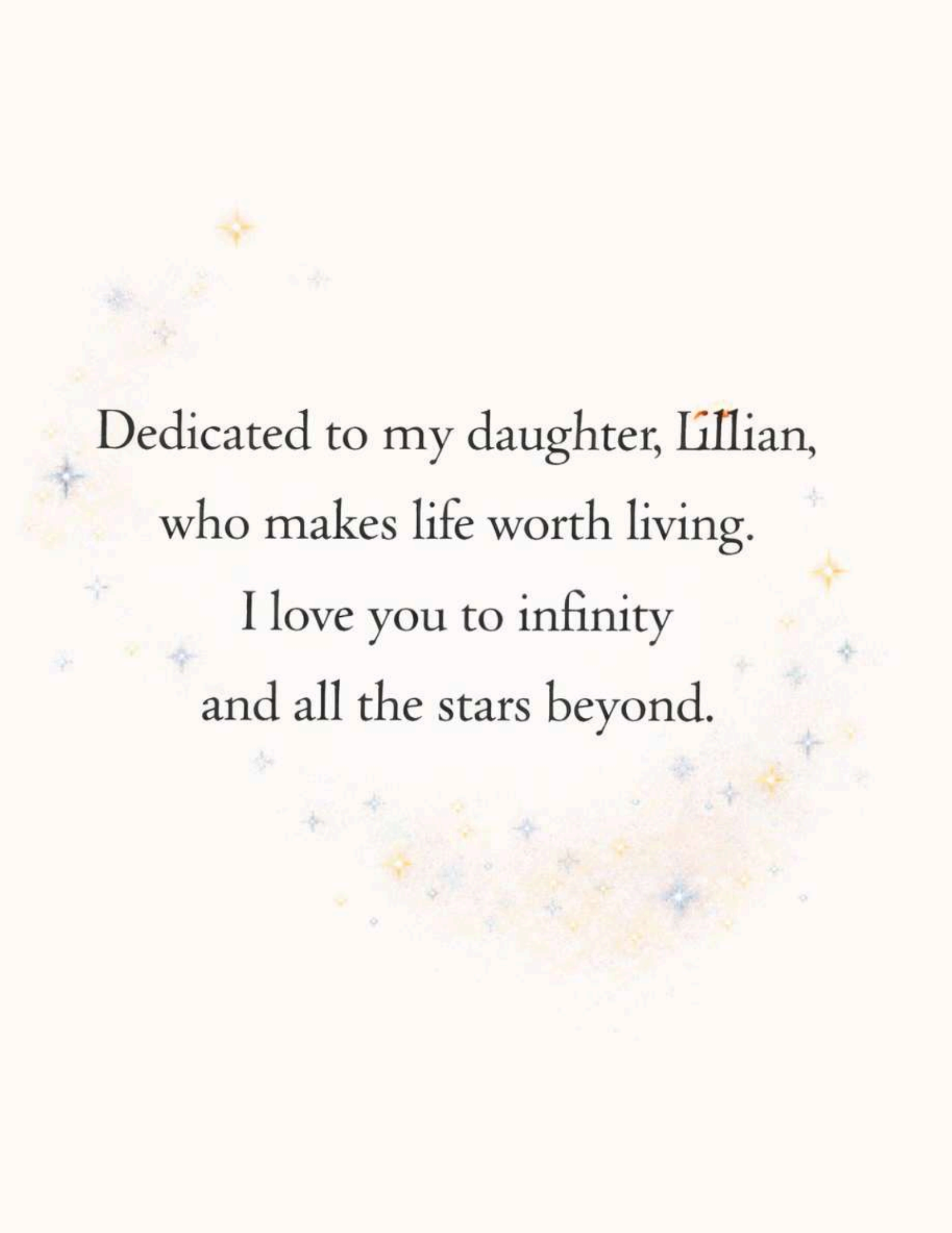




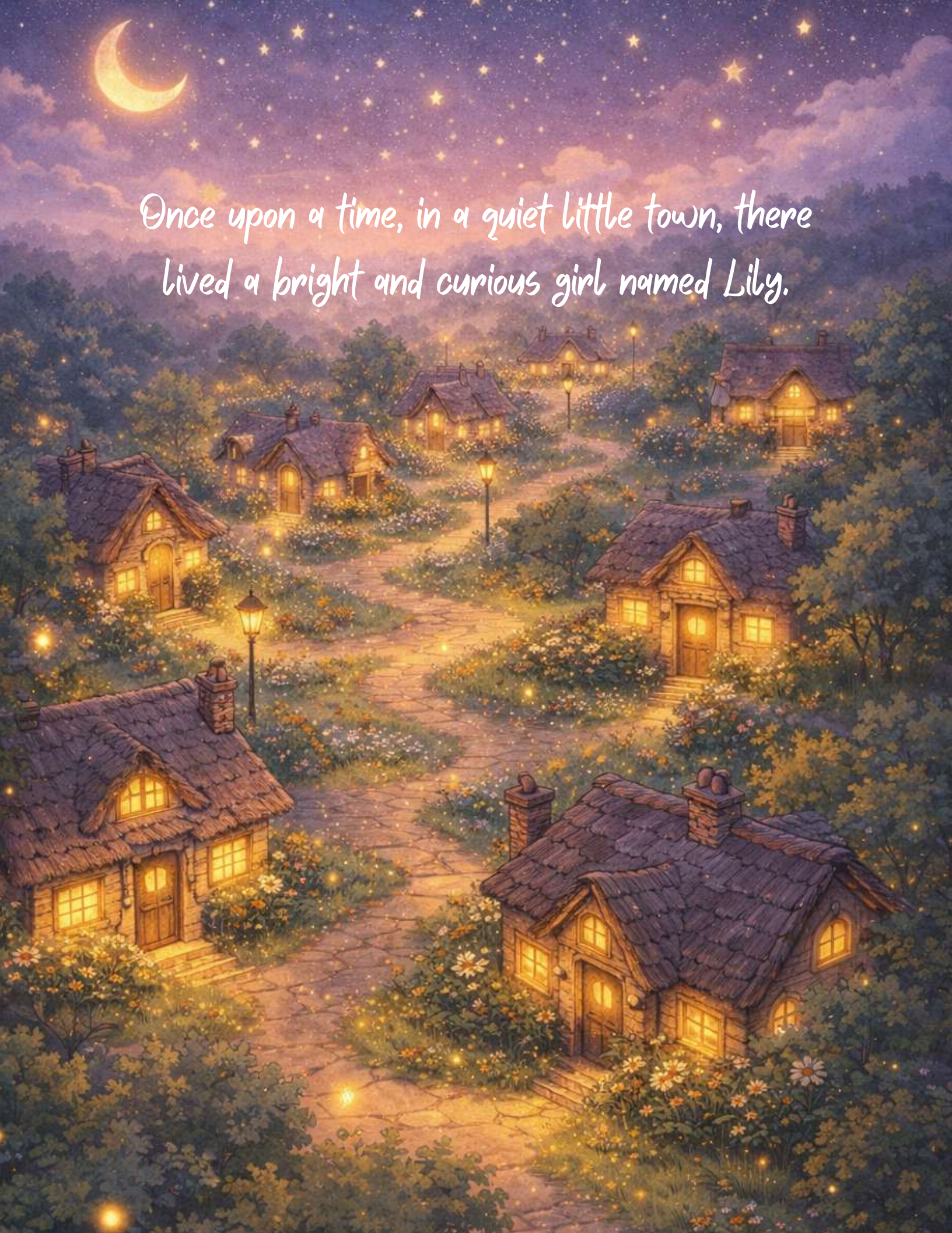
The Starlight Bridge

Written and Illustrated by Kabbie Metcalf



Dedicated to my daughter, Lillian,
who makes life worth living.

I love you to infinity
and all the stars beyond.

A whimsical illustration of a village at night. The scene is set under a dark, starry sky with a prominent crescent moon in the upper left. The village consists of several small, cozy houses with thatched roofs and glowing windows, suggesting a warm interior. The houses are nestled among lush greenery and flowers. A winding stone path leads through the village, illuminated by small, glowing lanterns. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and magical.

Once upon a time, in a quiet little town, there
lived a bright and curious girl named Lily.



Every night, she loved to look out her window
and count the stars.



*She knew each one by heart—at least, she
thought she did.*



One evening, as she whispered goodnight
to the stars, something magical happened.



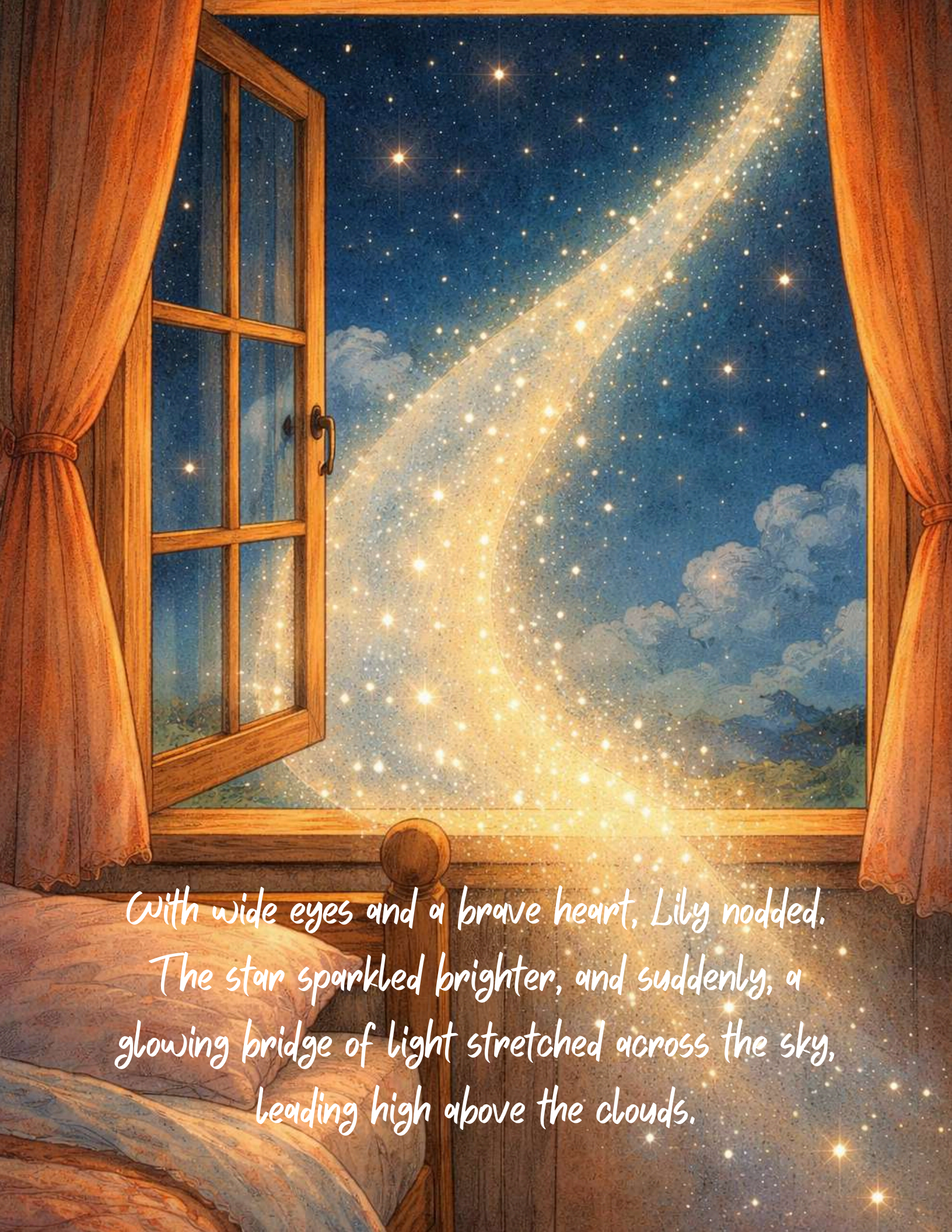
*A single star twinkled brighter than all the rest
and shimmered down toward her window.*



*It landed softly on her windowsill, glowing like a
tiny lantern.*



The star spoke in a warm, gentle voice:
“Lily, would you like to go on a journey tonight?”



With wide eyes and a brave heart, Lily nodded.
The star sparkled brighter, and suddenly, a
glowing bridge of light stretched across the sky,
leading high above the clouds.

Hand in hand with the little star, Lily stepped
onto the bridge. It felt soft, like walking on warm
moonlight.



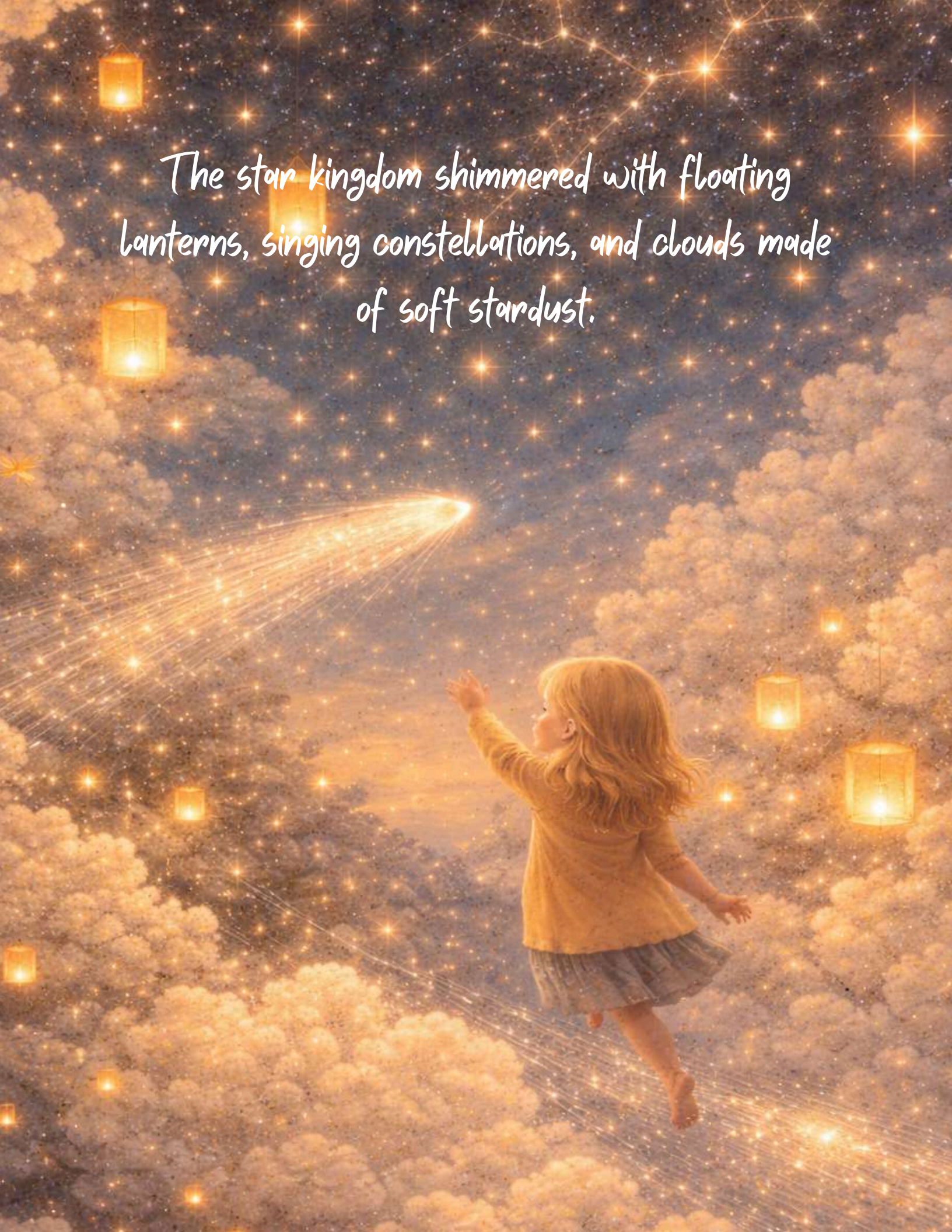
As they traveled, she could see all of Earth
below—forests, rivers, and even the twinkling
lights of towns.



The star who guided her whispered, "I watch over you every night. But tonight, you're the first Earth-child allowed to visit."



The star kingdom shimmered with floating lanterns, singing constellations, and clouds made of soft stardust.







*Lily played hide-and-seek with fireflies that
glowed like tiny suns,*

rode on the tail of a comet that zipped across the
sky, and even met the



A whimsical illustration of a woman with a crescent moon face, wearing a grey hooded robe, offering a glowing pearl to a young child with long blonde hair. The child is reaching up towards the woman. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with stars, constellations, and numerous glowing lanterns floating in the air. The overall mood is magical and serene.

*Moon herself—who
gave her a glowing
pearl as a gift for
courage.*

A young girl with long, wavy blonde hair is shown in profile, looking out over a vast, starry landscape. The sky is filled with numerous stars, and a bright sun is setting on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the scene. The ground is covered in a dense layer of stars, creating a shimmering effect. The overall atmosphere is dreamlike and magical.

But as dawn approached, the star said gently,
"It's time to go home now."



*“Remember, whenever you feel alone, just look up
—we’re always watching over you.”*



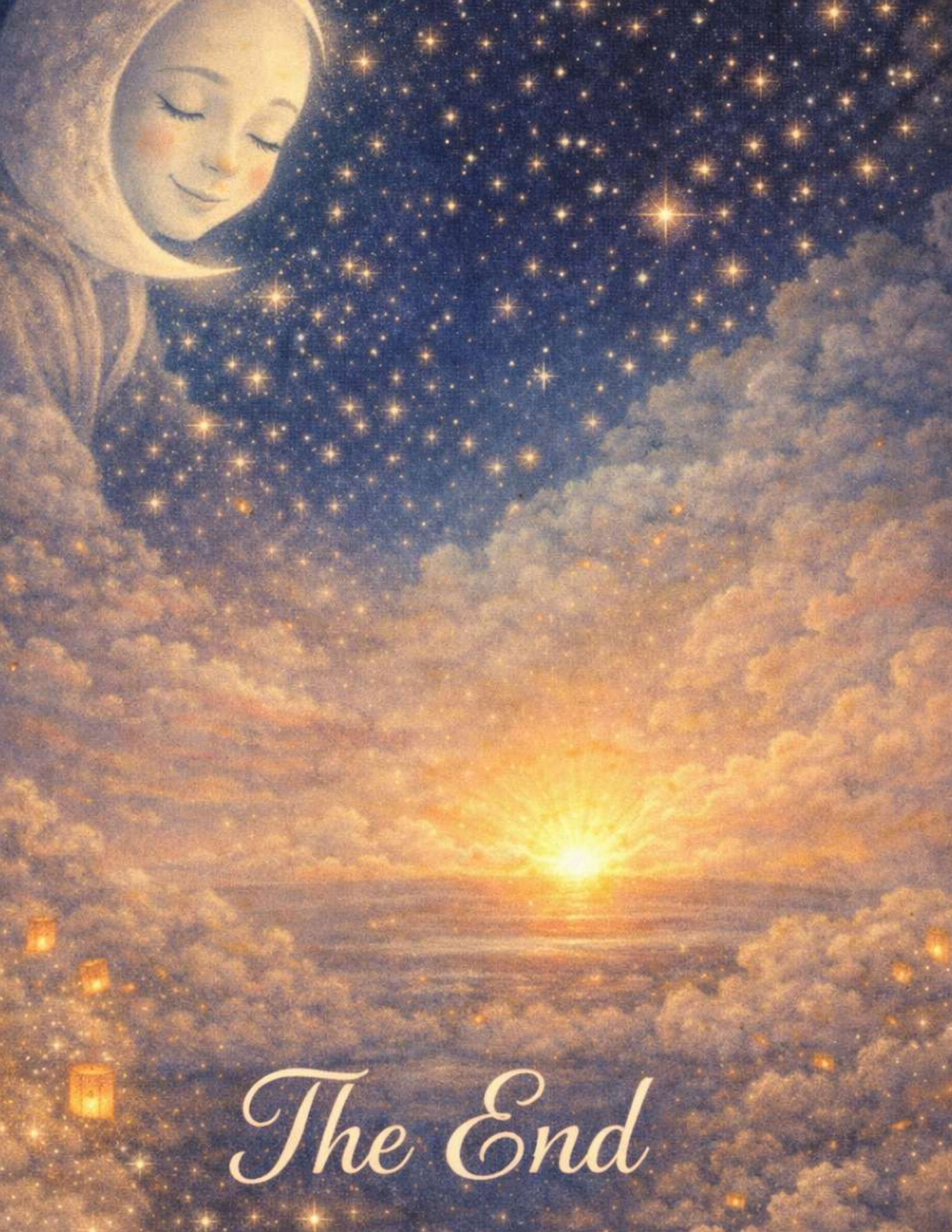
With a blink, Lily was back in her cozy bed, the pearl glowing softly on her nightstand as proof it hadn't been a dream.



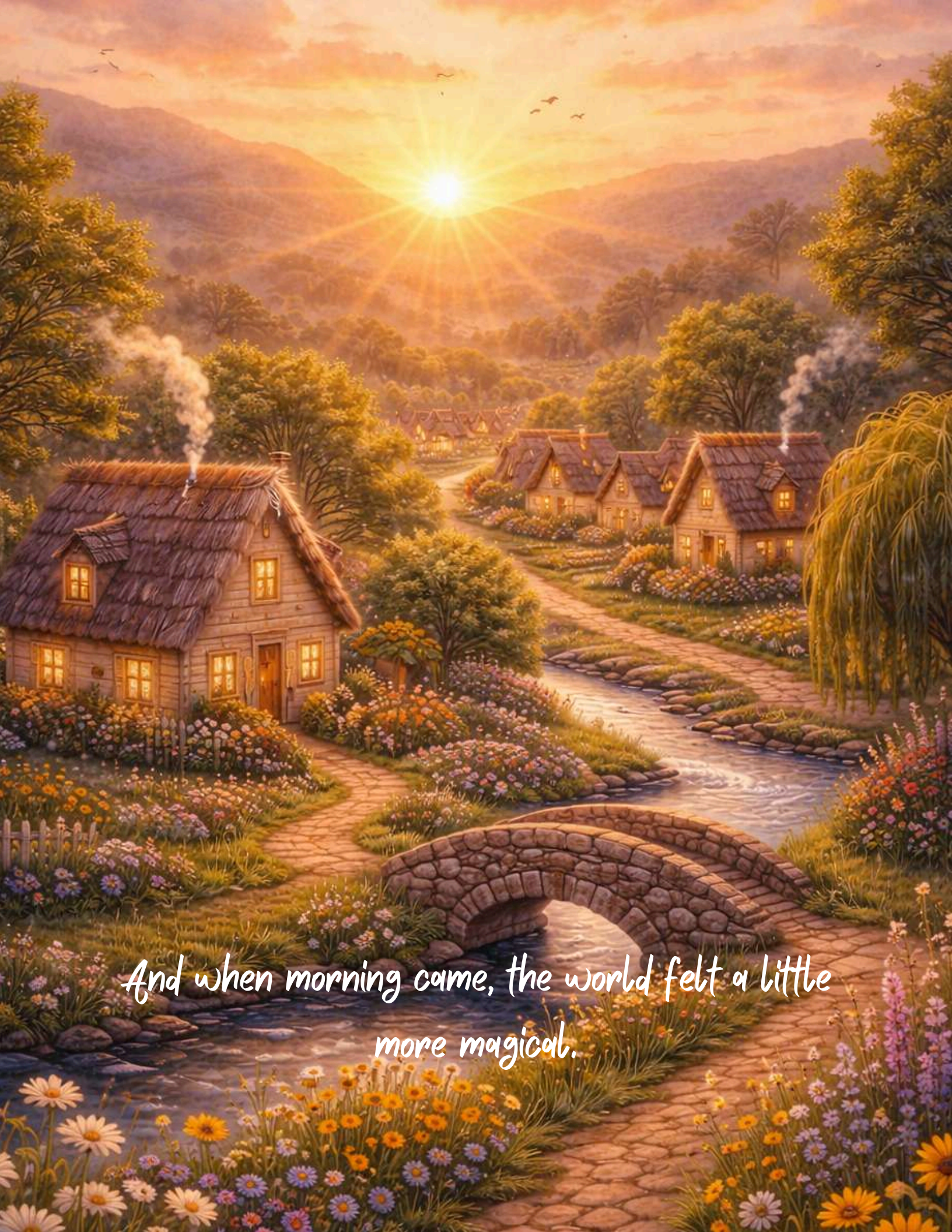
She snuggled under her blankets, heart full of wonder, and whispered:

A cozy bedroom at night. A window with wooden frames shows a starry night sky. A large, glowing yellow star with a smiling face and closed eyes is in the upper right pane. The rest of the window is filled with many smaller, twinkling stars. In the foreground, a bed with a white quilted blanket and a white pillow is visible. To the left, a wooden nightstand holds a glowing, spherical orb that emits a warm light. The overall atmosphere is warm and peaceful.

*"Goodnight, stars. I'll see you on the bridge
again."*



The End



*And when morning came, the world felt a little
more magical.*