

Astro-Kitty

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Astro Kitty

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Aged 10

Published by Saronti Ltd

<https://www.saronti.com>

Facilitated by Clare Ford

At SwitchedON!

<https://www.switchedonglobal.com>

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FIRST PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 2024

Chapter 1: Violet and Astro

“Meow, I’m hungry” yowled Astro while rolling on Violet’s keyboard.

“Not now Astro, I’m busy working on a science project. The science fair is tomorrow and I still don’t have a project,” said Violet, trying to stay calm. She wished she’d had more time, but it was hard because she’d had to take a part-time job to help her parents pay bills, and as a result it left her with no free time.

Violet is not a typical teenager, she’s a bit quirky: she has straggly, walnut hair, she is 5ft 2 inches tall, wears glasses and adores science; she’s an inventor and builder, but nearly everything she builds or invents explodes! BOOM! BANG! CRASH!

One thing that did work out was a cat collar that translates Astro’s thoughts or meows into human language. Astro isn’t a typical cat either, she is super smart (most of the time anyway), looks like a tiger, has a unique marking of a heart on her chest and has a very long tail.

Unfortunately, she is still annoying and can't help saying things like: “I really shouldn’t have eaten that spider earlier, urh!”

Or this: “ The answer for B7 is 4825 km.”

But I guess that one isn’t that annoying.

Astro is a wonderful cat, Violet's family bought Astro so Violet would have someone to keep her company and happy.



Chapter 2: The Black Hole

The next day, Violet was in bed and Astro was trying to wake her up.

“ Get up, my breakfast is normally in my stomach at 9:00 it’s 9:01. Get uuuppppp!” Astro said impatiently while sitting on her face.

It was no use, she was never going to get up, so Astro sped across the room and leaped up onto her desk and skidded across the keyboard. The laptop made a funny noise. Wee....woo.

Astro noticed a small black hole in the corner of the room that she had never seen before. She was curious - but not that curious, her stomach needed filling first.

Astro sprinted towards the bed and jumped onto Violet, who was still asleep. She sat on Violet's head and gently bit her nose. She nudged her, scratched her cheek, leg, arm and stomach. Nothing seemed to wake her up!

Just then, Astro heard a strange noise coming from the corner of the room where the black hole had appeared, WHOOSH! WHIZZ! She quickly turned to look at it. Staring at the hole, she noticed it was five times bigger than before. She started to get a bad feeling about it and all of her fur on her back stood upright.

Astro quickly turned to Violet and bit her ear really hard and screamed "Violet! Wake up! I'm scared! Please! Something strange is happening!"

"Ow, Astro, what are you..." snapped Violet while sitting up and rubbing her eyes.

"HELLO! EARTH TO VIOLET, VIOLET. HELP!" yelled Astro as she turned to look at the black hole again.

Violet froze in horror as she looked up and saw the black hole which was now ten times bigger. The hole was whirling and swirling.

Books, files, clothes, shoes, water bottles and anything that wasn't secured down was being pulled through the black hole.

Even the bed had moved towards it! Astro was hanging onto Violet's T-shirt and Violet was gripping the bedhead. Then bit by bit it got darker and darker until it went completely black.



Chapter 3: The Other Side

Jonny stood staring out of the window of his dad's shop, grumbling to himself, "Why do I have to be here today of all days?" He looked down and kicked over a small box full of bouncy balls, scattering them everywhere. He huffed and started to tidy up. He thought to himself: it's not fair, everyone but me gets to go to the most important baseball game of the season but I suppose it's my fault for breaking the window.

All of a sudden, a deafening noise came from behind the counter.

SWISH! SWOOSH!

The black hole appeared and all manner of things started flying out: socks, shoes, books and even a half-eaten slice of pizza which hit the newly-painted wall behind him. It was bedlam!

Jonny crouched down, and covered his face to protect himself and all his muscles tightened with fear.

What on Earth was that? he wondered. Is this the end of the world? Then there was an ear-piercing screeching and wailing, followed by an almighty CRASH!

Jonny sat in silence waiting for something to happen and it felt like forever, but only a few minutes had passed. He opened his eyes and picked up the courage to creep towards the counter. Feeling anxious, palms sweaty, he peeked around the side of the counter. There in a heap what he thought looked like a cat and no, it couldn't be, a human?

The cat stirred and Jonny jumped up in fear and hid behind the counter. The cat opened its eyes and tried to stand up, falling to the floor. Jonny automatically rushed to help the cat. "Here, sit down," said Jonny, picking up a stool. The cat moaned "Thanks but where's Violet and where am I?" she stared at the ground, confused.

"What's your name and where are you from?" asked Jonny "I think you're okay" he continued. "Who's Violet? Is that the human?" Jonny asked in anticipation "I've never seen a human before. I thought they

were only from fairytales.” He was concerned that the cat wasn’t well as she wasn’t answering any of his questions but he tried to be patient.

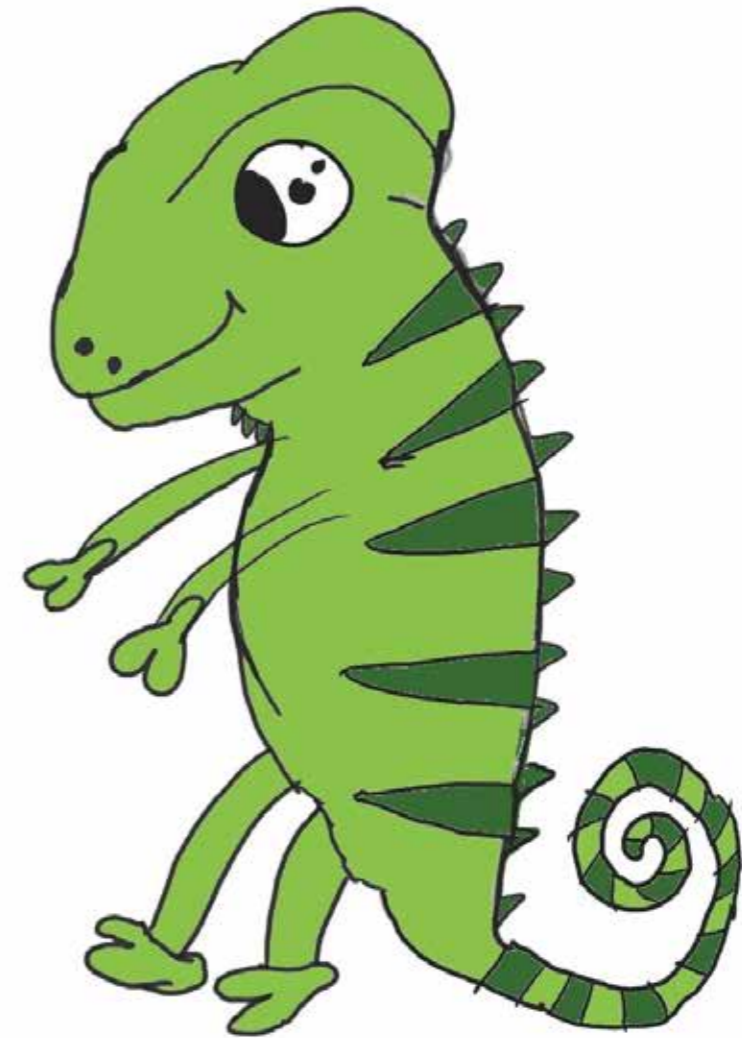
“My name is Astro and my owner is called Violet. I think I’m okay, I just ache,” wheezed Astro. She looked up and saw Jonny. “What!?! Are you a talking chameleon?” asked Astro, looking at Jonny in amazement.

“Yes, all animals talk on this planet.” replied Jonny.

After some time, Violet opened her eyes to see Astro talking to a chameleon. Was she dreaming? She looked down to see she had been wrapped up in a blanket. Her head hurt and it felt sore. She lifted her arm up and touched her face. She saw blood on her fingers and let out a little whine.

Astro stopped talking and turned to Violet. “It’s okay, we’re in safe hands,” she said. Astro moved and sat beside her. “ This is Jonny the talking chameleon and he’s going to help us get home,” she explained.

“You should both rest now and I’ll go and get some food and a bandage,” explained Jonny softly. Jonny came back with boxes full of food, pillows, blankets, water and clothes.



Chapter 4: The Plan

Jonny woke Astro and Violet up. They sat at a little table which Jonny had found in the back of the shop from the previous owner. They ate while discussing the plan to get Astro and Violet back home. They had food that looked like vegetables but tasted of chicken, Violet thought. It was very confusing but both Astro and Violet agreed they liked it.

Jonny explained that on this planet no one eats meat. Because only animals live on this planet, they don't eat each other. "I'm glad you liked it, I can't imagine eating someone, what is it like?" asked Jonny curiously, while pulling a face.

"Just like this but a lot tougher," answered Violet, staring down at the food.

Violet looked at Astro, who had her face in the food making grumbling noises, which told Violet that Astro liked it more than she thought.

"We need to make a plan so we can get home," Astro splurged while stuffing her face full of food.

"I think we only have one choice," stated Violet looking at Astro, "and that's to try and find or make a spaceship!" Violet shook her head and continued... "Finding another black hole that will take us back to our world is a one in a trillion percent chance and I don't fancy our odds, do you?"

She turned towards the window which she couldn't see out of, but didn't want to show Astro and Jonny how upset she was. She wiped away a tear from her eye with her cuff. Astro sensed that Violet was upset and moved to sit on her lap, nudging Violet's chest to help cheer her up. "I'm sure we will get ourselves out of this mess, we always do somehow," she whispered softly into Violet's ear. Violet smiled at Astro feeling a bit better, but she still thought it was going to be an impossible task.

"Mmm, I'm not sure about black holes but we have these things called wormholes and we use them to travel to places..." informed Jonny.

“REALLY?! Do you think we could use a wormhole to get home?” asked Violet inquisitively

“Well.....it might be possible. I didn’t think about it until now.” replied Jonny looking thoughtful.

“But we’ll still need a spaceship won’t we?” Astro questioned.

“I think so.” Violet replied.

“That’s agreed then! A spaceship and a wormhole it is!” confirmed Jonny excitedly.

They all nodded.

Like a lightning bolt, Jonny jumped up. “I’ve got it! I know exactly where to find a spaceship. The Transport Museum is across the road from The Thunderous Thumpers Baseball Ground.” he shouted in excitement. “I think they have an old rocket on display. Maybe you could use that?”

“But that’s stealing and we’ll get into a lot of trouble.” Violet said in a concerned voice.

“We have no other choice if we want to get home, Violet.” replied Astro. Violet nodded in agreement but wasn’t truly comfortable with the idea. Jonny was thinking of how they could get to The Transport

Museum without drawing attention to Violet. He wasn’t sure how the other animals would react to seeing a real-life, living, breathing human. “Wait I’ve got it!” he blurted. “Violet can’t be seen, right? Well, my friend, Olly the Orangutan is the mascot for our baseball team and he has a spare costume,” Jonny said helpfully “ And maybe Violet could wear that to blend in with the crowds.”

“Great idea!” said Violet and Astro together. “But how are we going to get the costume without Violet being seen?” asked Astro.

“I’ll call Olly right now and hopefully he can bring it here before he leaves for the game,” replied Jonny.

Astro, Violet and Jonny stood at the front door of the shop, hearts pounding with nervous anticipation. Violet couldn’t believe she was wearing a giant thundercloud costume with lighting bolts for arms and legs but both Astro and Jonny had assured her it looked believable.



Jonny turned the handle, fear running through his veins. “Here goes!” he said nervously. They stepped outside. Astro was also feeling nervous but she was trying not to show it. Violet was worried that she would be caught and she really wanted to hold Astro in her hands but knew that she couldn’t as she was pretending to be an animal in her thundercloud costume.

At that moment a voice came from a small crowd walking in front of them. “Hey you...cool costume dude!” A panda stepped forward and held up his paw for a high paw. The colour ran from Violet’s face but luckily it was hidden behind the costume. She held her hand up for a high five. “Thanks dude, let’s hope we win!” Jonny replied with a smile.

Violet was trying not to look at the animals in fear of being noticed. She suddenly stopped and gawked at the sights around her. There were colossal trees lining the streets and from the outside Violet could see animals in what looked like tiny windows. There was a part of the street with a huge vegetable patch with what looked like carrots, potatoes, peas and broccoli and there were flying bubbles for cars. Astro wished they had time to stop and take a tour of the city. Astro nudged Violet who then continued to follow Jonny.

There were lots of fans around and it was easy for them to get to the museum without any hassle. Violet felt sick with fear.

Up the steps and into the museum they went. No one was paying any attention to them. All eyes were on the fans, chanting and singing.

“And breathe,” whispered Astro. Violet let out a sigh of relief.

“I can’t believe we made it.” she softly whispered. Violet took a deep breath. Jonny was looking at a map of the layout for the museum, trying to work out where The Rocket could be.

“It’s this way, outside in the courtyard.” he whispered, pointing in the right direction. They paced to The Rocket as quickly as they could.



Chapter 5: Homeward

There standing in the middle of the courtyard was The Rocket. It looked mountainous! Astro's heart was beating faster as she pounced on the rocket's tail. Violet was panting and trying to keep up with Astro. Jonny seemed to be miles behind but Violet and Astro hadn't noticed. Violet climbed onto the rocket too and managed to open the door. Both Violet and Astro fell in. Astro landed on her paws but Violet landed awkwardly and let out scream. Jonny had caught up and was peering in at them. "Are you okay?" asked Jonny.

"Yes, I'm alright. Thanks." replied Violet, rubbing her side.

Violet and Astro jumped into the cockpit and in panic mode Violet shouted "I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TURN IT ON, ARHHHH!!"

Astro looked at Violet with a knowing look. "I think I do Violet, because you've read enough Space books for me to think I do know how to get us out of here." exclaimed Astro.

"Okay Astro, I'm trusting you but let me put the coordinates in for the wormhole that Jonny gave me earlier." spluttered Violet, looking at all the buttons.

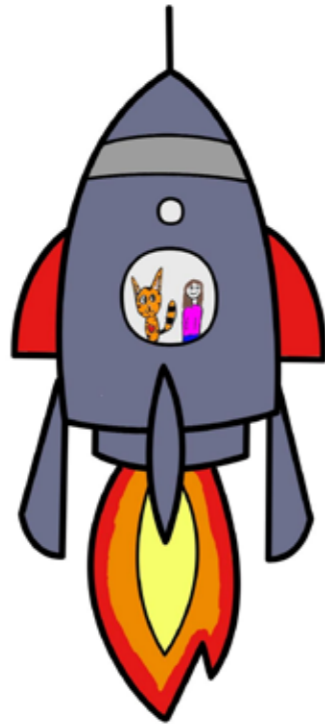
Hearts in mouths, they sat down and strapped themselves in. Violet could feel her heart pounding in her chest. She felt queasy.

"Ready?" asked Astro.

"Yes! I'm ready to go home." Violet spoke softly. Violet tapped the coordinates for the wormhole into the computer. She looked out of the window at Jonny and waved at him, wishing she'd said a proper goodbye. Jonny waved back and smiled. Astro turned and looked at Jonny too. She waved with both of her paws. A tear ran down her face as she pressed the launch button. Astro felt at home there and her whole body ached with sadness but she loved Violet too much to leave her.

The Rocket rumbled, the noise was deafening. Jonny had moved quite far back and then they had gone.

Violet watched the city get smaller and smaller as they went further up and away.



Sometime later, Astro woke up to the birds singing. She was hungry and went to see if Violet was awake. To Astro's surprise, Violet was up and sat at her desk making her science project. The project was a mini model rocket that had a cat and a girl inside and when you pressed a button, the rocket would take off.

"I wish Jonny was here" said Violet softly.

"Me too!" replied Astro, nudging Violet's head. "Maybe one day."



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SWITCHED ON!

Meet Violet and her cat Astro – who is not just any ordinary cat.

See what happens when Astro and Violet go on a special adventure where they meet Jonny, a chameleon.

Is Jonny a friend, or a foe?

Read on to find out more...