



The Silent Path Home

Vinson Irby

SCENE 1:

Elijah stood on the bustling downtown sidewalk, mesmerized by the classic cars and the glowing city lights.



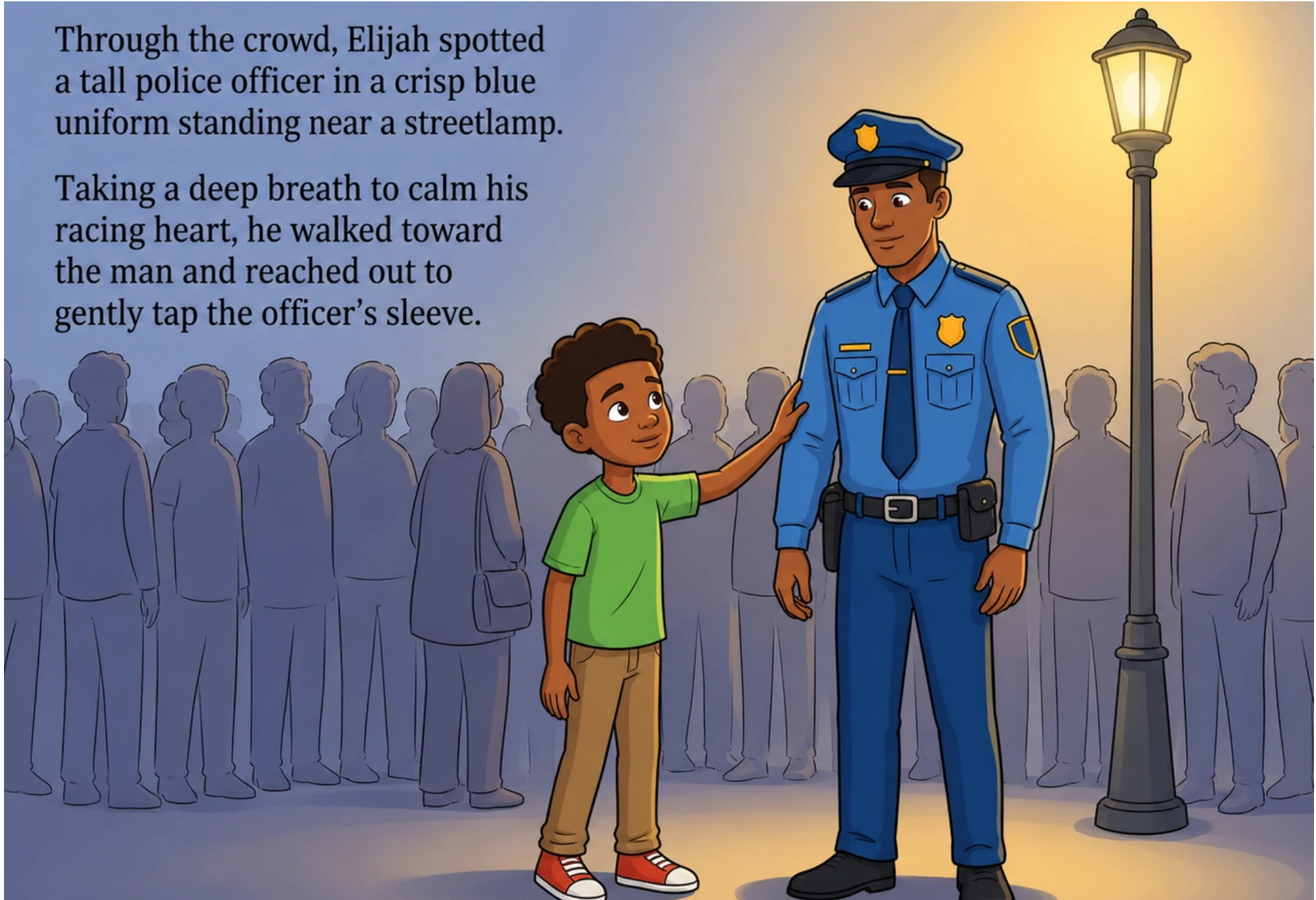
When he turned to show his mother a bright display window, he realized the familiar hem of her dress was nowhere to be seen.


A wave of cold air seemed to hit him as he scanned the sea of strangers, realizing he had wandered too far from her side.



Through the crowd, Elijah spotted a tall police officer in a crisp blue uniform standing near a streetlamp.

Taking a deep breath to calm his racing heart, he walked toward the man and reached out to gently tap the officer's sleeve.





Elijah had been searching for what felt like hours. He finally gathered his courage and approached a kind officer. He needed help finding his way home.

Excuse me, Officer.
I'm lost.
I'm looking for
my home.
Can you help me?

ELIJAH'S PROBLEM:

He is lost and
needs help finding
his home.



The officer leaned down, his lips moving in a series of words that Elijah couldn't hear or decipher. The boy shook his head gently, pointing to his ears and then to his mouth to show the officer that the world was silent for him.

This is my house.



Scene Seven:

The officer studies Elijah's drawing and recognizes the house. He knows exactly where it is. He points to the north end of the city to show Elijah.




POLICE
PRECINCT

CITY MAP

NORTH



The old house



North end of the city
North end of the city

TO PROTECT
AND
TO SERVE

SERVICE
HONOR
INTEGRITY

DEDICATED TO OUR COMMUNITY

That's the north end!
I know exactly where
that house is.

Scene 8 of 10

Together they walked down the sidewalk, the tall officer adjusting his long stride to match Elijah's smaller steps. People watched them pass, but Elijah felt a sense of safety as the officer occasionally checked in with a reassuring pat on the shoulder.



As they turned onto a familiar tree-lined street, Elijah saw his mother standing on their front porch, her eyes searching the horizon with deep worry. When she spotted him, her face transformed from panic to a look of pure, overwhelming joy.





After a tearful hug from his mother, Elijah turned back to the officer and gave a small, respectful wave of gratitude. The officer tipped his cap with a warm smile, showing that some messages are perfectly understood without saying a single word.