



The Lighthouse Keeper and the Shifting Sands

by Suchismita Mati



Leo stood on the sandy shore, watching the waves crash against the familiar lighthouse. He felt the weight of the coming school year pressing down on him, a mixture of excitement and fear swirling in his stomach. The salty air carried the scent of change, a feeling he couldn't quite name.



Inside the lighthouse, Leo's grandfather, the keeper, carefully polished the giant lens. He told Leo stories of navigating storms and guiding ships safely home, reminding Leo that every challenge could be overcome with courage. He emphasized the importance of self-belief when confronting the unknown.



One day, a new student, Maya, arrived at school, quiet and withdrawn. Leo noticed Maya struggling to fit in. He remembered his grandfather's stories and decided to befriend Maya, offering a helping hand.



Leo and Maya spent afternoons near the beach, building sandcastles that the tides inevitably swept away. They talked about their anxieties, their dreams, and the changes they were facing. They discovered that they shared more than they thought.



As the school year progressed, both Leo and Maya faced their own 'storms'. They supported each other through difficult exams and social challenges, learning to lean on one another. The lighthouse, a symbol of guidance, provided a reassuring presence.



At the end of the year, Leo stood tall, looking out at the vast ocean. He realized that growing up was like the shifting sands, always changing, but with courage, friendship, and the memory of the lighthouse's steady light, he could navigate any challenge.