MR. SKUNKY LUKE: NIGHTLIFE
The Little Girl in the Plasma Tunnel

The night had been unusually peaceful in Whiskerville. No PERMA agents. No shadow creatures. No ancient portals.

For once, Dragocat simply watched the city from the rooftops while the moon reflected across the quiet streets.

Then he heard something. A faint cry. Not from the city. From beneath it. His compass began glowing blue.

Dragocat followed the signal toward the old Plasma Tunnel, the mysterious passage beneath Whiskerville that had once been used during the escape of Auren and Xavier from Dr. Sanders.

The tunnel had been sealed. Or at least, it was supposed to be. Dragocat landed beside the entrance and heard the voice again.

"Hello?" He stepped inside.

A tiny flashlight beam appeared around the corner. A little human girl stood alone in the darkness. She couldn't have been more than seven or eight. She looked up at the enormous, winged cat. For a moment, neither moved.

Then she whispered: "Are you Dragocat?"

Skunky blinked. Apparently, his reputation had reached the human community.

The girl explained that she had been exploring with her family near the old tunnel entrance when she saw a strange blue light. She followed it, became lost, and couldn't find her way back.

Dragocat gently lowered one wing around her.

"Don't worry," he whispered. "You are safe now, I've got you."

The compass suddenly flashed. The tunnel walls began glowing. Something had activated it.
The old Plasma Tunnel wasn't dead.
It was waking up.

Farther inside, they discovered Auren and Xavier trapped behind a failing plasma barrier.

They had returned to investigate strange energy readings, but the tunnel had sealed itself around them.

Xavier looked at Dragocat, frightened. And he never was frightened.

"You picked an interesting night to visit." Skunky smiled.
"We got a signal. We thought this had been sealed from Dr. Sanders."

"Apparently not. thankfully this little one was here, you both could have died. And you both might of mentioned you'd come by."
"Sorry, our work just gets us so into it, we get um, what's your word, sidetracked?" Xavier chuckled.

Skunky nodded and chuckled.

Dragocat glanced at the little girl. Then at the unstable tunnel. Then back at Xavier. His expression said everything. We need to get everyone out. Blue magical runes appeared beneath his paws.

Auren helped stabilize the plasma field while Xavier guided the girl toward the exit. But the tunnel began collapsing.

Dragocat spread his wings. The little girl climbed carefully onto his back and held onto his cloak.

"Ready?" Skunky asked.

She nodded. Dragocat launched. He flew through the collapsing tunnel with Auren and Xavier following behind, blue plasma exploding harmlessly around them as the ancient passage shook.

Just before the entrance collapsed, Dragocat burst into the night sky.

The little girl laughed.

For her, the most frightening night of her life had suddenly become the greatest adventure she had ever experienced.

Her parents were waiting outside. The moment they saw her, they ran forward and hugged her tightly.

The little girl turned back toward Dragocat. "Will I see you again?"

Dragocat smiled.

Then he spread his enormous wings.

"Maybe," her mother whispered.

The Guardian rose into the moonlit sky.

Auren watched him disappear.

Xavier smiled. "Everyone knows the legend."

Auren looked toward the little girl. "Now she does too."

High above Whiskerville, Dragocat returned to his rooftop.

The compass had stopped glowing. The Plasma Tunnel was quiet once again. But Skunky looked down at the city and noticed something he hadn't seen before.

A small child standing in the street, waving at the moon. He raised one paw. Then disappeared into the night. Because sometimes the Guardian didn't have to defeat a monster.

Sometimes...

he simply had to bring someone home. 


PLASMA TUNNEL
AUTHORIZED ACCESS ONLY
WELCOME TO
WHISKERVILLE
Where Friends
Live, Adventure
Never Ends