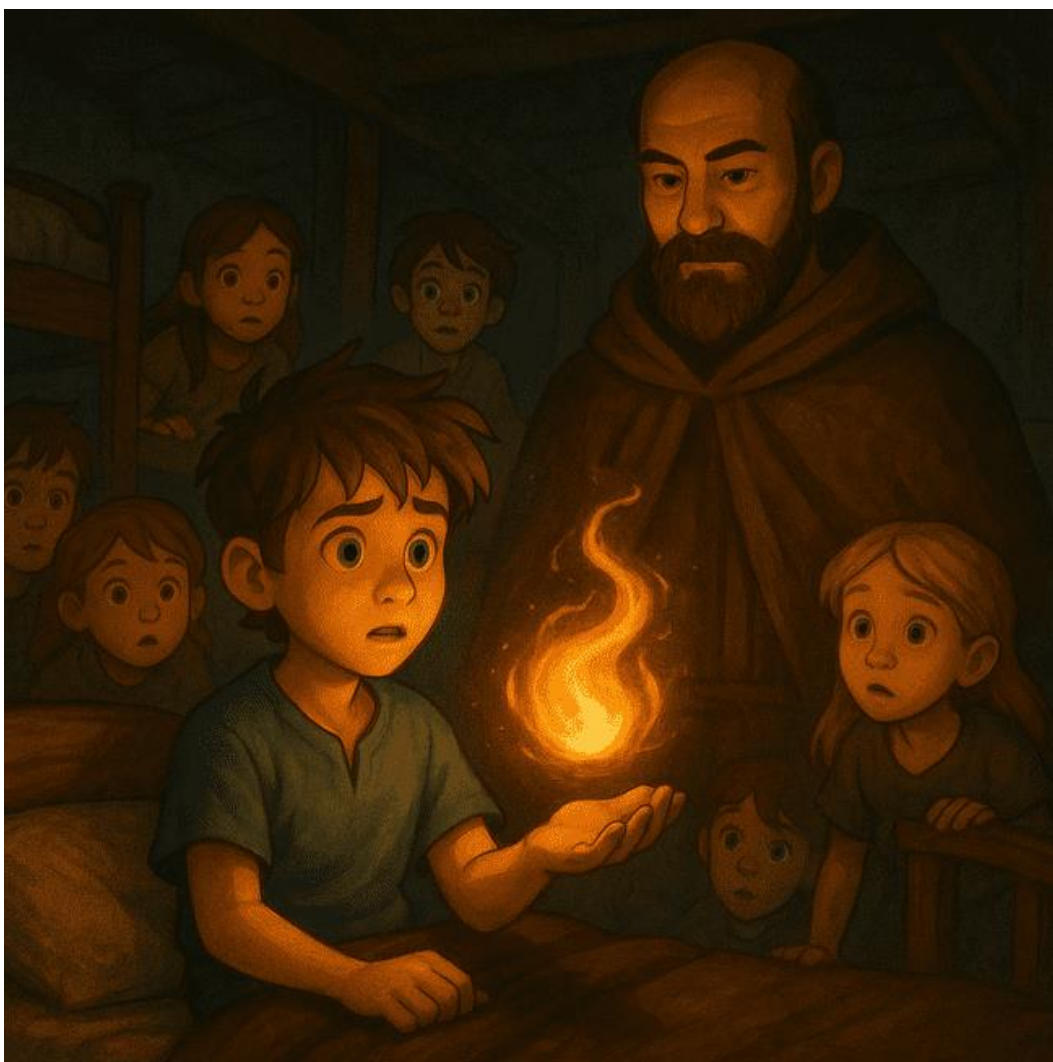


The Last Emberlight

Page 1

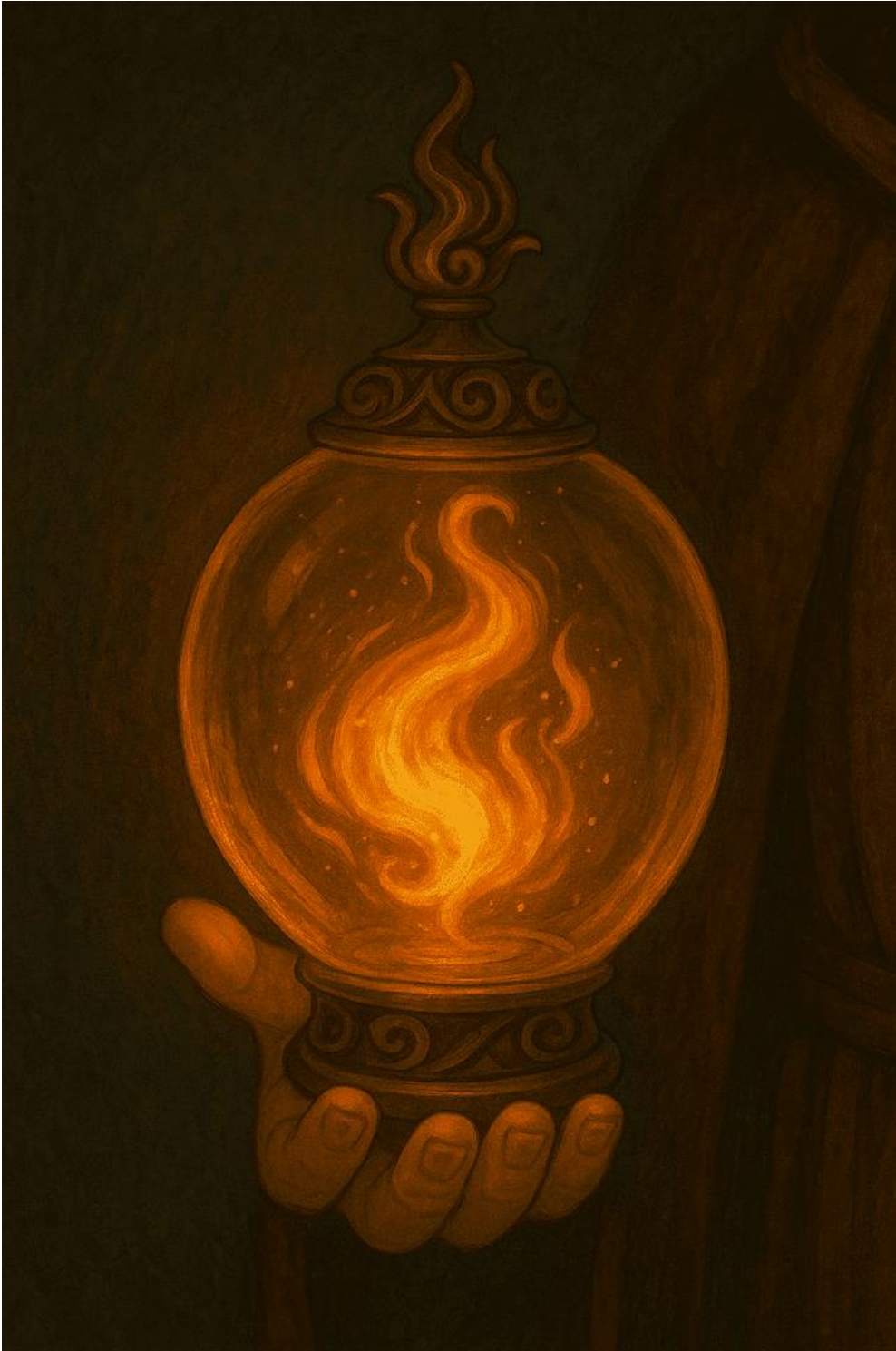
Kael was the quietest in the Ember Orphanage.

But when the Flame Tree dimmed for the first time in centuries, the last ember chose him.



Page 2

He was handed a fire-glass orb—inside, a tiny swirling flame.
“Guard it with your life,” whispered the Flamekeeper.



Page 3

With a cloak, map, and lantern, Kael set out.
Shadows watched from the trees. The fire flickered.

Page 4

He crossed the Cracking River, where fireflies swarmed.
One landed on the ember and whispered, "They're coming."

Page 5

At Emberpass, ash wolves attacked.

Kael ran—until a girl with flame-colored hair saved him.



Page 6

"I'm Reya," she said. "You carry the light. I'll help you get it there."
The ember pulsed in agreement.

Page 7

They scaled fireless cliffs and slid through obsidian caves.
Reya's torch never lasted long. Kael's ember never went out.



Page 8

They reached the Ember Tree. A black mist coiled around its roots.
The ember dimmed.

Page 9

"Too late," hissed a voice. A Shadow Warden rose from the roots. Kael shielded the ember as the mist lashed out.



Page 10

Reya leapt forward, blocking the blow. Her flame went out.
Kael screamed—and the ember blazed.

Page 11

He ran to the tree, held the ember high.
The mist recoiled. The roots caught fire.



Page 12

The tree flared gold. Shadows scattered.

The flame leapt from branch to branch, roaring to life.

Page 13

Reya opened her eyes. The ember floated between them, now whole flame.
Kael smiled. "We lit the world again."

Page 14

Light returned to the skies.

And in the center of the tree, a new ember began to grow.

The Last Emberlight

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