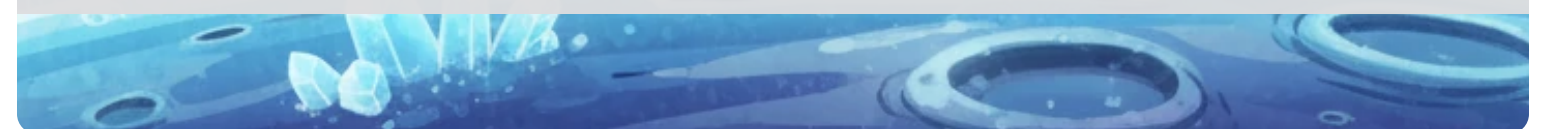




# Gigi and the Star Tiger

by Amber





On the shimmering planet of Lumina, Gigi, a small, purple alien with large, curious eyes, drifted through the night sky. She loved to explore, and her favorite pastime was stargazing, hoping to find something new. One night, her explorations led her to a broken-down spaceship, its metallic hull gleaming under the twin moons.



Intrigued, Gigi cautiously approached the crashed vessel. Inside, she discovered a frightened, striped tiger, unlike anything she'd ever seen. The tiger, named Stripes, was alone and very scared, his big eyes filled with tears, missing his home.



Gigi, with a gentle touch, comforted Stripes. She brought him food and they began to share stories under the starlight. Soon, their differences faded, and they became the best of friends, embarking on countless adventures together, laughing and sharing secrets, inseparable companions.



One day, Stripes' spaceship was repaired, and he had to return to his home planet. Gigi understood, but her heart ached with sadness. She waved goodbye as he soared into the cosmos, leaving her alone on Lumina once more, clutching a small, shared keepsake.



Years later, a message arrived from afar: Stripes was ill and wished to see Gigi one last time. Without hesitation, Gigi began a perilous journey through the galaxy. She faced cosmic storms and navigated treacherous asteroid fields to find her friend.



Finally, Gigi reached Stripes' planet. She found him weak, but a smile lit his face. They spent a final day together, reminiscing about their adventures. As the last star of the night rose, Stripes took his final breath, and Gigi, heartbroken but grateful for their time together, knew their bond would forever live on.