

Hot Glowing Horseshoes

Chapter 1

Weak lighting was provided by hanging lamps from the ceiling, which shades seemed to be designed after the game, "Tower of Hanoi." It looked like that of a cone with staircase steps. These lamps light only illuminated the wooden tables they hang over. The table had little to show, at the moment, for the most part. Only a few tables had plates with food on them. One of these tables was near a window and two mares sat at it.

They sat in a horseshoe-shaped sofa and on the opposite sides of each other. They were both dressed in blue button-shirts with large point collars to them. Above this collar and on their heads, they wore flat hats with a black bent shade in the front with a golden sun emblem above that and on the hat itself.

One had holes in their uniform which their wings protruded out of. This pegasi just finished her meal by making the last strands of spaghetti crawl in through her mouth with a slurping noise. There was no more spaghetti on her plate now only tomato sauce stains.

The other mare, who was an earth pony, had ordered for a plate of bagels two to be exact. One was cover on top by pink frosting and sprinkles and the other was cover in chocolate sauce. Currently, the chocolate was being eaten by the mare, who had a light brown coat, dark brown mane, and green eyes.

They were similar in that way, she and the pegasus sitting face to face with her. She too had her mane in the same but darker color of her coat. Her coat was light blue but her mane was marine blue in color and it had a few midnight blue stripes running through her long hair. Her mane wasn't really long it was just a cut longer than the usual mane style for mares in general and definitely for pegasus mares who usually had short hair as not to bother them when they fly. Her hair was also straight. Straight as in not curly, not straight as in defying gravity. This was evident by how her hair fell down her head and followed it like water. Its pointy bangs reached her eyebrows and pretty much covered her forehead.

He tail was in the same style of being sleek and seemingly fluid. It was obvious that she combed and preened herself for that matter since not a feather was off in any way and made her wings look symmetrical and clean. The short of it was that she looked presentable.

Cutie mark three thunderbolts and a pedestal

Her body was thin but athletic as in that she had muscles on her limbs but they didn't look bulky. It was clear that her legs were surrounded by mostly muscles not fat. Fat was something that was low on in general on her slender body. It wasn't that she was malnourished. The fat on the end of her stomach could attest to that but at the same time, her abdomen was toned so that it displayed her rectangle like abs.

In contrast, the earth pony was a bit, while not fat, chubby and was way thicker around her hooves.

It seemed like she had a bit more muscle mass as well as tough.

The light from the lamp above was not the only light reaching their table consider they sat near the window. Outside the sun was setting painted a few lone clouds pink as the rest of the sky was bright blue. The sky was hard to see from where they sat through. This was because looking straight outside didn't lead the eye to any horizon but to a wall of skyscrapers across a road. To see the sky from where they say they had to press their faces against the glass and look at it in between the ceiling and the skyscrapers' tops.

The ponies in the city were also moving again. They had done their work for the day and where on their way home all at the same time. This street they were on only saw a ripple of the effect that had on other places in the city where traffic jams were commonplace. This, Ball Chain knew, the Earth pony mare who lived in the city.

She just finished her first bagel and began licking of the hoof that had been in contact with it as she asked the other mare, "So... What do you think of Manehatten so far?"

The other mare had been sucking up strawberry soda from her straw when she asked. At the time she had her eyes had been anywhere else but on her table companion. In fact, during their meal, no pony had said much.

However, she was glad that they finally were able to break the ice.

"It's a nice place," she reassured her, "I am just unused to how things works but that has less to do with this city and more to do with how unused to cities on the ground I am, I think."

Ball Chain didn't say anything about this as you pondered what she could have meant by that. The other mare reacted to her non-committal look like she needed to clarify her statement to avoid misunderstanding.

"What I mean to say was, "In clouds cities, we don't have things such as stairs and doors so it is unusual for me." Not bad just different," The pegasus mare said as she waved her hooves in front of her.

Ball Chain noticed the other mare's distress and laughed softly.

"Hehe, don't you worry about that. I wasn't offended. I was just thinking about it. And besides, this city has its drawbacks. I bet you don't have any littering in Cloudsdale, do you?" Ball Chain said.

The pegasus mares calmed down a bit as she heard this and even giggled into her hoof at the last part.

"Well, Cloudsdalehas their drawbacks as well I assure you," she said in response the other mare rolled her eyes. "But hmm, no we don't have any littering in Cloudsdale but it is not how you think. It is true that most things can just be tossed down to the ground but to do so is considered a very shameful act."

Ball Chain leaned forward on the table with her front hooves.

"Really? I have never been to Cloudsdale. Heard that is quite the experience for us non-pegasi."

One of the pegasus mare's hooves was swatted around in the air by her as she had a slight pink

blush on her cheeks. She was squirming in her seat like she was a bit bothered by the praise for her home.

"Oh, well. I am not them so I don't know if they feel that way or not." The other mare chuckled at her words and leaned back into her seat and put a hoof towards one of her cheeks. At this, the pegasus mare quickly added, "I'll admit that it is funny to see earth ponies and unicorns tourist as they take the tour through the rainbow factory. They act as young foals; gawking at everything."

"Yeah, I thought so. By the way that is what it means to be impressed. Just so you know," Ball Chain said with a shit eating grin.

The blush from before stayed on as involuntary grin etched itself onto the pegasus's face as she looked away.

"Yeah, yeah," she said.

The pegasus mare turned back to face her. She was going to say something to defend herself with. However, when she saw that her fellow mare held a hoof to her ear, she stayed silent.

She saw how her hoof touched against the golden and red gem earring that was in the earth pony's ear. The look in her eyes showed how she was listening to something very carefully.

After a while, she said, "Roger, see you there," and tapped the ruby-like crystal earring lightly with her hoof.

"I am called in to deal with a riot that has broken out on thirty-fifth Glass Blower street but I will take the route passed the station to pick up my guard armor." The pegasus mare stayed silent. Waiting for the other mare to take command. "You are coming with because it is important that get used to these kinds of things since they are a part of the job. However, you may leave after a while since I will be too busy to take care of you and so will everypony else."

"There is nothing simple I can do while you work?"

"I guess there is some minor task you could do but I don't think you really can help anyone. Having to direct you would only slow whoever pony that has to do it down. I think the best you can do since you can't be part of the wall is to watch closely. This is something you will have to deal with after all when you actually become a guard yourself on the day."

Ball Chain called over the waitress and gave her her pay and then left through the cafe. The aqua colored mare with wings followed her as they began walking at a quick pace.

The only edible thing left on their table was that pink iced bagel.

For a chubby mare, she sure had stamina. It might also be because the blue pegasi weren't as trained in her legs as she was in her wings due to her coming from Cloudsdale. In the end, she was the one who was huffing and puffing as they arrived at the guard barrier. The barrier was made by a row of Manehattan guard ponies. They wore black and purple colored armor, which was the specific color combination for the area, and held up large rectangular shields in front of them. These shields were held up by the ponies by having them bit down on the horizontal handle on its backside.

The chaos unfolding behind the barrier could not be seen by the blue pegasus since most of the guards creating it were taller and bigger than her. There were of a smaller size than the rest of the guards standing there like the mares but in those cases, the shields were too high for her to see over. The guards of her lower stature did not have this problem because the shields had windows in them which enabled them to see through their shields.

Regardless, she could hear the upheaval on the other side. The sounds of glass shattering, the rattling of flames, heavy accented voices shouting obscenities, and the ranging sounds of different things being thrown at the guards' shields. A brick flew over the barricade and landed in front of Ball Chain and the dark-maned pegasus. Too far away from them to surprise them as they saw it coming but still too close for comfort.

Ball Chain, now wearing the same black and purple guard armor the other guards that acted as a living wall was wearing, turned towards the pegasus.

"You see that black and purple carriage up there?—" Ball Chain pointed on carriage standing on the higher spot than her current position. "—That's the lieutenant's. He is in charge and therefore he must oversee things. From there you can see how we work better than you can here."

"Okay," the bright blue pegasus answered as she looks towards where she was pointing.

"I will go now. We will probably not see each other again before you travel back to Cloudsdale tomorrow so I just want to wish you, "Goodbye and best of luck."

Ball Chain reached out her hoof towards her and the other mare gladly accepted the hoof-shake and wished her best of luck as well before Ball turned around. She walked toward a covered wagon that had a bunch of shields stack in it.

The water colored pony began walking upwards towards the carriage she had been directed to. It was conveniently placed as one could see most of the guard enclosure from there.

She walked upwards on a small sidewalk to the buildings to her right, which to her right had a railing to prevent her from falling down to the street below from the cliff that forms as the incline in altitude did not include the street below. That street was also the one where the riot was happening.

She hadn't walked far up the hill before she stopped to look at the madness on the street. The guards seem to, at least from where she now stood, have sealed off any escape routes from the very large open street below by setting up shield barricades. They really did need the shields. The zebras since there was clearly no other type of participants in the riot were throwing bricks, pavement stones and glass bottles at the guards who stood still and took it.

But that was not all that these huligans did. There was a whole horde of them doing different things in different places. Some were setting things like carriages on fire. There were already a few that were burning in full blaze and in doing so lighted up the area. It was widely not un-welcomed on that front since the sun had gone down. The sky still shone in a light blue color but it was clear that it was brighter closer to the horizon where the sun had gone down than in the other.

Along with the high reaching flames from the carriages and the high tower of smoke they created, the zebras also broke into stores and other buildings taking whatever they could carry.

The only thing that didn't hurt the street in any way was infighting in the form of group versus group brawls.

In general, it was all kind of chaotic.

The blue pegasus was shocked at what she was seeing. Her eyes were large as saucers and her mouth was wide agape. And to add to this she also trembled slightly.

Are they out of their mind? Don't they understand that they are hurting the reputation of other zebras by acting like this? She thought.

She continued walking upwards. On her way up she saw a couple of guards discussing with a group of ponies standing close to the top near the railing. One of these ponies had white hair which tops were cute evenly and were equally done all around. The hairs in her coat were light blue, even lighter blue than the Pegasus herself, and she wore a black, wine red and white attire. To this, she had a matching pair of black framed and wine-red shaded glasses.

This pony the ponies with her had cameras either set up or with them.

As she passed by she overheard their conversation.

"Photo Finish, iz here to take photos.–" The blue earth pony swiped her hoof through the air over the street below. "–Ze will call it modern urban decay."

"We must ask you ponies to leave. You are disrupting guard duties with your presence because of this you endanger the lives of yourself and others. We must ask you to leave the premise," One of the guard ponies told her.

The blue colored pegasus arrived on the top of the hill shortly after. Up there were several ponies moving about. Some surrounded a map of the area which laid on a table and some others were leaving or arriving like she was. She didn't really have anything to do now that she was here so she decided to actually find the lieutenant in charge of the guard enclosure.

She looked around and found a pony that wore a simple blue uniform like herself and not armor. But unlike herself, his hat wasn't circular but shaped as an octagon and his uniform had a large sewn-on sun emblem mark with the text lieutenant above it.

He was standing with the other ponies around the tables with maps scattered on it. The map got marked by pen, which he was holding in his magic. His magic was also interacting with a magic device on the table from time to time.

It was constructed mostly by some golden metal and was designed as a box which propped up a flat crystal diagonally. The crystal's edges were framed in by the golden metal and the parts of it that were exposed were its flat and smooth surface. It was a ruby like crystal when it was seen. It wasn't easily spotted since it changed colors to display actual forms, such as rectangles with text messages in them.

The lieutenant interacted with it by having his magic aura surround its screen. Right, now his green flame like aura was covering the screen as he talked into a metallic old vintage microphone.

The green aura fitted his green mane not so much his yellow coat and red eyes. In one of his ears, a safety pin was stuck through acting as an ear-ring.

She was so close to him now that she heard him what he was saying.

"Fall back to the pizzeria," He said.

Our pegasus gal moved to the railing again to see if someone moved. They did. A line with about twenty ponies that completely block of any potential escape by taking a specific road was walking backward. There were about ten, maybe even fewer, zebras a few feet in front of them that taunted them and gathered up things that they could throw at them. When started to back the zebras moved after them, it looked more like the guards were trying to flee than the opposite.

The discrepancy in number became dawned on uniformed pegasi. The guards were, at least so far as the street below her was concerned, twice if not three times the amount that zebras were. Furthermore, the guards were all trained and equipped while only some of these zebras could compare with that. I guess most of them weren't weak but a quick examination of their bodies reveal that they weren't in such great shape either.

Why did he tell them to back up? Shouldn't we move in this situation? We would totally win? Our pegasus thought. Maybe... He is luring them into a trap.

She watched it for a while, expecting things to change but it didn't. The opposite happened the guards moved even more and the zebras felt invigorated and became even more daring in their assaults the guards.

No that doesn't make sense? We have the advantage, why would he need to trap them? So it doesn't make any sense. Why hasn't he taken action already?

She gritted her teeth and turned her head towards the stallion in charge.

What is going on?

She took a deep breath in and out before she walked over to the lieutenant. He hadn't noticed her approach until she spoke up.

"Lieutenant, sir.—" She saluted with her hoof. "—Why haven't you moved in yet? We have the strength in numbers so what are you waiting for?"

She let out more than she wanted her frustration on him. This was not on purpose since didn't want to antagonize him because he was technically her superior and that he might actually have reasons for his actions. Those reasons were of interest to her but she couldn't fathom what they could be.

His looked turned dark at her words.

"Who are you? Name your rank and name?" He said.

A look of realization appeared on her face.

"Oh, of course. My name is Silent Thunder. I hear from the Wonderbolt academy on an internship," Silent Thunder said.

He began glaring at her.

"I don't have time for some know-it-all trainee. Who told you it was okay for you to be here? I have more pressing matters to attend to. Get out of here!" he growled.

A few nearby guards who had witnessed their interaction motioned for her to leave. She was about to protest but didn't instead she let herself be lead out.

She began walking down along the same sidewalk she came up from with her head down low. On her head, a blush had appeared and she looked a bit dejected.

Was I wrong to comment on it? I guess I simply don't have the experience to comprehend the situation.

She stopped and looked at the chaos again.

I don't know. I just think we could do more. That we should do more... That I could do something else but just stand here...

He eyes, which had been lingering on the chaos but nowhere, in particular, caught something. A door to a building swung up and out came four figures: One mare and three zebras. Two of the zebras were dragging her along. The third push her from behind.

She struggled against their grip but it was fruitless. She tried to buck the on behind her. It wasn't a strong kick. It was clear that she didn't usually buck things, which could be explained by the fact that she was a unicorn. The only thing she got in return was that the zebras in the back returned fire in the most excessive way, by pushing her out of the grip of the two others and relentlessly start striking her face multiple times.

He backed away shortly after with a pissed off look. The other two zebras had grins on their faces liked this was a really funny joke.

Due to pegasus having great long-distance sight, Silent could actually see their grins from where she stood. Their sadistic grins.

Silent was shocked. Her jaw hanged lose as rope swing and pupils dilated. Her eyes trembled with the rest of her body.

The three zebras encircling the mare a with bloodied mane and tears in her eyes, who was howling, were only a couple of several feet away from one of the guard blockages. They had a clear view of everything yet they didn't move.

One of the zebras pushed her over on her stomach while another one walked up behind her. She member was already dangling from his legs anticipating what's to come.

Silent's shocked had passed. She no longer trembled due to shock but because of rage. Her teeth were clenched hard together and a growling sound echoed up through her throat and passed teeth and out her open mouth.

She dragged a hoof against the ground and without thinking about it she slapped herself on the head.

She stepped up on the railing with her front hooves before she hooped up on it completely. While up there she launched herself up int the air with a flap of her wings.

Her body was propelled to go flying almost straight up by her own launch. She breaks against the speed when she soon after hitting a certain height, then she moves her wings back against her body. This caused her to freefall straight down. As she was about to reach the street below, she flared out her wings again change the direction of the speed she was carrying.

The zebra didn't know what hit him. One second he was lining himself up for sex the next something flew into him from the side. That something was pair of back hooves, they hit his shoulder, and made him fall to the side along with the attacking pegasus.

Silent's speed and momentum had not all gone into her kick because she had barely missed him and as he fell to the side she continued forward. In the end, she "landed" by rolling on the asphalt ground to a stop.

She, however, got up on her legs as fast as she came to a stop and looked for the mare she had come to rescue.

She had created a distance between herself and the zebras and the mare.

The still standing zebras looked stunned as they watched their leader who was on the ground holding onto his shoulder with an expression of agony on his face.

Their confusion over their situation disappeared passed before Silent managed to do something with it. When they got over it, they began to look at her with angry scowls on their faces.

Silent had a determined look on her face as she saw the mare she just saved from rape look at her with pleading eyes.

She was about to charge again when she saw that one of the standing zebra's expression changed from enraged to that of fear as he looked past her. She was about to turn around to see what he was watching when a large, clearly a stallion, guard pony in purple and black armor ran past her.

All the zebras even the one who laid on the ground began to run away, that zebra halted a bit though when he did so.

Silent turned around and saw that the guard hadn't come alone. Several others had broken up from their formation and clearly uncoordinated run towards the rioting zebras. However, most guards stayed in their formation. It was only like a third of them that didn't.

Silent flew up into the air to see what would happen. What she saw made her feel warm inside her heart.

The zebras didn't even put up a fight. They all immediately turned tail and ran.

A few minutes later the riot had stopped.