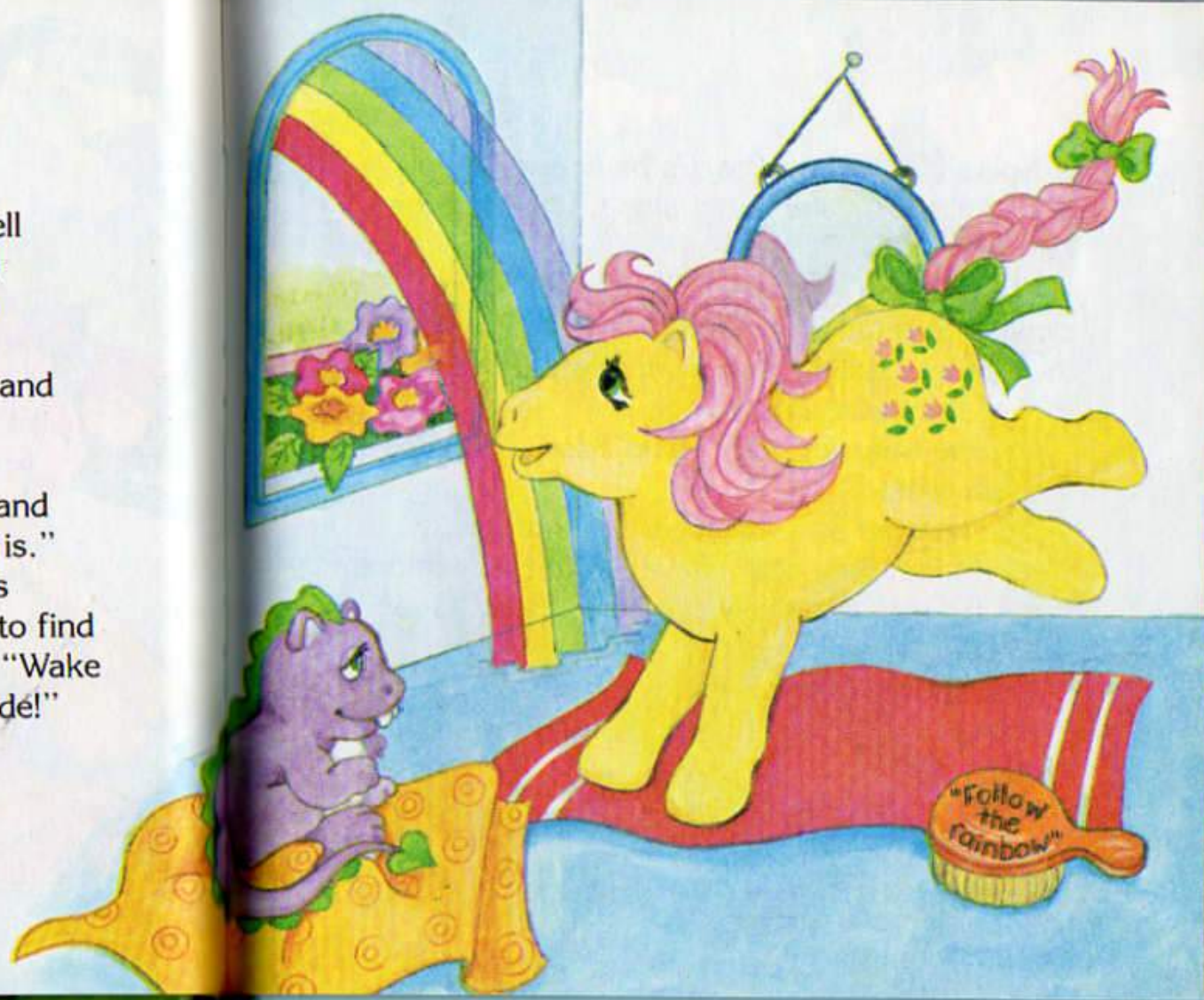


Posey lay down in her stall and soon fell fast asleep. Spike curled up on a blanket nearby and slept too. Soon a gentle rain began to fall.

Before long the sky began to brighten and rays of light fell across the little pony's face.

"Mmmmm . . ." said Posey, yawning and rubbing her eyes. "I wonder what time it is."

Suddenly she stood up. A rainbow was shining through her window! "I'm going to find my treasure after all!" she cried happily. "Wake up, Spike! Hurry! There's a rainbow outside!"



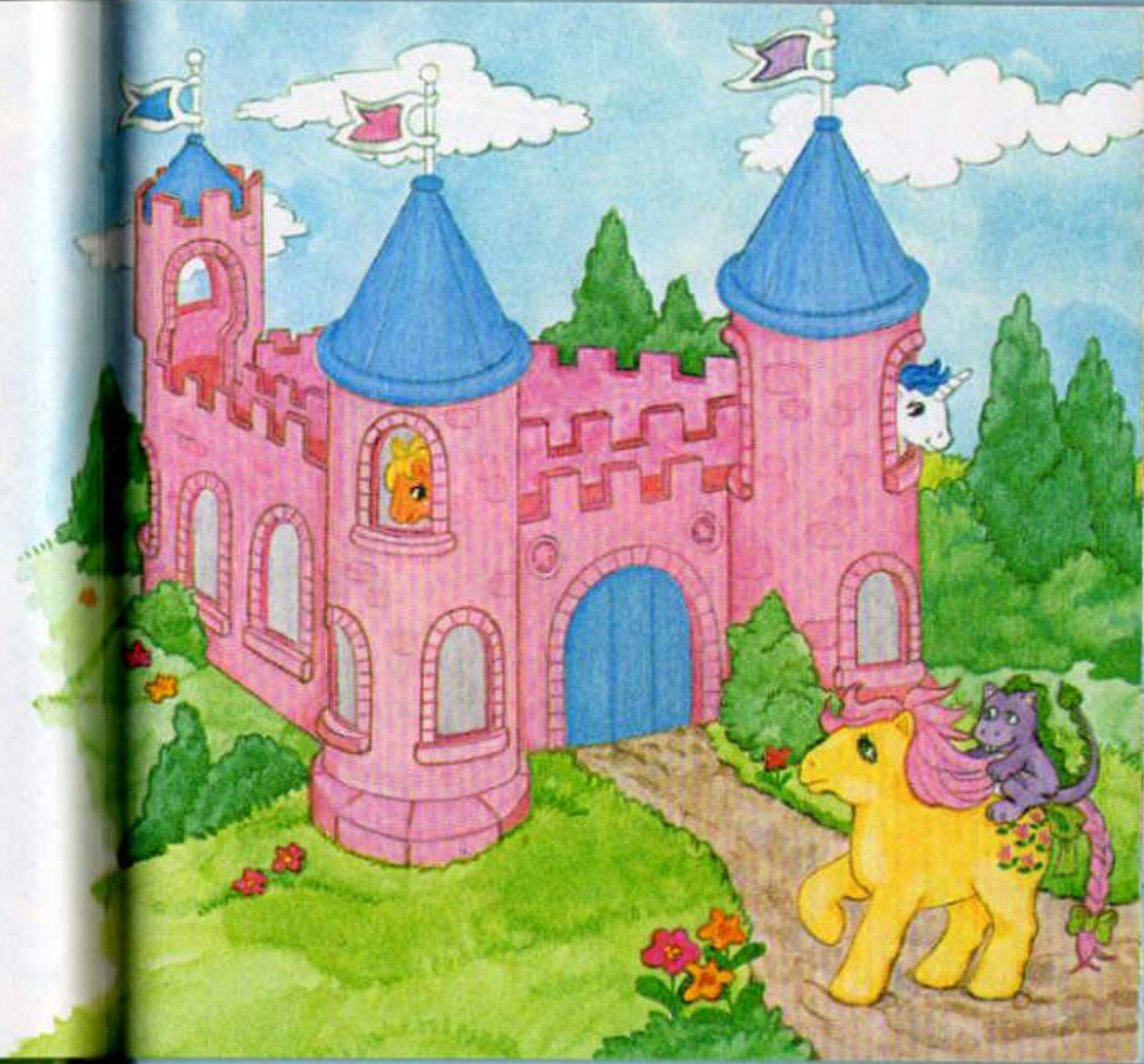
Spike climbed on Posey's back and clung to her mane as she raced along, following the rainbow.

"Something's wrong, Spike," said Posey, slowing to a trot. "The rainbow leads back to the Dream Castle." It stopped right at the foot of the castle drawbridge.

"Some treasure map!" said Posey. "It didn't lead anywhere!"

She snorted and stamped her hoof loudly. "You'd think they could have left the drawbridge down for me, especially on my birthday. Open up!" she whinnied loudly.

The bridge creaked as it was lowered. Spike climbed off of Posey's back and ran toward the castle.



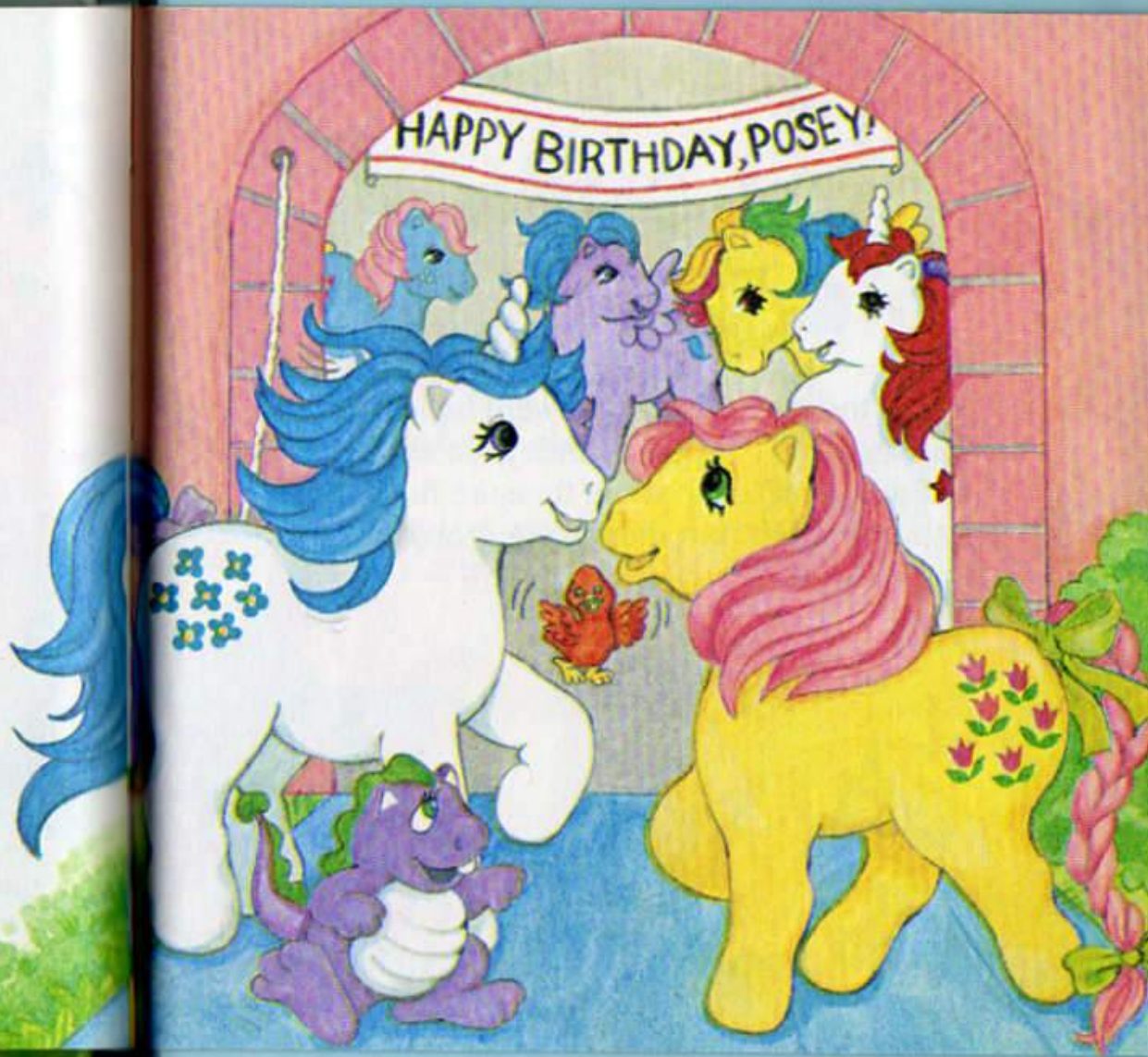
As the bridge was lowered, Posey saw all her pony friends gathered on the other side.

"Surprise! Happy Birthday!" they cried.

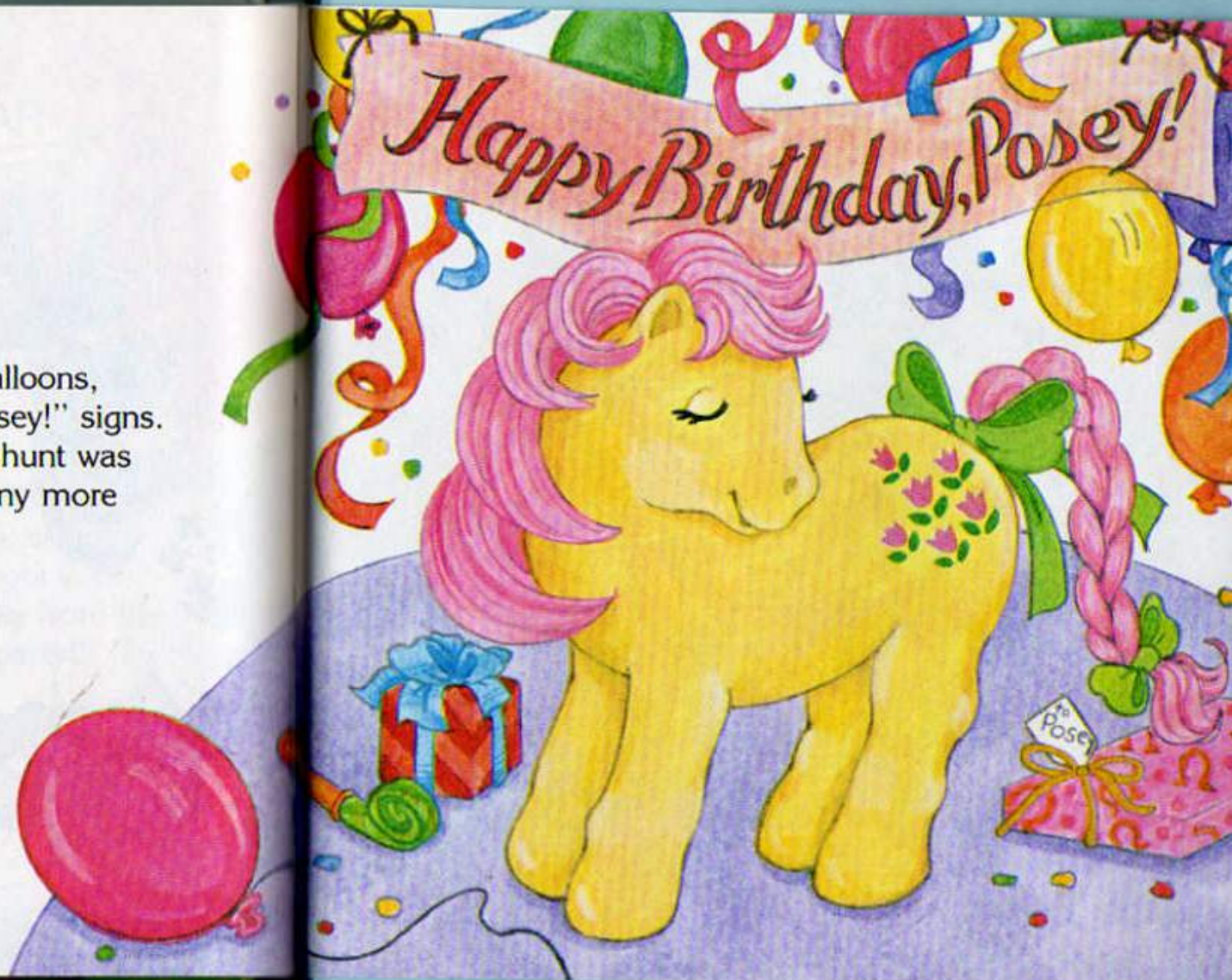
"We fooled you! We fooled you!" shouted Spike gleefully as he pranced ahead of her on the bridge.

"Oh, my gosh!" said Posey. "I thought . . ."

"We know!" Majesty said, laughing, as she led Posey inside. "You thought we forgot your birthday. But we had to keep you away from the castle while we decorated it for your party!"



Inside the Great Pony Hall were balloons, streamers, and "Happy Birthday, Posey!" signs. And Posey realized that the treasure hunt was only her first gift, but there were many more to come!





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