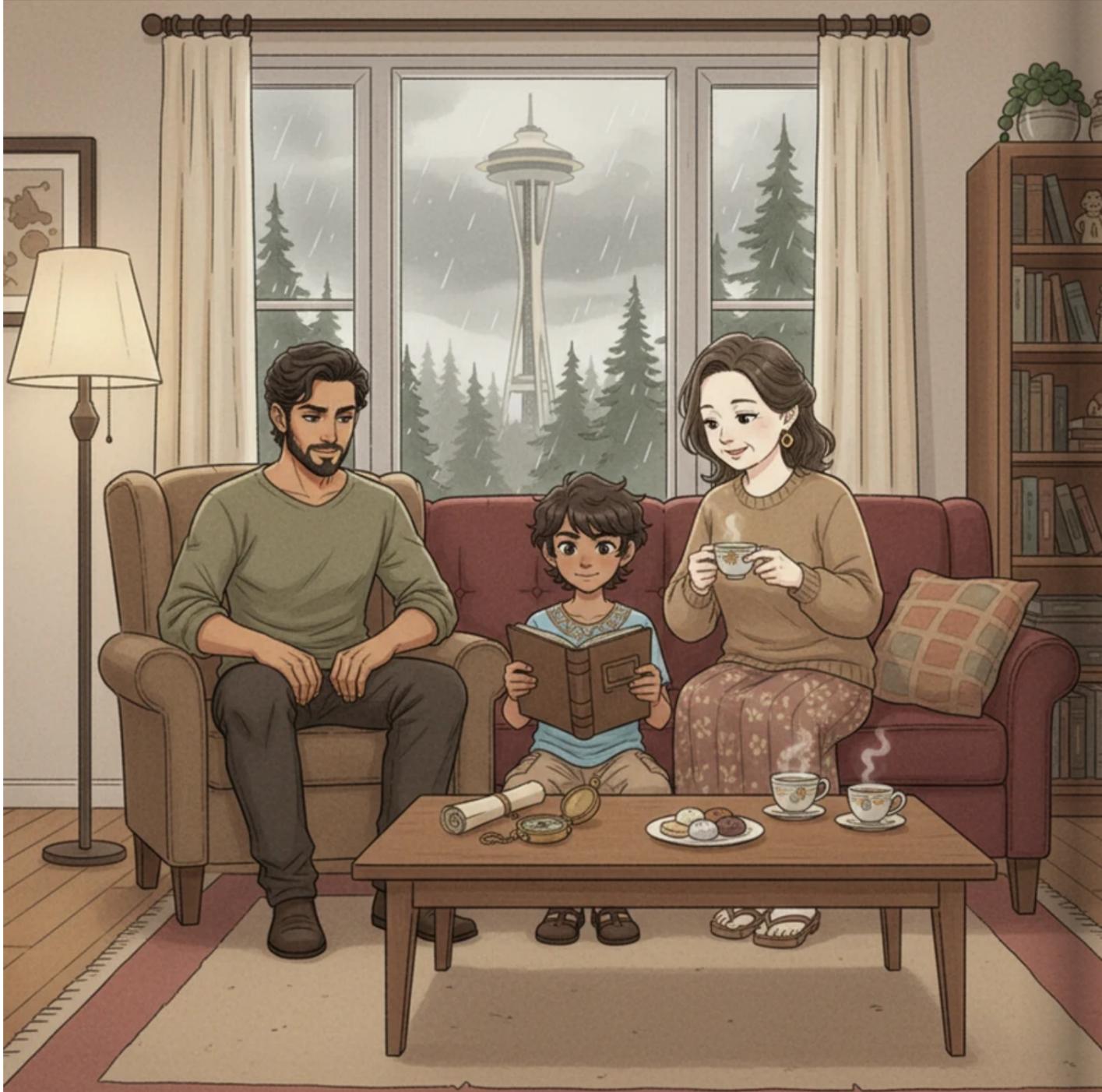


THE ADVENTURES OF
ZAID, HANA AND OMAR



Across the Ocean to My Heart

Hussein Labib



Zaid sits at his desk in Seattle, the soft glow of his computer screen illuminating a message from a kind-hearted woman named Hana in Japan. They connected through a system called Omiai, and though thousands of miles apart, their daily chats are filled with laughter and a growing sense of wonder.



The air in Japan is fresh and sweet as Zaid finally meets Hana in person for the first time. Her humor is even more infectious than he imagined, and as they explore the city together, he realizes that her kind spirit is the light he has been searching for.



In a cozy Seattle apartment, Hana and Zaid sit side-by-side on the sofa with video game controllers in their hands. The room is filled with playful shouts and joy as they navigate digital worlds together, though Zaid makes sure to keep the cilantro far away from their dinner plates.



With a heart full of conviction and love, Hana stands in a peaceful space in Seattle to revert to Islam before she and Zaid are wed. Their wedding is a beautiful union of two souls, marking the beginning of a life where every comment she makes fills Zaid's heart with a fuzzy, warm glow.



Zaid's son, Omar, laughs as he plays a game with Hana in their shared home, the three of them forming a perfect, happy circle. The transition is seamless, and the house is constantly filled with the music of their combined stories and the comfort of a family that truly gets along.



Under the shadow of the Great Pyramids of Giza, Zaid and Hana walk hand-in-hand through the golden Egyptian sands. They spend a month visiting Zaid's mother and family, indulging in incredible traditional food and exploring the ancient wonders of his heritage during the Christmas season.



In the quiet, scenic city of Oita, Japan, Zaid sits with Hana's parents in their family home. Despite the different languages and cultures, the love they all share for Hana creates an instant bond, and her parents welcome Zaid with open arms and warm smiles.



The house is quiet during the long days of Hana's second Ramadan, and she rests on the sofa feeling the fatigue of the fast. Zaid stays close by her side, offering quiet support as they both pray for her immigrant visa to be processed so she can stay in her new home forever.



As the sun sets over Seattle, the neighborhood comes alive with a vibrant Iftar party thrown specifically to welcome Hana. Neighbors bring dishes and warm greetings, surrounding the couple with a sense of belonging that makes the chilly Seattle evening feel incredibly heart-warming.



Zaid and Hana stand together on a balcony overlooking the sparkling Seattle skyline, the Space Needle glowing in the distance. He looks at his wife, the light of his heart, knowing that no matter the distance they traveled, they are exactly where they are meant to be.