



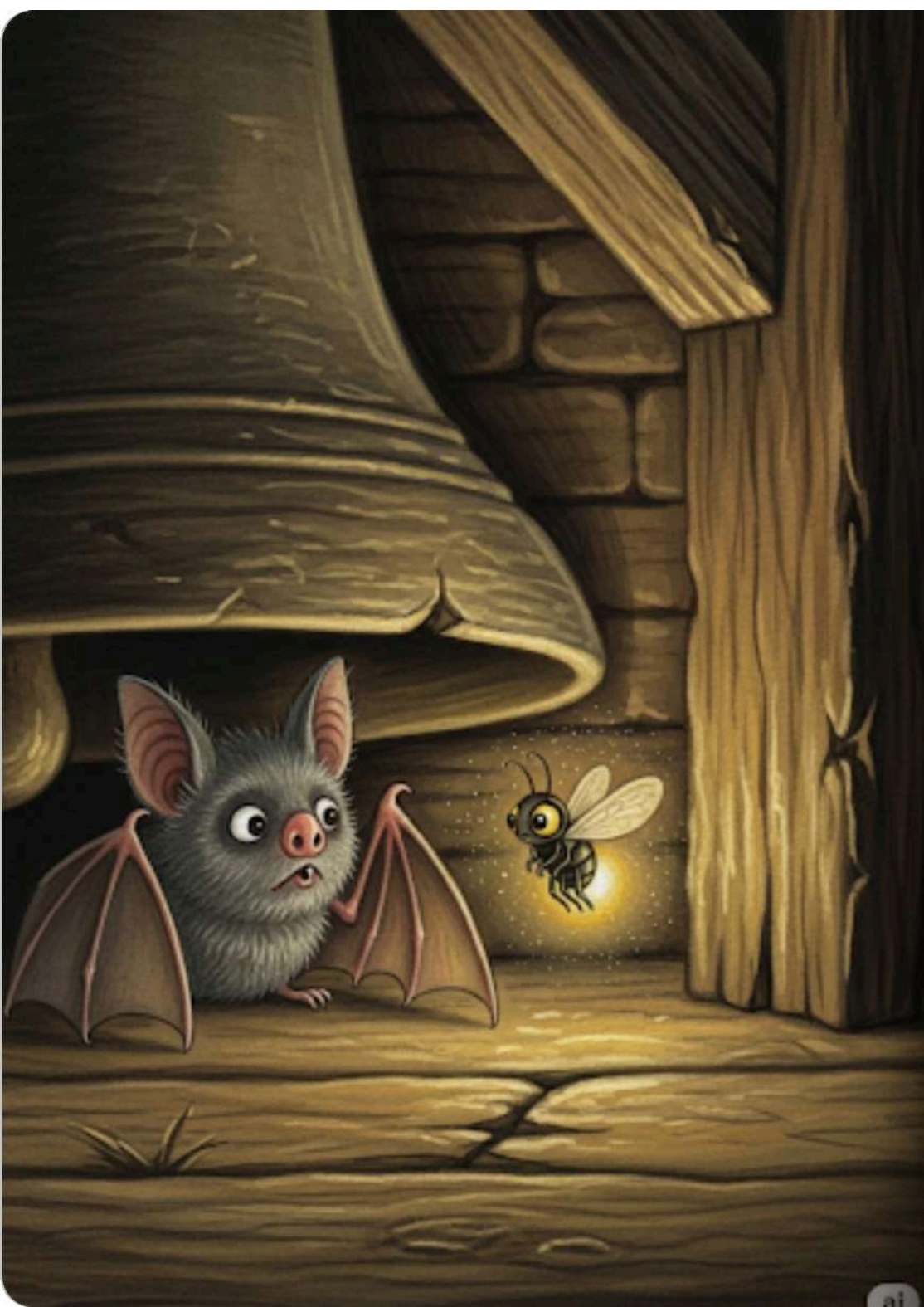
## Pip's Night Fright

By Yogesh



Pip the bat wasn't like the other bats. While they loved the night, Pip was afraid of the dark. As the sun dipped below the hills, painting the sky in sleepy oranges and purples, Pip shivered in the cozy corner of the old bell tower. "Oh," he whispered, "I wish it could be daytime forever."





Suddenly, a tiny light blinked nearby. It was Flicker, the firefly. "What's wrong, Pip?" he buzzed softly. "The moon is out, and it's a perfect night for flying!" Can you help Flicker cheer Pip up? Try making a little blinking light with your finger!





"I'm scared of the dark," Pip mumbled, his wings tucked tightly. "It's just so... dark!" Flicker glowed a little brighter. "But the dark is full of friendly things! I can be your own little lantern. Let's go on an adventure, just a small one."





Pip took a deep breath and fluttered out of the tower, staying close to Flicker's gentle light. Soon, they saw a beautiful creature with wings like dusty velvet, dancing in the moonlight. "Hello!" she whispered. "I'm Luna. Isn't the night air wonderful?"





"Pip is a little scared of the dark," Flicker explained. Luna smiled a soft, moth-y smile. "But the dark helps you see things you miss in the day," she said. She led them to a field of moonflowers that only opened at night, their white petals glowing like fallen stars. "Can you pretend to be a flower opening up?"





Flicker called to his firefly friends.  
Soon, dozens of tiny lights were  
winking and blinking all around them,  
making the meadow look like a party.  
"Wow," Pip breathed. "It's beautiful!"





"And listen," whispered Luna. They all stayed very still. They could hear the gentle chirp-chirp of crickets and the soft hoot-hoot of a distant owl. "The night has its own special music," she said. Can you make a quiet hooting sound like an owl? Hoot-hoot!





Pip realised his friends were right. The dark wasn't empty and scary. It was filled with light, beauty, and music. He stretched his wings, feeling a new bravery flutter inside him. "I want to fly!" he squeaked excitedly.





Pip swooped and soared through the starry sky, with Flicker and Luna flying beside him. He wasn't afraid anymore. He was a bat of the night, and the night was his friend. He even tried a loop-the-loop! Can you trace a loop-the-loop in the air with your finger?





When the first hint of morning pink touched the sky, Pip flew back to the bell tower, tired but happy. "Thank you, Flicker. Thank you, Luna," he yawned. He snuggled into his corner, no longer afraid of the dark, and dreamed of his next nighttime adventure. Goodnight, brave little bat.