

The Moonlight Unicorn

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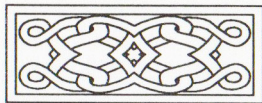


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Once upon an eternal moment on a tiny planet in a distant galaxy, there awoke a Moonlight Unicorn. As the last sleep of dreams faded she smiled, remembering memories of love locked deep in her heart. She had been asleep for a very long time, so long that time had ended. Now there was the eternal moment, a timeless time that she wished to share with her memories.

The cool, sweet night wind blew through her mane as she raised her head to a starry sky. The silence of space called to her. She did not understand but a feeling of peace gave her courage. In the distance an owl hooted while the leaves of the old tree she awoke under whispered. She started down a narrow rocky path then suddenly a wildcat screeched and she sprang into the air.



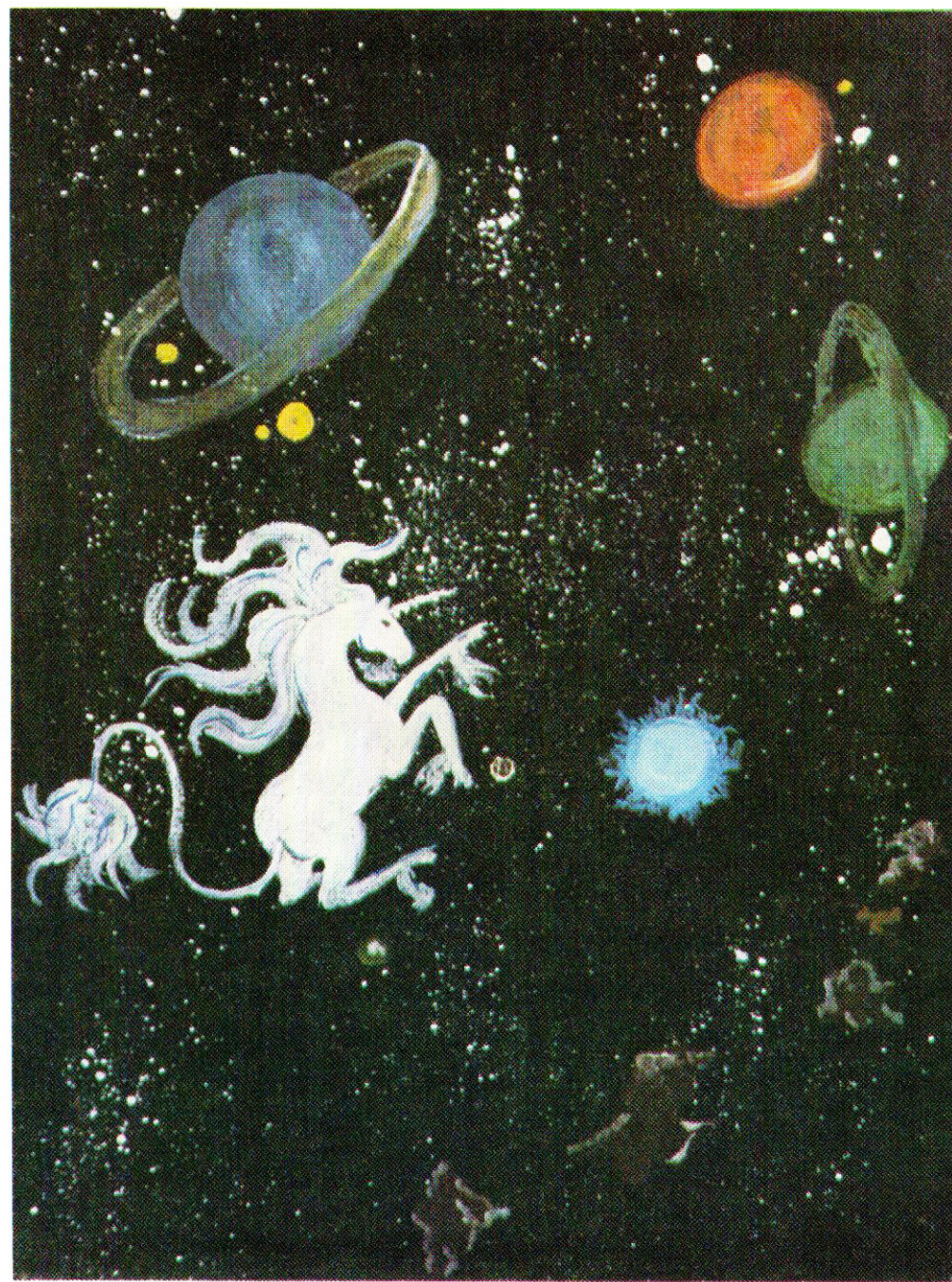
Up into the black velvet night she felt herself rise. The stars twinkled like diamonds all around her. Higher and higher she rose until the tiny planet she had awoken on looked like a green and silver marble floating in the ocean of outer space. A wonderful sense of freedom filled the Moonlight Unicorn as she realized space was not a boundary for her now but a large place for her to explore. So many thoughts filled her mind, but they were crowded out by her memories.

She knew the journey that lay ahead for her was a journey of her heart. Her eyes could not show her the way; instead she must listen to a quiet inner voice to guide her. For five heartbeats she remained quite still, listening, then moving faster than the speed of light, she flew toward a blue star that called to her in the distance.



As she sped through the silent universe, she passed many fascinating sights. Galaxies hung in brilliant colors against the black canvas of space. All were filled with many, many stars. Some of the stars had planets dancing around them. What wonderful adventures awaited her on those planets? The Moonlight Unicorn dreamed as the comets pulled her with their long, glowing tails.

Finally she drew close to the blue star. A warm tingle of excitement swept over her. She knew she was close to something special. She headed directly for the star, gliding past its system of rainbow-colored planets. Some looked like huge hot air balloons while others were smaller and harder, like the little marble-faced planet she had awoken on. As she watched and danced around them, she suddenly noticed a thin belt of icy rocks tumbling over each other. The huge rocks formed a thin ring around the blue sun. As she watched them tumble she noticed movement on one large rock. Two tiny flickers of white appeared. The Moonlight Unicorn's heart jumped and she moved toward the rock.



Dashing and playing on the rock were two delicate little unicorns. When they saw her they cried out "Mother!" The Moonlight Unicorn's heart cried out as she flew toward her children. The three unicorns danced around each other, kissing and nuzzling. "We have been waiting for you Mother. We knew you would find us!". "My little girls," the unicorn cried, "I have missed you so much." Memories of her love surrounded her children, holding them close to her. They felt safe and warm, then the Moonlight Unicorn felt the blue star call. "I miss the others too!" she said. "Let's hurry and find them."

With a dash they sprang from the giant rock and headed toward the blue star. As they drew closer, the blue star grew larger and larger. It hung as a giant fireball, frightening and beautiful. The little unicorns trembled. "Can we really go into it? It looks so dangerous." The Moonlight Unicorn smiled. "We are light unicorns now, it will not harm us." she said.



The blue star felt like a cloud of warm energy. It swirled around them bouncing them back and forth gently as it pulled them closer and closer to the center. "Who is here Mother?" the little unicorns asked excitedly. "Oh someone we will be very happy to see." she said.

As they reached the center, they saw a rainbow ring of light and seated majestically in it was a strong young unicorn. As the others approached, he pranced happily back and forth. "It's our brother!" the little unicorns cried out. The Moonlight Unicorn remained silent, for her eyes were full of tears.

They danced and kissed and let the giant blue star toss them for hours. They talked of a distant past and of what lay ahead together. Then an emptiness overtook the Moonlight Unicorn's heart, and she knew she must go on to find one more dream.



With her children close on her heels and only her heart to guide her way, the Moonlight Unicorn moved toward her little planet once more. Perhaps to end at the beginning was to begin again. Her dreams clouded her thoughts.

A beautiful blue star rose to light the tiny marble planet as the family arrived. It was followed by a giant red star that turned the sky pink and purple. Silver rivers and pink ice mountains sparkled, and a thick dark forest of green carpeted the lower lands to the silver sea. The unicorns watched as their mother soared and landed near the giant old tree in the mossy knoll she had awoken in. All were silent, waiting. Suddenly a handsome unicorn appeared from around the tree. The Moonlight Unicorn watched him, trembling with memories of love. The children remained motionless. The handsome unicorn walked toward her and gently touched his muzzle to hers. They both began to cry. "It's our father!" the children whispered.

"You had just left when I arrived." he said. The old tree whispered it. I waited for you to come home." The Moonlight Unicorn shook her cloud-like mane remembering a lifetime of joy. "You always knew me so well." she said.

