



Love Lights the Way
by Darren W. Jones
Picture Book Dummy



**Before I knew street signs, flashlights, or
helping hands,**

I was completely lost.

I couldn't find my way home.

**I stumbled in the shadows,
eyes squinting in darkness,
searching for even a flicker of light.**





**Rivers stretched too wide,
mountains too steep,
and the ground wobbled under my feet.**

Dark, growly clouds piled up overhead.

Rain slapped my face, cold and sideways.

Every thunder-boom made the windows
shake.





Gooey mud and sneaky holes clutched at my sneakers. Whenever I thought I was safe, something new would jump in my way.



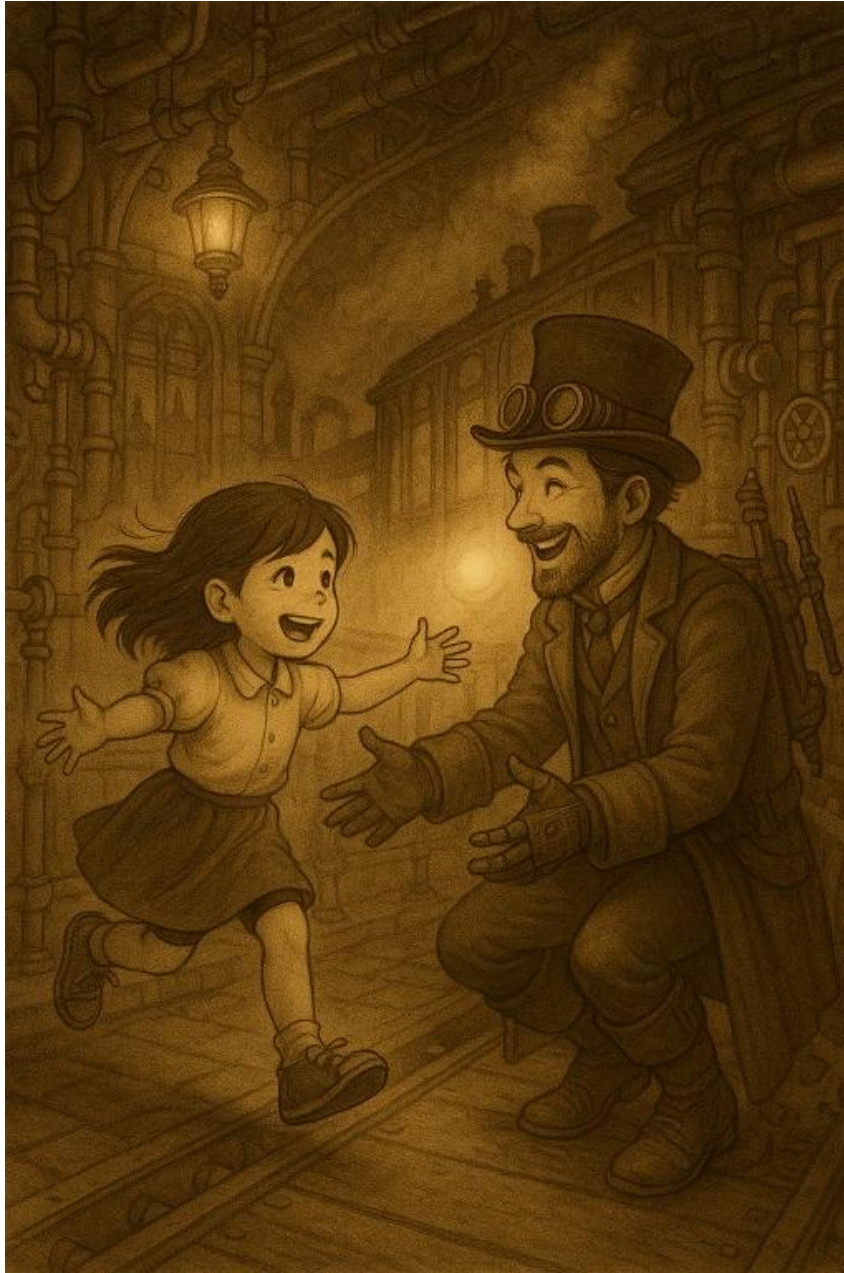
Fears grew.

Hope faded.

**Even jokes fell flat when worry filled
the room.**

**I'd wandered so long my feet
ached. I'd worried so long my
heart felt tired.
Then (out of the blue) something
amazing happened.**





**Love arrived like a tiny lamp
glowing just for me.**

**It reached me when I was scared
and showed I'd never really been
alone.**



And now...

I can see clearly

not just shapes and colors,

but the path lit ahead.



**I spot rainbows after storms. I find hidden treasures in ordinary days. I marvel at puddles
that shine like mirrors.**



**I don't feel lost in my blanket
fort anymore.**

**I don't whisper worries to
nobody,**

because now I know I'm seen.

**When I was lost,
Love found me
as if I were the only child
in the whole wide world.**





Fears grew quiet.

The path appeared,

bright as a guiding candle.

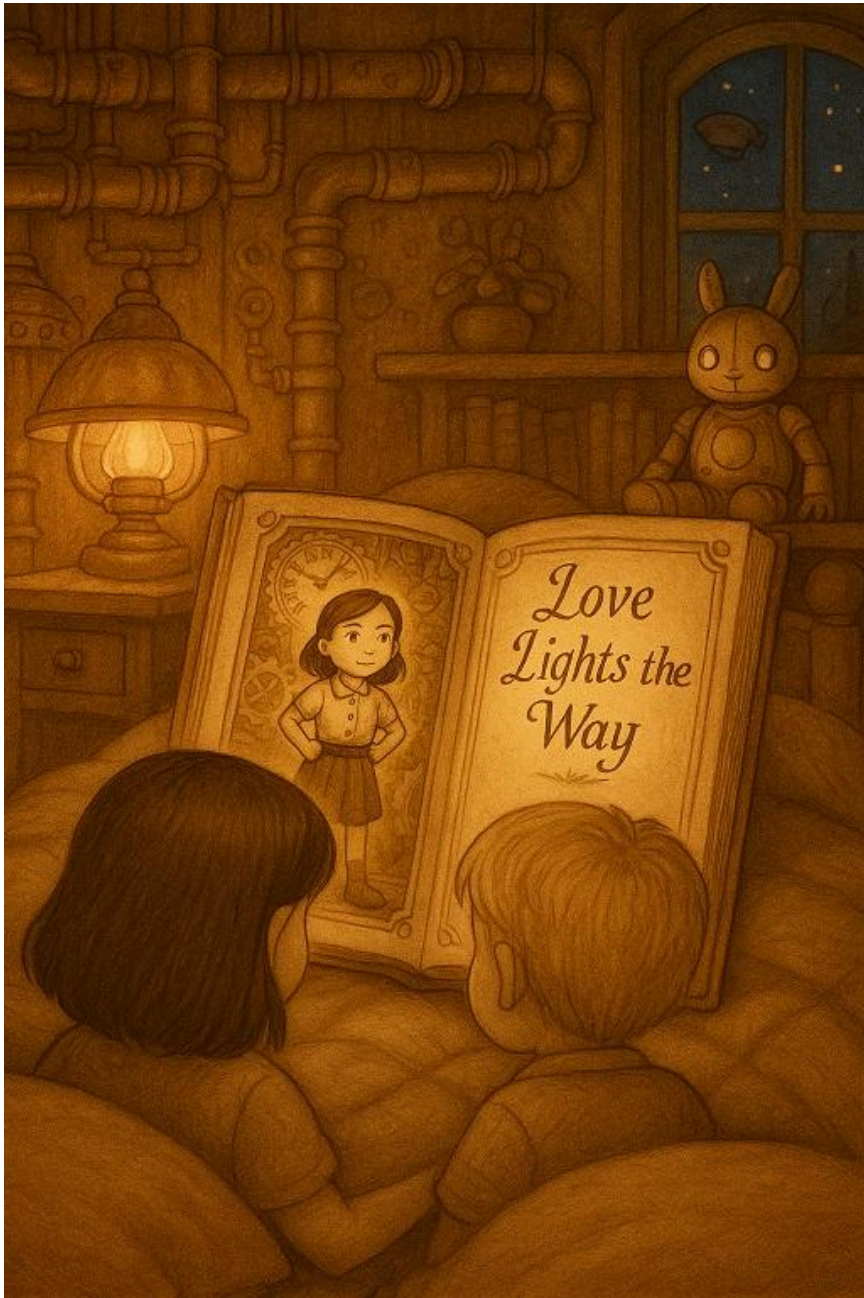
Love had brought me home.



Not just any kind of love, but *Amazing Love*. Here, in this bright moment.



**Stronger than midnight thunder,
gentle as a lullaby, always ready to
hold my hand.**



Before I even knew I needed help,

Love came...

a torch that finds me, every time,

and lights the way again.

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