



Leo and the Cotton Locomotive

Angelo Basta

LEO



Leo lay in room 402, where the steady beep-beep-beep of the monitor filled the air. He closed his eyes, imagining the medical sound was actually the rhythmic pulse of a powerful steam engine warming up for a great journey.



Suddenly, the crisp white hospital sheets began to billow and swell, turning into thick, fragrant clouds of steam. The metal rails of his bed stretched and transformed into shimmering silver tracks that glowed with a magical light.



The bed itself shifted into the grand cabin of a legendary locomotive made of soft cotton and sturdy steel. Leo felt the gentle vibration of the engine beneath him as the room began to fade into the background.



With a powerful, echoing whistle, the Cotton Locomotive surged forward and glided right through the window. The glass didn't break but rippled like a calm pond as the train soared out into the cool night air.



Leo, the Nurse, and the Star Voyagers!

Below them, the hospital became a tiny glowing block in a city that looked like it was built from colorful toy bricks. Above, the sky was a deep cobalt blue, filled with stars that sparkled like lemon-flavored candies.



The train sped over the deep Canyon of Medicine, where rivers of bright red syrup flowed between cliffs of sparkling crystals. Waterfalls of colorful pills cascaded down the rocks, shimmering with the promise of strength and healing.



THE VALLEY OF REDISCOVERED SMILES

Soon, the locomotive slowed down as it reached the Valley of Rediscovered Smiles, a land where the ground was made of soft moss and the air smelled like summer. A station made entirely of pink cotton candy waited for them at the end of the tracks.



Leo stepped off the train, feeling his legs grow light as feathers as he ran to meet his friends. They spent what felt like forever chasing colorful kites and laughing under a sun that never seemed to set.



As the silver moon rose high, the Cotton Locomotive let out a soft, melodic whistle that sounded like a gentle lullaby. Leo climbed back into his cozy bed-cabin, tucking the cloud-like blankets up to his chin for the peaceful ride home.



LEO IS ALL BETTER!

Leo opened his eyes to the familiar beep of the monitor and the kind smile of his nurse. He looked down and found a small tuft of white cotton caught in his hand, a secret souvenir from his magnificent journey.