



## Elara and the Guiding Light

by Bao Liu



Elara lived in a small village nestled beside a whispering forest. The elders often spoke of a guiding light, a promise from above to those who remained true. Elara, curious and kind, often wondered about this guiding light and what it meant to stay apart from the world.



One day, a shadow fell over the village. Greed and envy began to spread, tempting the villagers to forget their values. Elara watched, her heart heavy, as the once-harmonious community began to fracture under the influence of the world's allure.



Elara remembered the promise: 'set us apart.' She decided to find her own way. She sought guidance, spending her days in the forest, listening to the rustling leaves and seeking wisdom within herself, striving to live by her principles.



During a terrible storm, the villagers, consumed by fear and selfishness, turned against each other. Elara, remembering the guiding light, found strength in her faith. She helped the ones in need, showing them kindness, and reminding them of their values.



As the storm passed, a soft, warm light began to emanate from Elara. The villagers, witnessing her unwavering spirit, began to see the error of their ways. They realized that the guiding light was within themselves, a reflection of their true character.



The village, once divided, came together. They rebuilt their homes, and their hearts, embracing kindness and understanding. Elara smiled, knowing that the promise had been fulfilled. They were set apart, not by a physical light, but by the guiding light within their hearts.