

"Do you want to be an alicorn?"

Ah, that question.

Arcade Carpet had been expecting it for a while, though he didn't expect to be hearing it in the wee hours of the morning, standing next to Celestia as she raised the sun.

"Mm... What good would come of that?" Arcade Carpet mused, tilting his head as the sun peeked over the horizon, and Luna's moon slowly receded away.

"You'd make big waves amongst the princesses." Celestia responded, chuckling slightly under her breath.

"Ah, but that's not why you're offering, is it?" Arcade Carpet teased, looking up at his tall wife.

She hummed, "Of course it isn't." She admitted, closing her eyes, "You've been growing in some grey hairs recently." Celestia said, turning her head to look at Arcade Carpet.

"You're afraid that I'm going to die, aren't you?" Arcade Carpet proposed, raising a brow at the sun princess.

Celestia bit her bottom lip, a frown gracing her gentle features, "Is... it bad to be afraid of that?"

"Of course not." Arcade Carpet replied, "Your fear is not unfounded." He raised a hoof to scratch at his chin, fuzzy with black stubble between his dark purple coat.

"I've thought about asking you," Arcade Carpet continued, pushing his glasses up to rub his right eye, "But then I think, what would my purpose even be, if I were an alicorn?"

"You're the princess of the sun, of justice, Luna of progress and the moon, Cadence of love and the Crystal Empire, Twilie of Friendship. All of you have a purpose in this world, but... What would I do?"

"I'm sure we could figure something out for you." Celestia mumbled, her eyebrows furrowed slightly,

"You're missing my point, Celestia." Arcade Carpet said, gently, leaning into Celestia.

"Being an alicorn comes with a lot of responsibility, and it comes with a lot of downsides, too."

"I don't want to be immortal, frankly. I love you, and I'd love to spend the rest of my life with you, but I don't want that life to be infinite."

Celestia frowned further, her eyebrows upturning as she looked down towards Arcade Carpet, "But.. What will I do when you're gone?"

"What did you do before you found me?"

Celestia looked towards her sun again, seemingly thinking about it deeply, "...This." She tilted her head a bit, "And this is lovely, but..."

"It's so much sweeter when it's with you." She sighed, her magic slowly dissipating as the sun finally rose completely over the horizon. From

there, Celestia's sun could move on its own, and she continued to stare at it.

"I love watching it come up with you too." Arcade Carpet hummed, "But, you know, I'm not the only pony in Equestria who would want to watch the sun rise with you." He pointed out, "And who knows, maybe the next pony to watch the sun with you will be our foal, when we get around to it."

Celestia looked down at Arcade Carpet, still frowning, "Cade, I..." She swallowed, her eyebrows furrowing once more, "I don't want to watch the sun rise with anypony else." She insisted, her smooth voice warbling slightly, "I just can't imagine it."

Arcade Carpet reached up to her, and Celestia brought her head down so he could cup her cheek with his hoof, "I know it'll be difficult, Celestia. I know, but I want to grow old with you by my side. I always dreamed of finding somepony to be with me when I went, and.. I found one."

"We might not be together for eternity, but we'll be together for a lifetime, and isn't that just as wonderful?"

Tears welled up in Celestia's violet eyes, and she placed her hoof on top of Arcade Carpet's, leaning into his touch and allowing herself to cry. Arcade Carpet pulled her in for a hug, stroking her mane with his free hoof as the larger mare cried into his shoulder.

"Maybe one day I'll change my mind, but... For now, I just want to spend my finite life with you."

"I'll stay with you for as long as you'll have me." Celestia sniffled, still speaking in her formal cadence despite her vulnerable circumstances, and that made her husband chuckle, the sound rumbling through his chest.

"I'll have you for a long, long time."