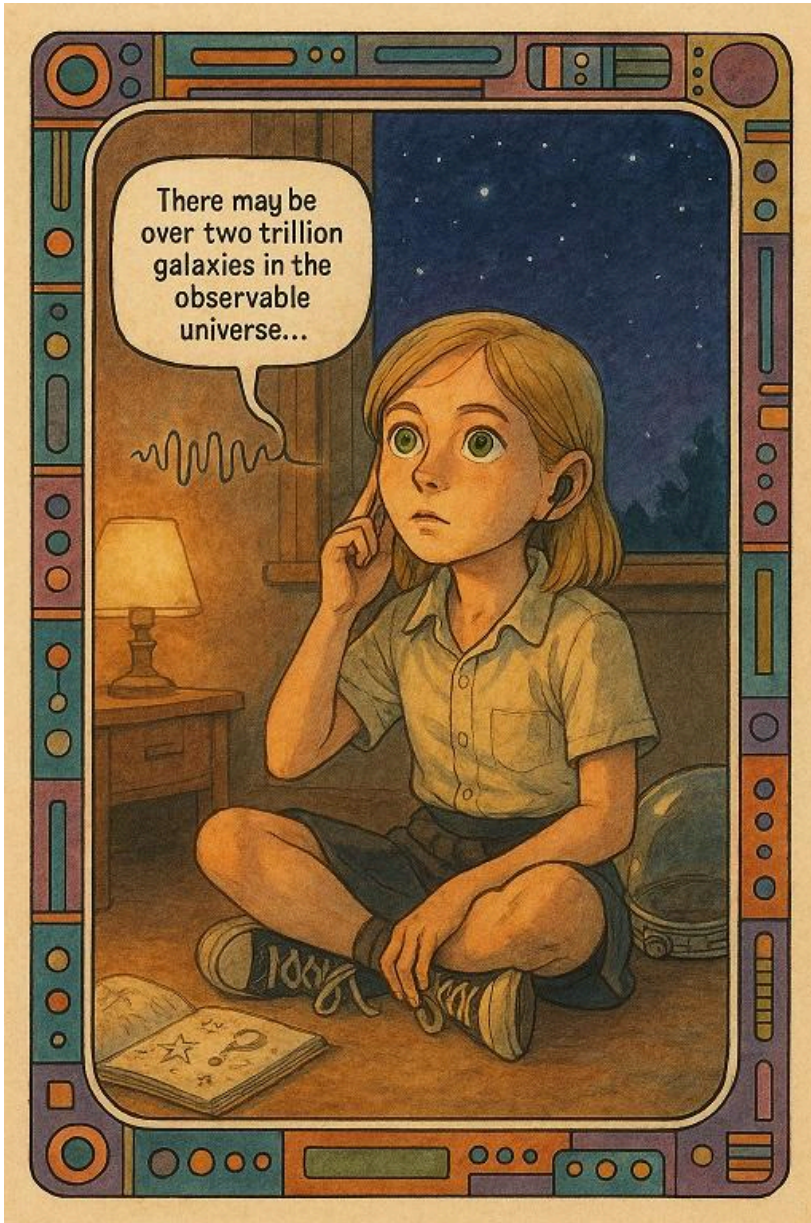


**Two Trillion Galaxies**  
by Darren W. Jones  
Picture Book Dummy



**Hi. My name is Lucy.**

**I once thought space was just starry blackness. Tonight a science show in my earbuds whispered a galaxy count so huge I froze.**

**“Two trillion galaxies,” they said.**

**I sat still.**

**And quietly asked,  
“What does that even look like?”**



**I didn't know how I'd see a trillion galaxies. But sitting still wasn't enough.**

**My jetpack burst to life.**

**I picked up my helmet. Slid it on with a soft click.**

**One step forward, and my feet lifted gently from the floor.**

**"Let's find out," I whispered.**





**Below me, Earth spun  
slow and silent.**

**Clouds curled over oceans. Cities  
blinked like fireflies. Mountains  
stretched like wrinkles  
on a soft blue face.**

**“Earth,” I said. One world.  
One home.**

**I hovered, starting to understand  
how small a planet could be.**



**Eight planets whirl around our star.**

**I flew past Mars: red and restless.**

**I danced by Saturn: ringed with frozen  
light.**

**I drifted near Neptune: cold, quiet, deep.**

**All of the planets hung like ornaments on  
a tree.**

**And me, a speck, sailed into the unknown.**





**I passed the last planet.  
Past icy comets, past the edge of  
everything I knew...  
into the dark.**

**If Earth were a marble, the Sun  
would be a blazing beach ball a  
schoolyard away.**

**Space is big. Really big.**



**The Milky Way spins like a pinwheel  
made of light.**

**It holds hundreds of billions of stars.  
Big ones, small ones, some with planets,  
some without.**

**I know of one star.**

**It burns warm and bright. And circling  
it is a tiny blue marble.**

**That's where I live.**

**That's home.**







**I drifted so far, I could see the whole galaxy. The Milky Way spun below me, not like a circle, but like a country made of light. If our solar system were a coin, the Milky Way would stretch like the United States. One tiny dot in all that wonder... was me.**





**I thought there was just one galaxy. But the sky kept blooming. Galaxies shimmered like fireflies. Blue ones, gold ones, some too far to name.**

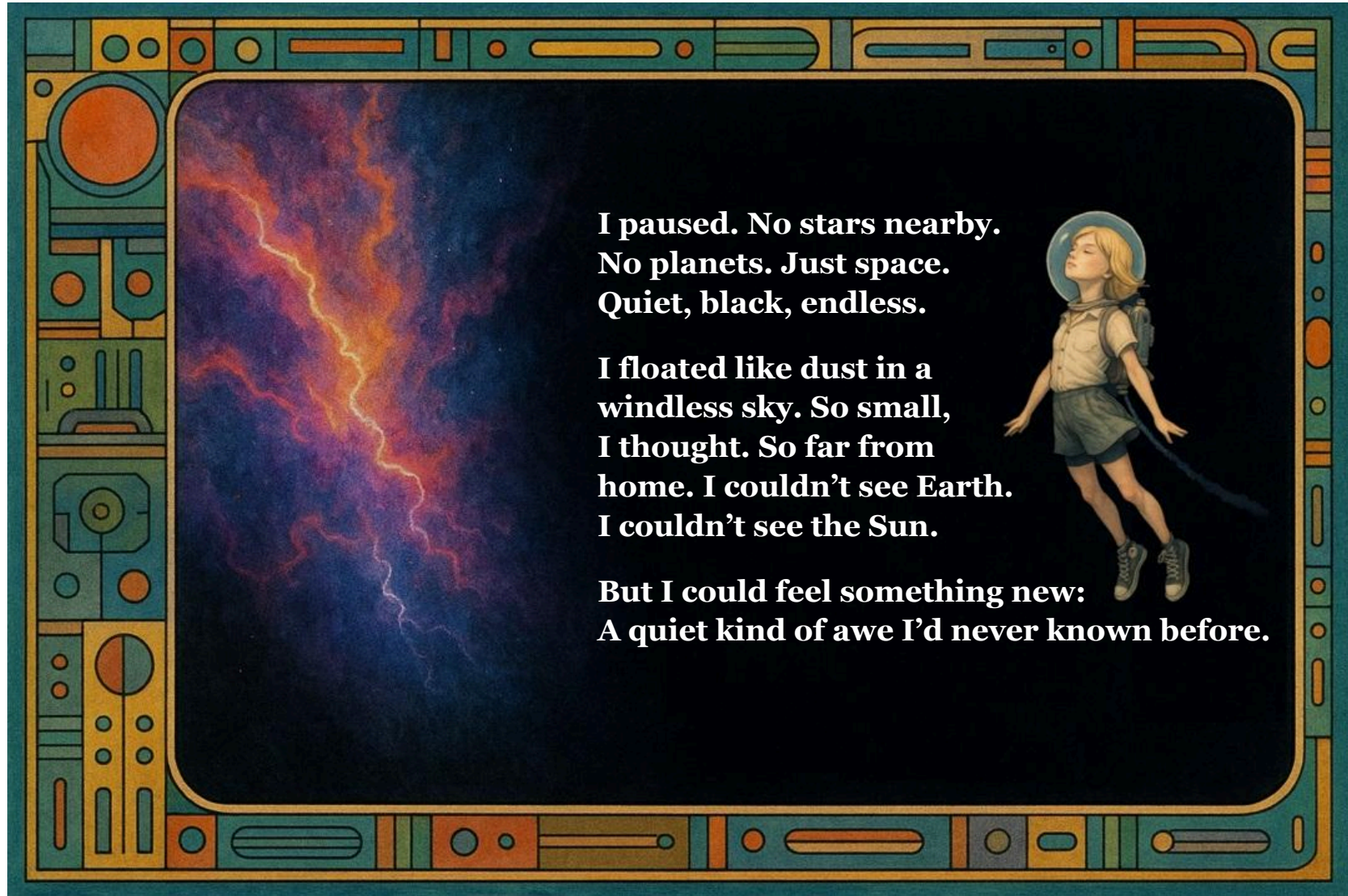
**Two trillion. Each with stars. Each with stories. I floated among them, a single girl with a jetpack... drifting through a sky made of everything.**





**The universe doesn't repeat itself. Each galaxy I passed was new, some shaped like spirals, others like smudges of paint. Red, blue, twisted, smooth... The sky bubbled over with galaxies, more unique than butterflies. I couldn't look at them all.**





**I paused. No stars nearby.  
No planets. Just space.  
Quiet, black, endless.**

**I floated like dust in a  
windless sky. So small,  
I thought. So far from  
home. I couldn't see Earth.  
I couldn't see the Sun.**

**But I could feel something new:  
A quiet kind of awe I'd never known before.**



**I hovered in the silence  
at the edge of everything.**

**I looked back.**

**Galaxies flickered like distant lanterns.  
Planets circled stars I'd never meet.  
Stories I'd never hear.**

**But they were still there.  
Burning. Spinning. Becoming.**

**I didn't need to see more.  
I just needed to remember  
what I'd seen.**





**I turned. The galaxies still sparkled behind me. Two trillion strong. But now, I knew where I was going. Back toward one tiny star. Toward a blue planet filled with questions.**

**I may be small. But I can wonder. I can ask. I can learn. And that makes me... aware.**



**The stars fell away behind me.  
Clouds rose to meet me.**

**Fire trailed from my boots.  
My path glowed bright as dawn.**

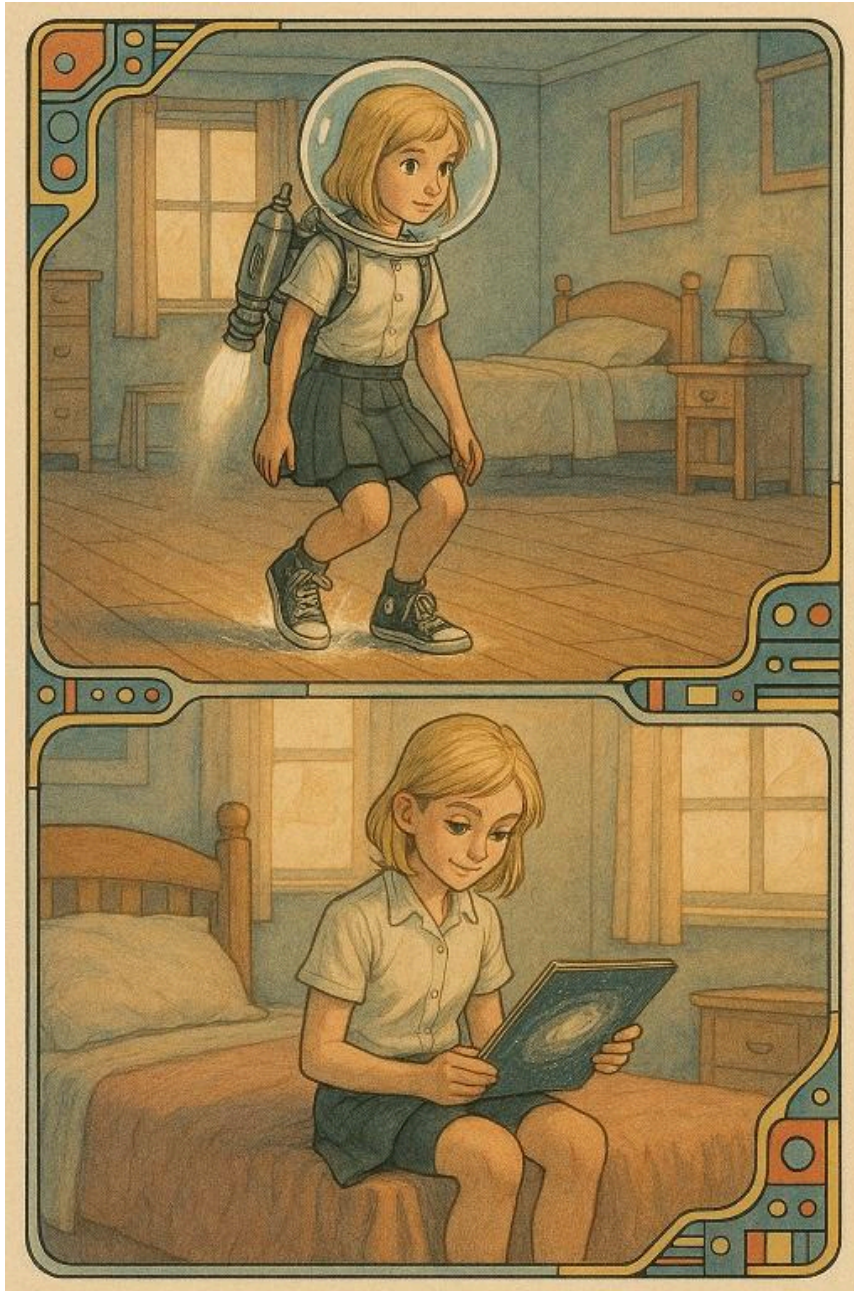
**I thought about the questions I'd carried.  
How big is the universe?  
Where do I fit in?**

**Even in a sky this wide...  
Questions burn bright.**

**And so do I.**







**My boots touched the floor.  
The sky outside was quiet.**

**My helmet fogged.  
My smile stayed.**

**Two trillion galaxies.  
And I got to see them.  
Not all at once. Not forever.  
But enough.**

**One girl.  
One question.  
One amazing flight.**

**And the wondering?  
That's just getting started.**

End matter, author bio, or notes available upon request.