The Girl and the Moon Cat
Ebru Mina TOMURCUK

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Lily lived in a small house at the edge of town. Her room had a big window that looked up at the night sky. Every night, she watched the moon and wished for a friend. Her honey-blonde hair curled on her pillow, and her blue polka-dot pajamas felt soft and warm. She often felt a little lonely, but she never stopped wishing.

One night, a silvery light slipped through Lily's window. It was a moonbeam, shining like a ribbon of sparkles. Lily sat up in bed and rubbed her big hazel eyes. Something was coming down the moonbeam! It was a cat with glowing silver fur and a long fluffy tail. Its tail had a crescent-moon tip, and its golden eyes shone like lanterns.

The moon cat landed softly on Lily's fluffy pink slippers. 'Hello, Lily,' it said in a warm, purry voice. 'I am the Moon Cat. I travel on moonbeams and deliver dreams to children.' Lily gasped. 'How do you know my name?' she asked. The cat twitched its whiskers. 'I know all the children who need a friend,' it said with a smile.

Lily's eyes grew wide with wonder. 'Would you like to come with me tonight?' asked the Moon Cat. 'We have many dreams to deliver.' Lily nodded so fast her star hair clip almost fell off. The cat wrapped its glowing tail around her, and suddenly they were floating up the moonbeam. Lily held on tight, feeling like a feather in the sky.

They landed on a cloud that felt like cotton candy. The Moon Cat opened a tiny silver bag full of sparkling dreams. 'Each dream is a little story,' it explained. 'We give them to sleeping children so they have happy nights.' Lily peeked inside and saw dreams that looked like tiny glowing bubbles. 'Can I help?' she asked. 'Of course!' said the cat.

The Moon Cat showed Lily how to catch a dream bubble and send it floating into a child's window. Lily's first dream was a bubble that shimmered like a rainbow. She guided it gently through the window of a sleeping boy. The bubble popped softly, and the boy smiled in his sleep. 'I did it!' Lily whispered. The Moon Cat purred proudly.

Night after night, Lily and the Moon Cat delivered dreams together. They visited children in tall apartments and small houses. They sent dreams of flying dragons, friendly dinosaurs, and magical gardens. Lily's blue polka-dot pajamas became her dream-delivering uniform. She never felt lonely anymore, because she had a friend and a wonderful job to do.

One night, the Moon Cat looked sad. 'Lily,' it said softly, 'I must leave soon. The moon is calling me to travel far away.' Lily's heart felt heavy. 'But you'll come back, right?' she asked. The cat's golden eyes were gentle. 'Not for a long time,' it said. 'But remember, true friends are never far apart.' Lily hugged the cat tightly.

Lily tried to be brave. 'Will you forget me?' she asked. 'Never,' said the Moon Cat. 'Every time you see the moon, think of me. And every time a moonbeam shines through your window, know that I am thinking of you.' Lily wiped a tear from her cheek. 'I'll miss you,' she whispered. 'I'll miss you too,' said the cat.

On the last night, they delivered dreams one more time. They sent a dream of a friendly dragon to a little girl, and a dream of a starry sea to a baby. Lily gave each dream an extra sparkle of love. The Moon Cat watched her with shining eyes. 'You are a wonderful dream deliverer,' it said. 'The children will always remember your kindness.'

As the moon began to set, the Moon Cat stood on the windowsill. 'It's time,' it said. Lily hugged it one last time. 'Will I ever see you again?' she asked. The cat touched her cheek with its soft paw. 'Whenever you need me, look at the moon. I will be there.' Then it leaped onto a moonbeam and began to glow.

The Moon Cat climbed the moonbeam higher and higher until it was just a tiny sparkle. Lily watched until it disappeared into the moon. She felt a warm glow in her heart. She knew their friendship was strong enough to cross any distance. She touched her star hair clip and smiled. 'Goodbye, Moon Cat,' she whispered. 'See you in my dreams.'

That night, Lily had a wonderful dream. She dreamed she was flying on a moonbeam with the Moon Cat. They delivered dreams to children all over the world. When she woke up, she felt happy. She looked out her window and saw a tiny sparkle on the moon. It winked at her. Lily knew it was her friend saying hello.

From then on, Lily never felt lonely. She knew the Moon Cat was out there, traveling on moonbeams and sending dreams. Sometimes, she would see a moonbeam shine through her window and find a tiny star-shaped mark on her pillow. She would smile and whisper, 'Thank you, Moon Cat.' Their friendship bridged the distance between them.

Lily learned that true friends are never far apart. Even when they are miles away, they stay connected by love and memories. She also learned that dreams can bring people together. Every night, as she snuggled in her blue polka-dot pajamas, she sent a special dream to the Moon Cat. And she knew the Moon Cat was sending one back to her.

So if you ever feel lonely at bedtime, look out your window at the moon. You might see a silvery cat with a crescent-moon tail and golden eyes. It might be delivering a happy dream just for you. And remember, true friendship bridges any distance, and dreams can bring us together. Goodnight, and sweet dreams!