

***TITLE:***  
***Dustwalkers: The Road to  
Somalia***

***By Karieson***

***Genre: Adventure / Magical  
Realism / African Folklore***

## **Dedication**

To my grandmother—  
who raised me with love, prayers, and quiet strength.  
Your faith still walks beside me.

To my friends—Farhan, Yasin, Omar—  
We took the first steps together.  
This story will always carry your footprints.

And to anyone who has ever walked toward something  
uncertain,  
not knowing what tomorrow holds—  
this is for you.

## **Author's Note**

This is a work of fiction—but it was born from truths.

It began in a town like Isiolo, where early morning prayers mingled with quiet conversations. The characters in this story didn't know exactly where they were going—only that they had to keep moving.

Somalia, for them, wasn't just a place on a map.

It was a dream. A chance. Maybe even a kind of hope.

The people you'll meet in these pages aren't perfect. They don't have much. But they have each other—and sometimes, that's enough to begin.

This isn't just a story about crossing borders.

It's about friendship, silence, risk—and the search for a life that feels truly your own.

I'm not a professional storyteller. I'm just someone who's lived close enough to the edge of this story to imagine what it might feel like—and what it might mean.

May you find a piece of your own courage here.

## **CHAPTER ONE:** The Road Began at Fajr

The floor was cool beneath my forehead as I ended sujood. The walls of the old mosque in Isiolo were cracked with age, but the silence inside felt whole.

Peaceful.

It was Farhan who broke it...