

GATOPIA

Tiberius' Bell (Part 1):
In the Human World

Written By: Nicholas Amodio

Nicholas Amodio

ESTABLISHING: EXT. LIONCLAW CASTLE - EARLY MORNING

A crowd of humanoid cats swarms through the front gates of a large, medieval castle. They are murmuring with excited gossip.

INT. CHAMBER OF JUDGMENT - EARLY MORNING

The nine leaders of THE NOBLE CAT CLANS (Lion, Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Lynx, Panther, Jaguar, Cougar) sit in a line of thrones at the end of the gloomy chamber. SPARKY, a striped green tomcat, is chained before them with two large Lion Knights, posted at his sides.

KING MOSTAFA and QUEEN NADIA, two humanoid lions, enter the throne room. The other eight leaders raise their tails and turn in respect. Sparky does not move.

CAT HERALD

Tomcats and Mollies! His and Her Feline
Majesties, the King and Queen!

Trumpets start to play as Mostafa and Nadia ceremoniously walk to their thrones. As they arrive at their central thrones, the leader of the tiger clan, TIGRO, approaches.

TIGRO

Your esteemed Majesties.

MOSTAFA

Hello Tigro. (shakes hand with Tigro)

TIGRO

I want to apologize for all of this. I had no idea my furball of a son would ever plan to do something like THIS.

NADIA

(places hand on Tigro) It's alright, Tigro. You did the right thing by bringing him to us.

MOSTAFA

Greetings, Mollies and Tomcats. We are here today to tend to a grave issue. The attempted theft of our sacred Bell of Tiberius. For those who are unaware, this green furball-Sparky of Tiger Clan (points at Sparky) tried to steal the sacred Bell of Tiberius (takes out Tiberius' Bell). The Bell that contains all 9 powers of our majestic cat species. Lion, Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Lynx, Panther, Jaguar, and Cougar. (Puts Tiberius's bell back into his Royal Sack) Tigro, stand forth!

Tigro stands forward as the cat citizens watch him.

MOSTAFA

Tell us how Sparky attacked you.

Tigro faces the crowd.

TIGRO

Good afternoon citizens of Gatopia. Last night, I went to check on the King and Queen when I heard a commotion from inside their chambers. I went inside to see if everything was alright. (Points at Sparky) That's where I found this little furball holding Tiberius' Bell. (Points at his eyepatch) He attacked me, his own father, and left me the foul scar beneath this patch. But that's not all. He even attempted to break Tiberius' Bell.

The cat citizens are shocked and gasp in fear. A baby kitten bursts into tears and hugs his mother as she hugs him tighter.

SPARKY

(yelling) This is all a bunch of lies coming from THAT big furball's mouth! How can you believe even one of his-

MOSTAFA

Enough! You haz already caused enough grief. I don't know what vile thing was going through your head, but I think we've heard enough.

Mostafa produces his Royal Sack and pulls out a Purrtal Sphere, a golden artifact shaped in a cat's head with two purple gems as eyes. He produces a purple portal to the Human World and puts the sphere in the sack. He hands the Royal Sack to Tigro, who passes it to his henchman DOM, a slender cat who is often oblivious. Tigro whispers instructions to Dom, who looks confused by what was said. Dom returns to his post by the Tiger Clan Throne and holding The Royal Sack.

MOSTAFA (cont'd)

Mollies and Tomcats, I haz no choice but to give Sparky the death sentence. I haz to send this disgraceful furball to his ultimate demise in the Human World!

The citizens gasp. The other cat leaders are shocked with some dropping their jaws. Tigro smirks at Mostafa's decision.

SPARKY

WHAT, NO! NOT THE HUMAN WORLD!

MOSTAFA

Tigro, give me the Final Feeding Sack.

TIGRO

Dom! Sack!

Dom hands Tigro the sack from his hands. Tigro then hands the sack to Mostafa, who then gives it to Sparky.

MOSTAFA

(looks at Sparky) This is on you, Sparky. You asked for this.

Mostafa throws Sparky into the portal as the citizens watch. Tigro grins.

SPARKY

(as he falls) You're gonna pay for this, father!
I'll be back!

MOSTAFA

Catso and Dom! Come forward. Bring me The Royal Sack!

CATSO, a squat clueless henchman, and Dom make their way towards Mostafa, checking their fur pockets for the sack. Catso finds Sparky's Final Feeding Sack and, mistaking it for the Royal Sack, tries to throw the white sack from his tail to his hands. The sack slips from Catso's tail to the ground and tiny red sardines start flying out all over the floor. This causes the citizens, Mostafa, Nadia, and the other Cat Leaders to gasp. The Royal Sack, containing Tiberus' Bell, is missing.

DOM

Uh... (picks up a red sardine) sardine, sire?

CUT TO: EXT. STAR MART GROCERY; HUMAN WORLD - AFTERNOON

EXT. ALLEY OUTSIDE STAR MART

A purple portal appears on a wall above a dumpster. Sparky flies out and lands in the dumpster. Mostafa's Royal Sack flies out of the portal and lands on the top of Sparky's head.

SPARKY

Those dumb Gatopians. This is all my thieving father's doing!

Sparky grabs the white sack and opens it. He puts his hand inside and fishes out eight sealed letters, each addressed to a Cat Leader. He looks at them in confusion.

SPARKY

Wasn't this bag supposed to contain red sardines? (Realizing) Wait a minute. (looks at the letters with the Royal Seale) If these letters were written by Mostafa, then that means...

A little golden light emerges from Mostafa's bag. Inside is Tiberius' Bell.

SPARKY

(gasps in happiness; takes out and holds up Tiberius's Bell) Oh thank Tiberius! His bell is with me. The only proof I haz to show those furballs my innocence. Well, Tigro is sure gonna look stupid when I return The Bell to Mostafa myself. (His tummy growls) Right after I find some food.

A scent drifts up Sparky's nose. Sparky turns to find a half-full can of tuna, poking out of the dumpster. Sparky scrapes out the tuna can and licks it clean. He notices a snoring noise from around the other side of the dumpster. He creeps around to find BONEHEAD, a giant bulldog, fast asleep.

SPARKY

Ew, a dog! A dumb, filthy dog!

BoneHead hears Sparky and wakes up. BoneHead growls at Sparky.

SPARKY

Oh, hairballs. Great Sparky, JUST great! You always haz to say something stupid to get yourself in trouble!

EXT. FRONT OF STAR MART - AFTERNOON

LUCAS SARANCENO, a seventeen-year-old high school student and his fourteen-year-old brother MICHAEL are passing by, when they hear BoneHead barking, and Sparky's growling and hissing.

MICHAEL

Luke, BoneHead must be attacking another cat!

LUCAS

BoneHead?

MICHAEL

Yeah? That mean dog that hangs out behind the Star Mart?

LUCAS

(turns around) C'mon, Mikey! I want to get home to finish that stupid assignment for Mr. Evans. I don't care about some dumb cat. Michael!

Michael runs around the Star Mart and into the back alley. Lucas follows.

EXT. ALLEY OUTSIDE THE STAR MART - AFTERNOON

Sparky is at the deadend of the alley, blocked by BoneHead. Lucas and Michael hide behind the side of the dumpster.

LUCAS

Yo...that cat's green!

MICHAEL

I can see that. I got eyes, Einstein.

LUCAS

What? Have YOU ever seen a green cat before?

SPARKY

(to BoneHead) Listen up, ya disgusting mutt. I'm already haz-ing an awful day... (Shows claws) Don't push it or I will be forced to unleash my feline fury! (Hisses)

LUCAS

Am I imagining things or did I just hear that cat talk?

MICHAEL

No, I heard him too!

LUCAS

I told you there was something up with that freaky, green cat.

MICHAEL

He probably needs help, and quick! (Finds a half-eaten hot dog by the dumpster)

LUCAS

Forget it, Mikey! I don't wanna waste another minute playing safari behind the grocery store. Let's just go home so I can finish that stupi-

Michael comes out from behind the side of the dumpster as he picks up the hot dog, standing right behind BoneHead.

MICHAEL

Hey BoneHead!

LUCAS

Mikey! What are you doing? Have you lost your mind??

Bonehead turns around, looking at Michael.

MICHAEL

You want it? Here ya go!

Michael throws the hot dog out of the alley and across the street. BoneHead sprints for the hot dog, causing cars to spin out in a traffic ballet.

Michael notices Mostafa's Royal Sack on the ground, glowing gold, and he becomes transfixed. He reaches for the bag. Sparky runs towards Michael in a panic, and scratches him on his left cheek.

MICHAEL

AH! (Falls to his knees)

LUCAS

Mikey!

Lucas runs to Michael.

LUCAS

What's your problem, cat?!

SPARKY

Scram, you filthy humans.

LUCAS

Let's go, Mikey! Your talking green cat is going berserk!

Lucas grabs Michael by the hand and gets ready to leave.

MICHAEL

But I-

LUCAS

(raising voice a bit) No more, Michael! You have already caused enough drama for one day!

Michael and Lucas leave the alley without glancing one look back at Sparky. Sparky begins to pensively groom himself.

Sparky

Wait! Those two humans heard me speak! They could expose me to the other humans and that information would expose Gatopia to the whole Human World? (Fear) If that happens, it won't matter that Tiberus' Bell is safe, Gatopia will be doomed. Oh no! (He digs through Mostafa's Royal Sack, pulling out the Cat Eye Gem- an iridescent opal in the shape of a cat's eye) Perfect! Activating the magic in this gem before their eyes should wipe away the very memory of me and that mutt.

END OF PART I