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The Lantern Garden 灯笼花园

By Christina Bong

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The
Lantern Garden
灯笼花园

By Christina Bong



In a hidden corner of the world, there lived a community of creatures in a place called Lantern Garden. Each creature had a tiny lantern on its back, and the whole garden **shimmered**⁽¹⁾ at night, thanks to the **collective**⁽²⁾ lights they shared to keep the garden warm, bright and alive.

在这个世界上，有一个名叫“灯笼花园”的隐秘角落，住着一群可爱的生物。大家的背上都有一个小灯笼，夜晚来临时，他们的光芒会照亮整个花园，温暖且充满生机⁽¹⁾。




Each night, the creatures gathered at the Glowhouse to share their light. It was a place where ideas bloomed, where tiny sprouts were encouraged to grow, and where everyone's lantern, no matter how dim, was welcomed.

每天晚上，所有生物都会聚集在“光之屋”，分享彼此的光亮。在那里，想法如花朵般绽放，小芽儿在鼓励中茁壮成长。无论灯笼是明亮还是微弱，大家都受到欢迎。




Among them was Luma, a **humble**⁽³⁾ firefly with a warm, steady glow. She was never the loudest or the fastest, but her light was dependable. She **selflessly**⁽⁴⁾ lit up paths for the lost caterpillars, fixed broken glow-globes, and cheered on the little sprouts who had just started to shine.

在它们之中，有一只名叫露玛的小萤火虫，她的光芒温暖而稳定。她从不**喧闹**⁽²⁾，也不追求速度，但她的光亮总是稳定的。她**无私**⁽³⁾地为迷路的毛毛虫照亮道路，修理破损的光球，鼓励刚开始发光的小芽儿。

A young girl with brown hair in two braids, wearing a yellow dress and yellow wings. She is holding a glowing orb in her right hand and a green wand with a lightbulb in her left. The background is dark blue with hanging green leaves and glowing jellyfish-like creatures.

“Your light matters, even if it’s small.” she often **encouraged**(5) the young ones.


A young girl with brown hair in two braids, wearing a yellow dress and yellow wings. She is kneeling on the ground, watering a small green plant with a brown watering can. The background is dark green with various flowers and a ladybug.

“就算光亮很微弱，但它依然重要。”
她常常这样鼓励小伙伴们。




But not everyone liked
Luma's light.


然而，并不是所有人都喜欢露玛的光。



Crix the chameleon worked in the Glowhouse too. He did not glow much himself, but he was very good at making himself seen. Every time the Old Gardener, a wise turtle who once tended the garden with care, walked past, Crix **puffed up**⁽⁶⁾ and smiled widely.




变色龙克里斯也在光之屋工作。他身上的光并不是很亮，但却非常擅长⁽⁴⁾引人注目。每当年迈的园丁——一只曾经细心照料花园的智慧乌龟——经过时，克里斯就会挺起胸膛，露出灿烂的笑容。




“Oh, Gardener! I stayed late again to polish the lanterns. Just look at their sparkle!”

“哦，园丁！我又加班擦亮了灯笼。快看看它们多闪亮！”



The truth? Crix only stayed late to be noticed. He left the lights on all night, draining the garden's energy. He did not work or help others. He just simply made it look like he did and won over the trust of the Old Gardener.

事实上，克里斯只是为了引起注意才加班留下来。他整晚都开着灯，消耗⁽⁵⁾着花园的能量。他既不工作，也不帮助别人。他只是装作在工作，并赢得了老园丁的信任。

A sad-looking owl with large blue tears is perched on a branch of a tree with green leaves and small round fruits. The scene is set at night under a dark blue sky.

When the lanterns **flickered**(7) and plants started wilting from the energy drain, the creatures whispered.

当灯笼开始**闪烁**(6)，植物因能量耗尽而**枯萎**(7)时，所有生物都开始低声讨论。



“It’s Crix,” they said.
“He’s tricking the Old Gardener.”
“是克里斯，”他们说。
“他在欺骗老园丁。”

But no one said it aloud. They had seen
what happened to those who tried.
但没人敢大声说出来。他们见过那些试图揭露⁽⁸⁾
真相的人的下场。



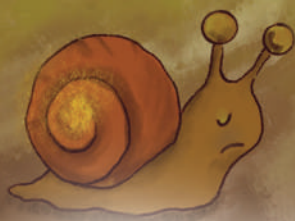
A brave mole once stood up and
told the Old Gardener about it.
The Gardener only **frowned**⁽⁸⁾.

曾有一只勇敢的鼹鼠站出来对老园丁说。
园丁只是皱了皱眉。

“I will look into it. I will be fair to everyone.”
“我会调查的。我会对每个人都公平。”

“Sir, I think Crix
is causing some
problems.”

“先生，我认为克里斯
在制造问题。”



But nothing changed. Sadly, the mole was soon sent to sweep leaves at the far end of the garden.

但什么也没有改变。可悲的是，那只鼹鼠很快就被派去花园的远处扫落叶了。

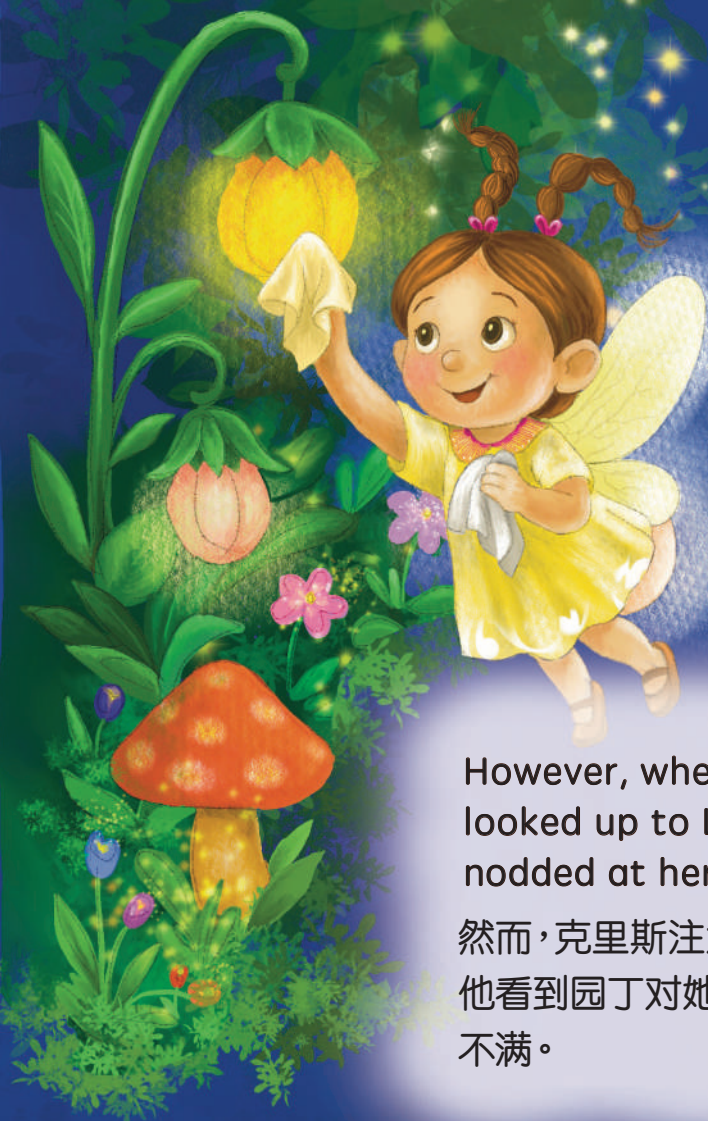
So, the whispers stayed whispers. Out of fear, everyone kept their heads down and carried on working.

于是，低语仍然是低语。出于恐惧，大家继续低头工作。



Luma kept working quietly.
露玛也继续默默工作。





However, when Crix saw how everyone looked up to Luma and how the Gardener nodded at her work, he did not like it.

然而，克里斯注意到大家都仰慕⁽⁹⁾露玛。他看到园丁对她的工作点头称赞，他对此非常不满。

She thinks she's special just because she helps everyone," Crix **muttered**⁽⁹⁾. "Let's see how bright she really is."

“她以为自己很特别，只因为帮助别人，”克里斯嘀咕⁽¹⁰⁾道，“让我们看看她到底有多亮。”





Traps were then set for her: missing glow-dust, wrongly labelled seeds, and lights turning off during important tasks.

于是，他设下了陷阱⁽¹¹⁾：发光粉不见了，种子标签被贴错，重要任务时灯光突然熄灭。

Soon, creatures began avoiding Luma — not because they disliked her, but because they did not want to become the next subject of whispers.

很快，生物们开始避开露玛——不是因为他们不喜欢她，而是因为他们不想成为下一个被议论的对象。





Luma began to dim. She kept working...
but quieter now. She avoided the Glowhouse.
露玛的光亮也因此开始黯淡⁽¹²⁾。她继续工作……
但变得更加安静。她避开了光之屋。



“Maybe it’s better not to shine too brightly.” she sighed.

“也许，不要太亮会更好，”她叹息道。





The garden changed. Where there was
once warmth, there was now silence.
The garden soon grew dark and cold.

花园变了。曾经温暖的地方，现在变得寂静。
花园很快变得黑暗而寒冷。



Creatures started keeping their lanterns low. They stopped helping one another. Even the glowflowers, which usually opened at night, **drooped**⁽¹⁰⁾ in the cold.

生物们开始把灯笼调暗。他们停止了互相帮助。甚至那些通常在夜晚盛开的光花，也在寒冷中低垂了。



Then one evening, a tiny voice spoke while Luma sat on a leaf looking out over the darkening garden. It was Pip, a baby sprout with a flickering bud light.

某天夜里，当露玛坐在一片叶子上，望着渐暗的花园时，一个微弱的声音响起。那是皮普，一株带着闪烁光亮的小芽儿。



“Why don’t you shine like you used to?”

“你为什么不像以前那样发光了？”



Luma gave a tired smile.

露玛勉强地笑了笑。

“Sometimes...when you shine too much, others try to put you out.”

“有时候……当你太亮时，别人会试图熄灭你。”



Pip tilted his tiny head.

皮普歪了歪小脑袋。

“But when you shine, it helps me see.

I used to fear the dark, but then I saw you.”

“但当你发光时，帮助我看清前方。我曾经害怕
黑暗，但后来我看到了你。”



Luma paused, and her heart **stirred**⁽¹¹⁾.

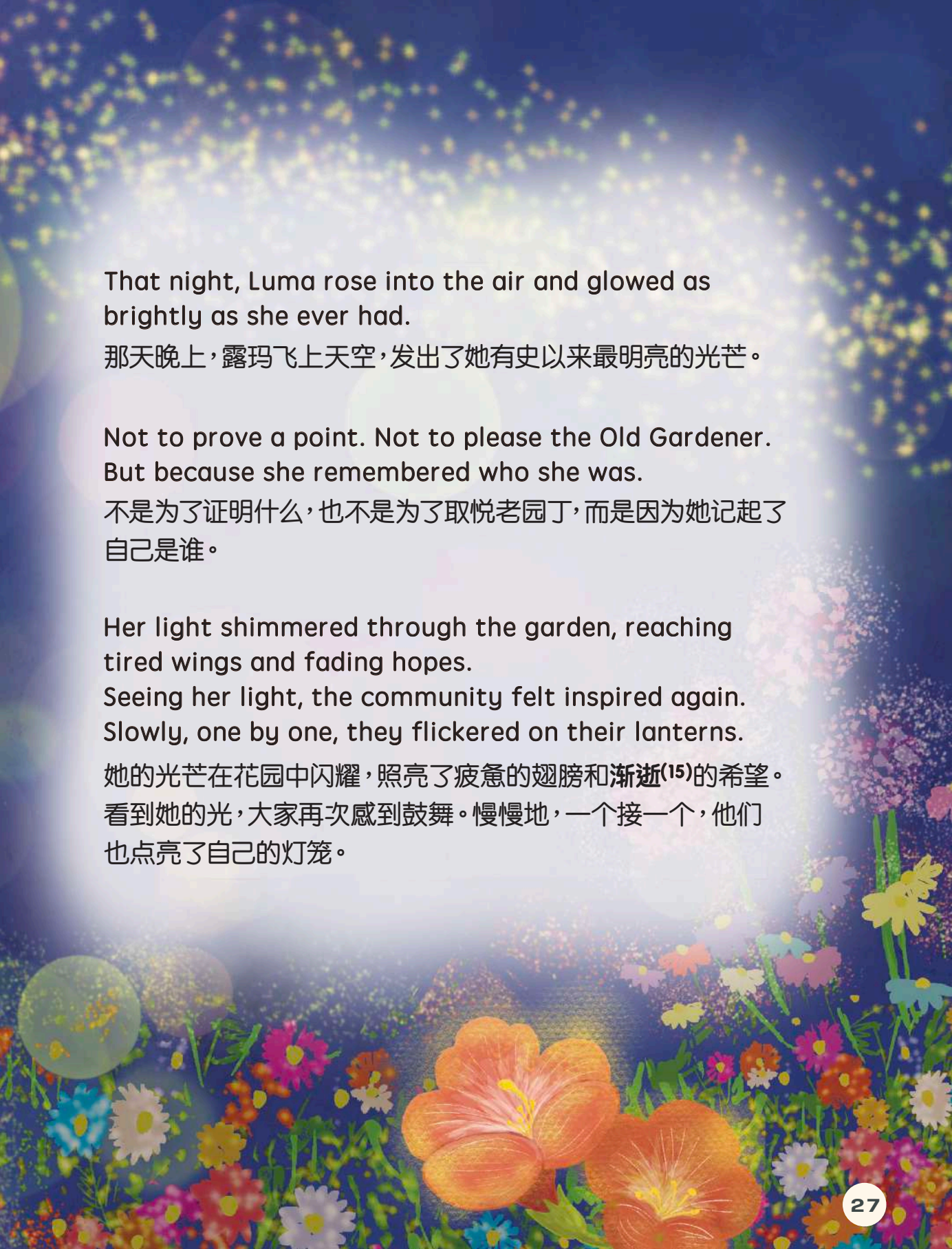
露玛停顿了一下，心中有所**触动**⁽¹³⁾。

She looked around the garden. So many **unmotivated**⁽¹²⁾ creatures, working away quietly. So many lights, hidden behind worry. The darkness did not come from the sky, it came from fear.

她环顾花园。那么多**无精打采**⁽¹⁴⁾的生物，默默地工作着。那么多光芒，因担忧而隐藏。黑暗并非来自天空，而是来自恐惧。







That night, Luma rose into the air and glowed as brightly as she ever had.

那天晚上，露玛飞上天空，发出了她有史以来最明亮的光芒。

Not to prove a point. Not to please the Old Gardener.
But because she remembered who she was.

不是为了证明什么，也不是为了取悦老园丁，而是因为她记起了自己是谁。

Her light shimmered through the garden, reaching tired wings and fading hopes.

Seeing her light, the community felt inspired again.
Slowly, one by one, they flickered on their lanterns.

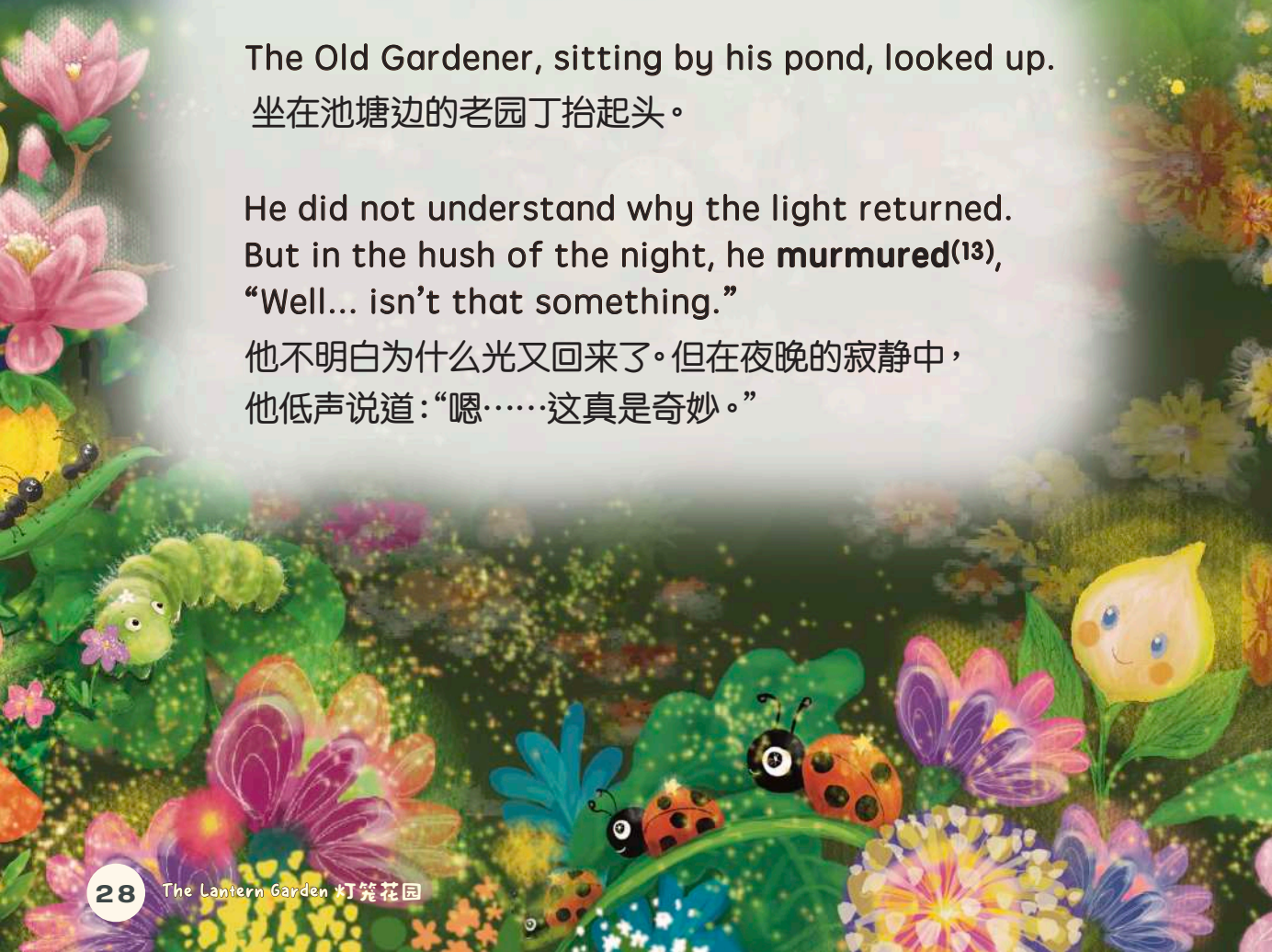
她的光芒在花园中闪耀，照亮了疲惫的翅膀和**渐渐**(15)的希望。
看到她的光，大家再次感到鼓舞。慢慢地，一个接一个，他们也点亮了自己的灯笼。



The Old Gardener, sitting by his pond, looked up.
坐在池塘边的老园丁抬起头。

He did not understand why the light returned.
But in the hush of the night, he **murmured**⁽¹³⁾,
“Well... isn’t that something.”

他不明白为什么光又回来了。但在夜晚的寂静中，
他低声说道：“嗯……这真是奇妙。”



And Crix?

He slunk deeper into the shadows.
But when enough lanterns glow
together, no shadow lasts for long.

而克里斯呢？

他藏进了阴影中。当足够多的灯笼一起
发光时，没有阴影能持续太久。

In the hush of the night, the Lantern Garden
shone once more.

在夜晚的寂静中，灯笼花园再次闪耀。



MORAL OF THE STORY 故事的启发

When you feel tired, rest, but do not quit. Even when whispers and shadows try to dim your light, kindness and courage still shine the brightest. Keep shining. You never know who needs your glow to find their way.

当你感到疲惫时，可以休息，但不要放弃。即使低语和阴影试图让你的光芒黯淡，善良和勇气仍然最为耀眼。继续发光吧。你永远不知道，谁需要你的光来找到他们的路。



FOOD FOR THOUGHT 思考时间

- Have you ever felt like Luma — wanting to help, but feeling discouraged?
你有没有像露玛一样，想要帮助别人，却感到沮丧？
- Why do you think some people (like Crix) act like they are helping, even when they are not?
你认为为什么有些人（像克里斯）会假装在帮助，实际上并没有？
- What would our homes or schools be like if more people chose to shine quietly, like Luma?
如果我们家里或学校里有更多人像露玛一样默默发光，会是什么样子？
- When someone shines their light by being kind, honest or helpful, how does it affect those around them?
当有人通过善良、诚实或乐于助人来发光时，这对周围的人有什么影响？
- Can you think of a time when someone's small act of kindness gave you courage?
你能想到什么时候，别人的一个小小善举给了你勇气吗？

LET US LEARN SOME NEW WORDS

- 1) **Shimmered:** shone softly with a gentle light.
- 2) **Collective:** when everyone helps or does something together.
- 3) **Humble:** do good things without showing off.
- 4) **Selflessly:** helping others without thinking about yourself first.
- 5) **Encouraged:** made to feel brave enough to try something.
- 6) **Puffed up:** to act more important than they are.
- 7) **Flickered:** blinked or moved like it might go out.
- 8) **Frowned:** an unhappy or worried face.
- 9) **Muttered:** said something very quietly (usually when feeling upset or unhappy).
- 10) **Drooped:** bent down from being tired or sad.
- 11) **Heart stirred:** felt something strong inside, like hope.
- 12) **Unmotivated:** not feeling like doing anything, even when you should.
- 13) **Murmured:** spoke in a soft and quiet voice.

词汇注解

- 1) **生机**:像春天一样,有活力、有生命的感觉。
- 2) **喧闹**:很多声音混在一起,很吵很热闹。
- 3) **无私**:不只想着自己,也愿意帮助别人。
- 4) **擅长**:特别会做某件事,做得很好。
- 5) **消耗**:用掉很多力气或东西,让它变少了。
- 6) **闪烁**:一亮一灭,像星星一样闪闪发光。
- 7) **枯萎**:植物没水或没阳光,慢慢变干、变软了。
- 8) **揭露**:把藏着的真相说出来。
- 9) **仰慕**:很喜欢一个人,觉得他很棒。
- 10) **嘀咕**:小声地说话,好像不想被别人听见。
- 11) **陷阱**:为了让别人跌进去或被困住,偷偷准备的圈套。
- 12) **黯淡**:光线很弱,不亮了,看起来有点暗。
- 13) **触动**:心里被某件事打动,觉得感动。
- 14) **无精打采**:一点精神也没有,看起来很累或不开心。
- 15) **渐渐**:慢慢地变少或不见了。

Tips for Parents 给家长的建议

This story is about quiet courage, kindness, and the power of staying true to oneself even when it is difficult. Use the questions and tips below to guide reflection and meaningful conversations. We hope this story encourages young hearts to keep shining and to recognise the light in others too.

这个故事讲述了安静的勇气、善良，以及即使在困难时也要坚持自己的力量。请使用以下问题和提示来引导孩子进行反思和有意义的对话。我们希望这个故事能鼓励年轻的心灵继续发光，并认识到他人身上的光芒。

Before Reading 阅读前

- **Set the Scene 营造氛围:** Tell your child that this is a story about a garden full of glowing creatures and one firefly who makes a difference. Ask: What do you think it means to “shine” even if you are small?

你可以告诉孩子，这是一个关于发光小动物的花园，以及一只小萤火虫如何带来改变的故事。接着问问他们：你觉得就算自己很小，也可以‘发光’是什么意思。

- **Introduce Key Concepts 介绍关键词:** Briefly explain ideas like kindness, courage and jealousy in simple terms. 简单解释善良、勇气、嫉妒等词汇。

During Reading 阅读中

- **Pause and Reflect 暂停与思考:** When Luma helps others, ask: How do you think she feels when she does that? 当露玛帮助别人时，可以问孩子：你觉得她这样做开心吗？为什么？

- **Explore Feelings 探索感受:** When Luma begins to dim, ask: Why do you think she is feeling this way?
当露玛的光开始变弱时，可以问：你觉得她为什么会伤心？
- **Notice Reactions 观察反应:** When Pip talks to Luma, ask: What do you think about Pip's words? How do they make Luma feel?
当皮普鼓励露玛时，可以问：皮普说的话让你有什么感觉？露玛听完后有什么变化？

After Reading 阅读后

- **Connect to Real Life 连接现实:** Ask your child, Who is someone in your life who shines like Luma? How can we be like her?
问问孩子：你身边有没有像露玛一样温柔发光的人？我们怎么做可以像她一样？
- **Encourage Expression 鼓励表达:** Invite your child to draw their lantern and write or talk about what makes their light special.
邀请孩子画出属于自己的小灯笼，写出或说出这些光亮因为什么而特别。
- **Reinforce the Message 强化信息:**
Remind your child that being kind and true to themselves, even when it is hard, helps and encourages others to find their way too.
提醒孩子，就算别人不理解，坚持做对的事、做善良的自己，总会影响到别人，也能照亮别人心中的一部分。



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In a garden where everyone glows,
what happens when fear dims the light?

在每个生物都发光的花园里，
当恐惧笼罩时，光还会闪耀吗？

In Lantern Garden, every creature carries a light.
Luma, a humble firefly, shines not to be seen,
but to help others see. When shadows of
envy and silence begin to spread, will she
still have the courage to glow?

在灯笼花园里，每个生物都有一盏小灯笼。
露玛，一只谦逊的小萤火虫，不是为了被看见而发光，
而是为了让别人能看见前方。当嫉妒和沉默的阴影
蔓延开来，她还会有勇气继续发光吗？

