



## Lelem's Two Houses

Áurea Ribeiro



Meet Lelem, a cheerful four-year-old with bouncy brown curls and a big heart. He is never without his best friend, a soft white sheep named Bé, and he always keeps a brave toy dinosaur tucked in his pocket as they explore the world together.



Lelem sits at the kitchen table happily munching on his favorite snack, a warm raisin bun. His toy dinosaurs are scattered across the table like tiny prehistoric guests, while Bé the sheep sits in the chair beside him, watching the crumbs with a smile.



In the cozy living room, Mom and Dad tickle Lelem until he bursts into fits of giggles. As they cuddle on the sofa, a giant, glowing outline of a friendly Brachiosaurus surrounds them, representing a love that is bigger than the tallest dinosaur.



One afternoon, Mom and Dad sit with Lelem on a soft rug to share some important news. They explain in gentle voices that just like some forest animals have two different dens, Lelem will now have two beautiful houses to call home.



Lelem looks down at Bé, feeling a little bit worried about this new change. He wonders if his parents' love will be split into two pieces, and a small thought bubble shows a map where dinosaur footprints connect two colorful houses in the woods.



Mom gives Lelem a big squeeze and explains that love isn't like a toy that stays in one room. She tells him that just as Bé is still his favorite sheep no matter where they go, their love for him stays exactly the same size in every house.



Dad lets out a playful dinosaur roar and tells Lelem that he is now a brave Explorer of two different territories. He promises that both houses will be filled with dinosaur toys, cozy beds for Bé, and plenty of delicious raisin buns.



Lelem soon discovers that having two homes is like a grand adventure where the fun never ends. At Mom's house, they build secret jungles out of bedsheets, and at Dad's house, they create a massive dinosaur park right in the middle of the bedroom.



Lelem stands outside under a beautiful, shimmering rainbow that stretches from one house to the other. He finally understands that his parents' love is as strong as a T-Rex and that it doesn't divide when they move—it simply grows bigger.



At school, Lelem notices his friend Tom sitting alone and looking very sad. With the courage of a true explorer, Lelem walks over and places Bé the sheep in Tom's lap, ready to share the secret of how love can live in two houses at once.