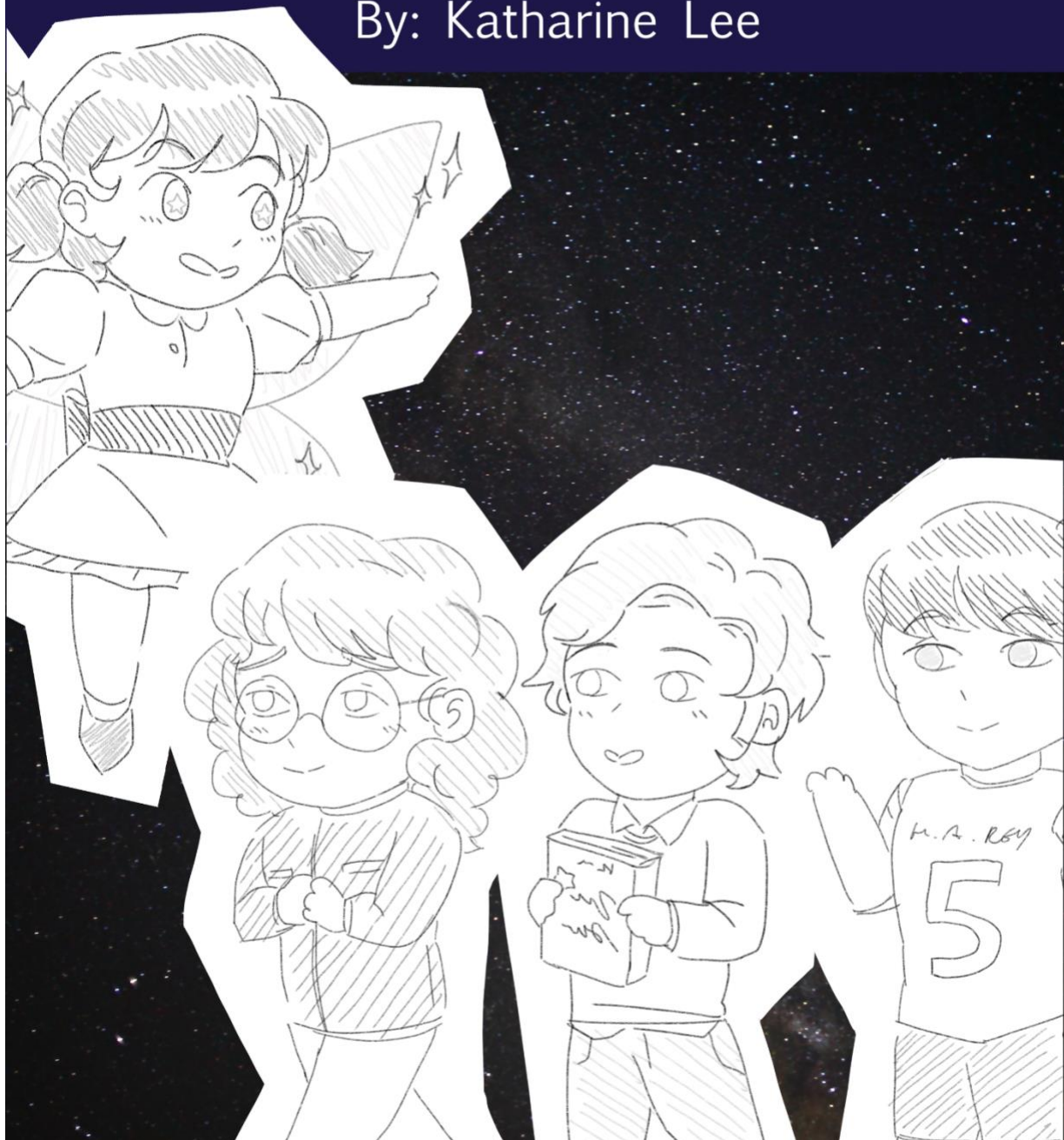


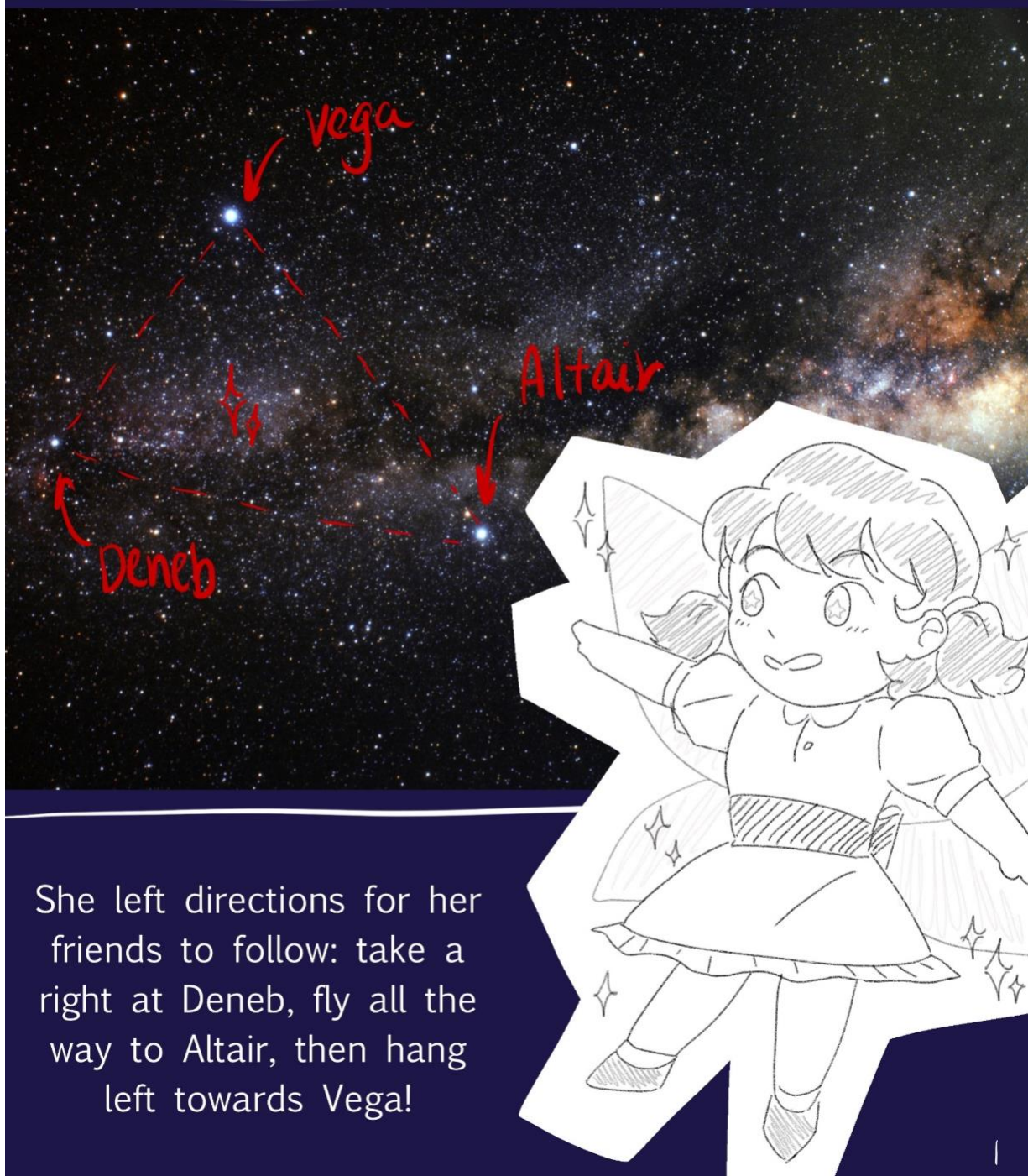
SEARCHING FOR THE STARS

By: Katharine Lee



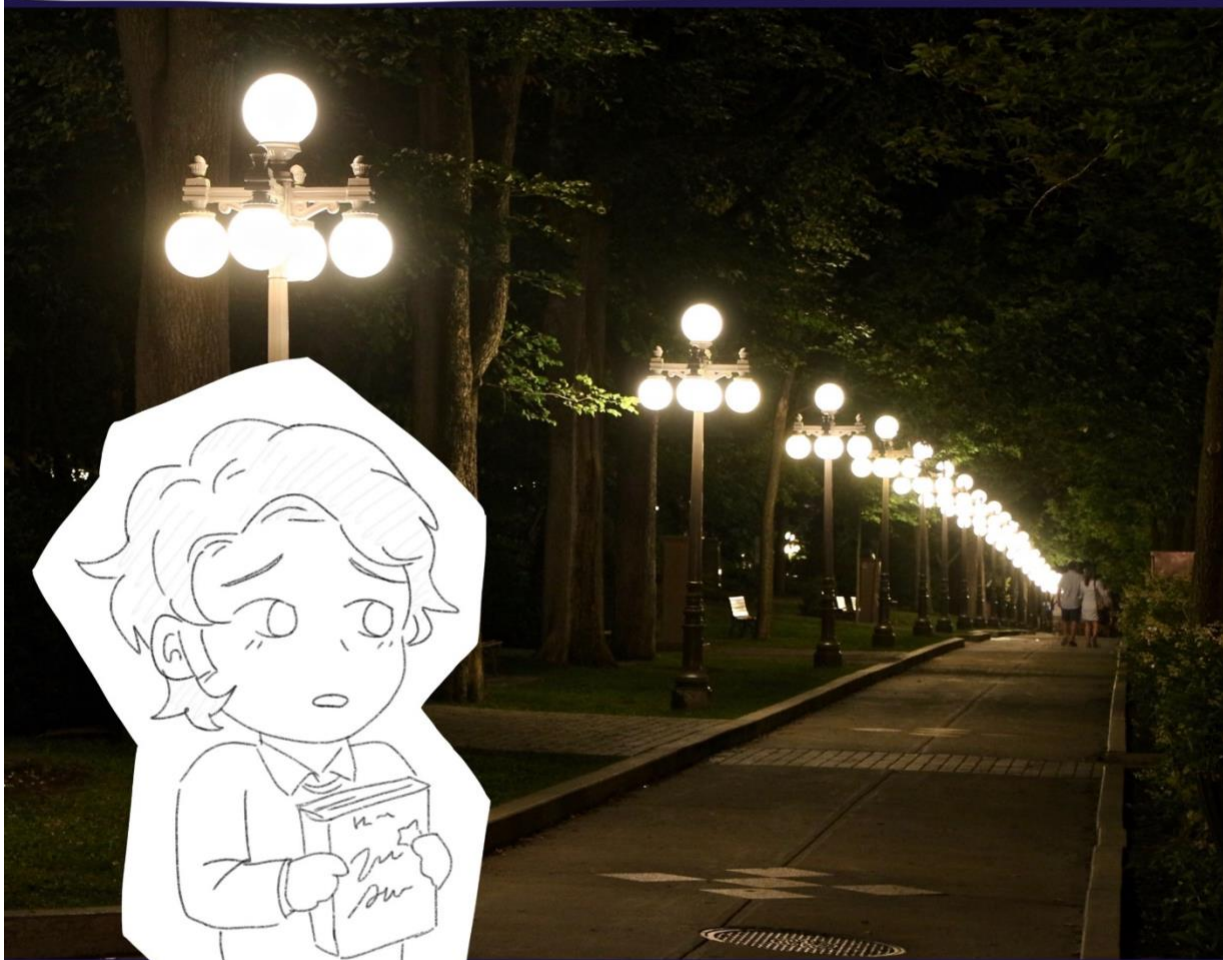
“Some praise the Lord for Light,
The living spark;
I thank God for the Night
The healing dark.”
- Robert William Service

Rey the fairy was friends with three little children. She wanted her friends to come visit her in her summer home.



She left directions for her friends to follow: take a right at Deneb, fly all the way to Altair, then hang left towards Vega!

Charlie said, “I can’t find those stars! It’s too bright outside because of all the streetlights!”



In Charlie’s city, there are decorative street lights that throw light in all directions and make it hard to look closely at the dark sky.

“Okay!” said Rey, “Just close your eyes,
and when you fall asleep, I can take
you there by meeting you in your
dreams!”



But Charlie couldn't fall asleep. The light pollution outside his room had brightened up the sky so much that it tricked his brain into thinking it was daytime.



Maria said, “I can’t find these stars
either! It’s too bright outside because of
all these buildings!”



In Maria’s city, there are
brightly lit-up buildings, with
lights that stay on
throughout the night. These
lights can be seen even
from far away.

“Okay,” said Rey, “Follow the path of the moths in the night, and they can take you there as well!”



But instead, the moths flew away to swarm around the bright lights of the city. The artificial lights at night had confused them. The light pollution had messed with the migration, mating, and sleep habits of the animals in Maria's city.



Rachel said, “Well, I *can* find the stars where I live... But it would be no fun to go without Charlie and Maria!”



In Rachel's town, the streetlights and building lights were less bright and glaring during the night, and caused less light pollution.

“Oh!” said Rey, “How can we help
Charlie and Maria see the stars as
well?”



“Well, in my house we only turn on outside lights when we need them, and we only turn them up as brightly as we need to see,” said Rachel.



“You can start reducing light pollution from changing how you use the lights in your own home!”

“I also know that light pollution can only be fixed with the help of the rest of the community!” said Rachel.



Towns and cities should have lights that help keep us safe, but are also energy efficient. The less artificial light at night, the better.



Together, Rey and her friends decided to do their part in reducing light pollution, so they could keep enjoying the wonderful night sky!



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