



THE COTTON CANDY QUEST

Mariana & Thiago

Mariana and the Polka-Dot Dragon's
Great Hiccup

September Twentyfirst



Mariana and her little brother Santana were building a magnificent fort out of fluffy blankets and pillows in their bedroom. While digging for more supplies in the toy box, Santana pulled out a glowing, golden key that shimmered like a fallen star.



Mariana noticed a tiny, mysterious door hidden behind a loose corner of the flowery wallpaper that perfectly matched the golden key. With a gentle turn and a soft click, the door swung open to reveal a tunnel sparkling with swirling stardust and lavender light.



The siblings crawled through the tunnel and emerged into the Cotton Candy Forest, where the trees were made of pink fluff and the grass felt like soft green frosting. They were greeted by Barnaby, a tiny dragon with bright blue polka-dot scales and wings that were just a little bit too big for his body.



Barnaby was crying giant, glittery tears because he had lost his magical Flame-O-Snack, a spicy pepper that gave him the power to fly. Without it, the poor dragon could only hop around like a clumsy frog, bumping into marshmallow bushes and getting stuck.



Santana tried to cheer Barnaby up by offering him a sip of his apple juice box, but the dragon let out a giant hiccup that filled the air with hundreds of shimmering bubbles. Mariana and Santana laughed as they chased the bubbles, which smelled like strawberries and sunshine.



Using her clever eyes, Mariana spotted a trail of spicy-smelling orange smoke drifting toward the tall Marshmallow Mountains. She took Santana's hand and led the way, while Barnaby hopped along behind them, still occasionally hiccupping bubbles into the breeze.



They found the magical pepper stuck high up on a wobbly jelly-tree branch, guarded by a grumpy but silly Tickle-Troll wearing a hat made of orange peels. The Troll declared that no one could pass unless they could make him laugh until his toes wiggled.



Santana told a silly joke about a banana, but the Troll only gave a tiny smirk. Mariana used her cleverness to tie her hair ribbon to a long stick, creating a Tickle-Wand that she used to tickle the Troll's feet until he rolled over giggling and handed over the pepper.



Barnaby nibbled the spicy pepper and let out a happy roar that turned into a shower of harmless golden sparkles. His wings began to glow, and he scooped Mariana and Santana onto his back for a gentle, soaring flight through the sunset-colored clouds.



The dragon flew them right back to the tiny door just as the moon began to rise. Back in their bedroom, the door vanished and Barnaby was gone, but Mariana found a single polka-dot scale on the rug, a reminder of their brave and funny adventure.