

Chapter 1

In which we determine the losers

Starry knew that his ears glowed when he used magic, but he'd hoped no one would be watching his ears since his cousin had control of the ball, and his older sister had broken her leg sliding into a Farmer boy last year. And all he wanted, was a little extra cushion between his leg and Rake's chest, currently barreling towards Marble Rocksmith.

Not surprisingly Rake Farmer still bowled through Starry, who was almost on the ground, on his side, when Marble, of all ponies, shouted out "Hey! No magikeeeef" Despite having been cut off by the blow, followed by the ground, followed by Hoe & Corn dogpiling on the much smaller filly, her cry did not go unnoticed.

"Y'all think those ears make you something special?" grumbled the eldest player on Farmer clan's team, Butternut. "You don't want to play by pony rules you can just sit out."

"I might, but our side is already outnumbered because no one else wants you to break their legs." Starry Skies replied, trying to stay calm.

And suddenly the whole field was filled with yelling. The Farmer ponies saying things like "Are you **still** all riled up about that?" and Marble trying to say "That was a freak accident" And Starry's other teammate, Damp Skies offering a snarky "They **did** pay restitution."

It was Starry's cousin Damp, that ramped things up though, pushing against Rake's rump saying "It's not like their clan can't afford to pay that again, though. And hey, your sister can nearly walk now, can't she?"

Each Farmer pony launched off into some angry angle about having only paid for a year's lost work, having paid at least a year's wages, or that none of the Farmer clan were weak boned enough to not have recovered already, or that if magic was used on the field before any legs were broken than clearly the freak was the cause of any miscalculation. The logic of Starry using his magic to somehow break his own leg during a game of mudball was daunting enough he didn't say more. Starry did levitate Rake and Corn away from his cousin who, while definitely escalating this rapidly towards violence, was his relative, and the Farmer boys were more like clients.

