

The Traveler

by Joy Oshomah



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I dedicate this book to my son,
Nas SAMMUEL.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks to almighty God for giving me the knowledge and wisdom to write this book.

Thanks to my son Nas Sammuel for being by my side. Thanks to the publisher and to those that is going to read my book.

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CHAPTER ONE – A LONELY Boy

Barbara was a kind boy, but the people around him were not kind to him.

At school, the children laughed at him.

They took his food and his books.

When Barbara told their parents, instead of helping him, the parents scolded him.

Barbara sat under the big tree one afternoon, hugging his knees.

“Why does no one like me?” he whispered.

His eyes filled with tears.



CHAPTER Two – THE BIRTHDAY WITHOUT Joy

Years passed, and Barbara grew into a young man. He moved to the city to work. He tried to make friends, but many people ignored him. Some even called him names.

When his birthday came, Barbara decided to invite everyone. He worked hard to prepare food. He hoped, just this once, people would smile at him.

The guests came. They ate and laughed. But no one said, “Happy birthday.”

No one brought him a gift.

When the plates were empty, they left.

Barbara sat in the quiet house, his heart heavy.

“Why do they never see me?” he thought.



CHAPTER THREE – LOVE AND LOSS

Barbara longed for someone who would stay. One day, he met a beautiful girl named Anna. She was kind at first, and soon they married.

Barbara smiled more than he ever had. At last, he thought, I have a friend for life.

But months later, Anna grew distant.

“I don’t love you anymore,” she said one morning.

And she left.

Barbara’s heart broke into pieces.

“I have no place in this world,” he whispered.



CHAPTER FOUR – INTO THE FOREST

One evening, Barbara packed a small bag.

“Maybe I will find peace in the forest,” he said.

He walked among tall trees. The wind whistled, and strange sounds filled the night.

Suddenly, a baby lion stepped out from behind the bushes.

“Why are you here, human?” the baby lion asked with curious eyes.

Barbara bowed his head.

“I am lonely. May I stay with you?”

The lion shook his little mane.

“You cannot stay. My parents eat people. If they return, you will be their lunch. Run before it’s too late.”

Barbara’s heart pounded. He turned and ran as fast as he could.



CHAPTER Five – THE COBRA'S WARNING

Out of breath, Barbara stumbled onto a rocky path. A shining cobra lifted its head, its tongue flickering.

“Why are you here, human?” hissed the cobra.

“I am searching for friends,” Barbara said softly. “Will you be my friend?”

The cobra laughed.

“Friends? We do not keep humans. We kill and swallow them whole. Run, before I change my mind!”

Terrified, Barbara sprinted away once again, his feet barely touching the ground.



CHAPTER Six – THE LEOPARD

Barbara ran until he came face-to-face with a leopard.

The leopard's eyes gleamed in the shadows.

"What are you doing here, human?" he asked.

Barbara bowed his head.

"My neighbors hate me. I have no friends. I came to the forest to find peace."

The leopard licked his lips.

"Then you came at the right time. Tonight, I don't need to hunt. You will make a fine dinner."

Barbara's knees shook.

"Please, sir Leopard, I only want kindness."

The leopard grinned.

"Wait here. I will fetch my mate. We shall eat together."

As soon as the leopard turned away, Barbara whispered,

"If I stay, I will be meat."



CHAPTER SEVEN – The Antelopes

Out of breath, Barbara stumbled into a meadow filled with graceful antelopes.

They looked at him with wide, gentle eyes.

“Why are you here, human?” they asked.

“I am lonely,” Barbara said. “I want to live among you.”

The antelopes shook their heads.

“We cannot help you. We live in fear. We are always running. The leopards, lions, and wild dogs chase us. If you stay, you will only slow us down.”

Barbara’s voice trembled.

“But who protects you?”

“No one,” the antelopes replied sadly. “Our only gift is speed.”

Suddenly, they lifted their heads.

“Something moved in the tall grass. Run!” one shouted.

In a flash, they disappeared, leaving Barbara alone. He stood trembling, his stomach empty.

“Maybe they will come back with food,” he whispered.

But the meadow stayed silent.

(Illustration idea: Barbara standing alone in the meadow as the antelopes vanish into the tall grass.)



CHAPTER Eight – The Birds

Barbara wandered deeper into the forest until the trees opened to a clearing filled with color.

Above him fluttered rainbow lorikeets, paradise tanagers, and golden pheasants. Their feathers shimmered like jewels.

“Why are you here, traveler?” the birds sang.

Barbara smiled for the first time.

“Because I love nature. I love freedom. I wish to live like you.”

The birds fluttered down and shook their bright wings.

“It is true, nature is beautiful. We fly high and free. But you cannot live with us. We build nests for our chicks.

We soar across the skies. You cannot fly.”



Barbara's face fell.

"But I love you. You are so beautiful. Please, let me stay."

The golden pheasant tilted her head.

"Perhaps the sea will help you. Walk quickly. Danger is never far in this forest."

Barbara's eyes filled with tears.

"Goodbye, my friends."

He fled once more, his heart heavy but still searching.



CHAPTER NINE – THE WHALE

At last, Barbara reached the sea.

The waves sparkled under the sun. The air smelled of salt and freedom.

He sighed, “Yes – this is where I belong.”

He stepped into the water. Suddenly, a huge shadow rose beneath him. A great whale lifted its head.

“Why are you here, little man?” the whale rumbled.

“I am searching for a good life,” Barbara said. “I want to be happy.”

The whale’s dark eyes blinked slowly.

“Then come inside me. You will have peace in my stomach for as long as you wish.”

Barbara shook his head quickly.

“No, I don’t want to live in your stomach!”

The whale laughed, sending a fountain of spray into the sky.

“Then I cannot help you. Go on, traveler.”

Barbara stood on the shore, tears mixing with the salty sea.

“Is there no place for me in this world?” he whispered.

CHAPTER TEN – THE PIRANHAS

Barbara waded into the water. Shiny little fish swam all around him.

“Oh, maybe they will be my friends,” Barbara whispered hopefully.

But suddenly – snap! One fish bit his leg. Then another.

“Ouch! Stop! Please!” Barbara cried.

The water turned red, and Barbara kicked as hard as he could. He escaped, limping away with pain in his eyes.

“Why do they hate me too?” he sobbed.



CHAPTER ELEVEN – THE BARRACUDA

As he swam farther, a sharp-toothed barracuda appeared.

“Why are you sad, traveler?” the barracuda asked, circling him.

Barbara stayed silent, holding his bleeding leg.

The barracuda grinned.

“Hmm, your hand looks delicious.”

He bit Barbara’s hand.

“Ahh!” Barbara screamed.

The barracuda darted forward again.

“Let me bite the other one!”

Barbara kicked away in terror, clutching his wounded hands.

“The sea is as cruel as the forest,” he wept.

(Illustration idea: A fierce barracuda circling Barbara as he struggles to swim away with injured hands.)



CHAPTER TWELVE – THE ELECTRIC EEL

Out of the dark waters slithered an electric eel.

“What are you doing here, human?” the eel asked.

Barbara reached out, desperate for comfort.

Zzzzap! A bolt of shock ran through his body.

“Ahhh! Why are you so wicked?” Barbara shouted.

The eel tilted its head.

“Wicked? We didn’t kill you. We were even nice.”

Barbara raised his hands, showing the bites, the shocks, the scars.

“Look at me. My body tells the truth – you are not nice.”

The eel flicked its tail.

“Go further into the sea. Ask the shark. He might answer your questions.”

Barbara sighed.

“Thank you... I suppose.”



CHAPTER THIRTEEN – THE SHARK

The water grew darker. A huge shadow approached.

Then came the wide mouth of a shark.

The shark's teeth glistened.

"Today is a good day!" he shouted.

Barbara trembled.

"Why is today good for you?"

The shark laughed.

"Because you are good to eat!"

"Please don't eat me!" Barbara begged. "I only want to live in peace."

The shark circled him.

"Then leave the sea. You do not belong here."

"But I have nowhere to go," Barbara whispered.

The shark's tail struck the water like thunder.

"Then travel to another planet."



CHAPTER FOURTEEN – THE LOCKED GATE

Barbara floated and floated until he reached a shining new planet.

There was a golden gate. He knocked softly.
A man appeared.

“What is your name?”

“Barbara,” he answered.

The man studied him.

“You are not happy with your neighbors. Because of that, you cannot enter.”

Barbara’s heart sank.

“But they mistreated me! They called me names, they beat me, they never showed kindness.”

The man sighed.

“It is a shame they treated you so. I will allow you to tell your story to our chief.”

The gates opened. Barbara stepped into a land of beauty.



CHAPTER FIFTEEN – THE BEAUTIFUL PLACE

Inside, everything sparkled. Children laughed, people danced, music filled the air.

Tables overflowed with food.

“Eat,” they told Barbara.

He ate until his stomach was full.

When he tried to join their dance, a voice called:
“Barbara, come to the chief.”

The chief was tall, kind, and wise.

“Tell me, traveler, why have you come?”

Barbara told him everything—
about the village children who beat him,
the friends who mocked him,
the wife who left him,
the forest that rejected him,
the sea that bit and shocked him.

The chief’s eyes filled with sadness.

“It is true, the world can be wicked to the gentle.”



CHAPTER SIXTEEN – THE CHIEF'S LESSON

Barbara's voice trembled.

"Please, Chief, let me stay here. This is the most beautiful place I have ever seen."

The chief shook his head.

"You do not yet have the qualifications."

Barbara's heart broke.

"What qualifications must I have? I have always been good. I have harmed no one."

The chief leaned close.

"Yes, this is a land of kindness and joy. But it is not meant to be an escape."

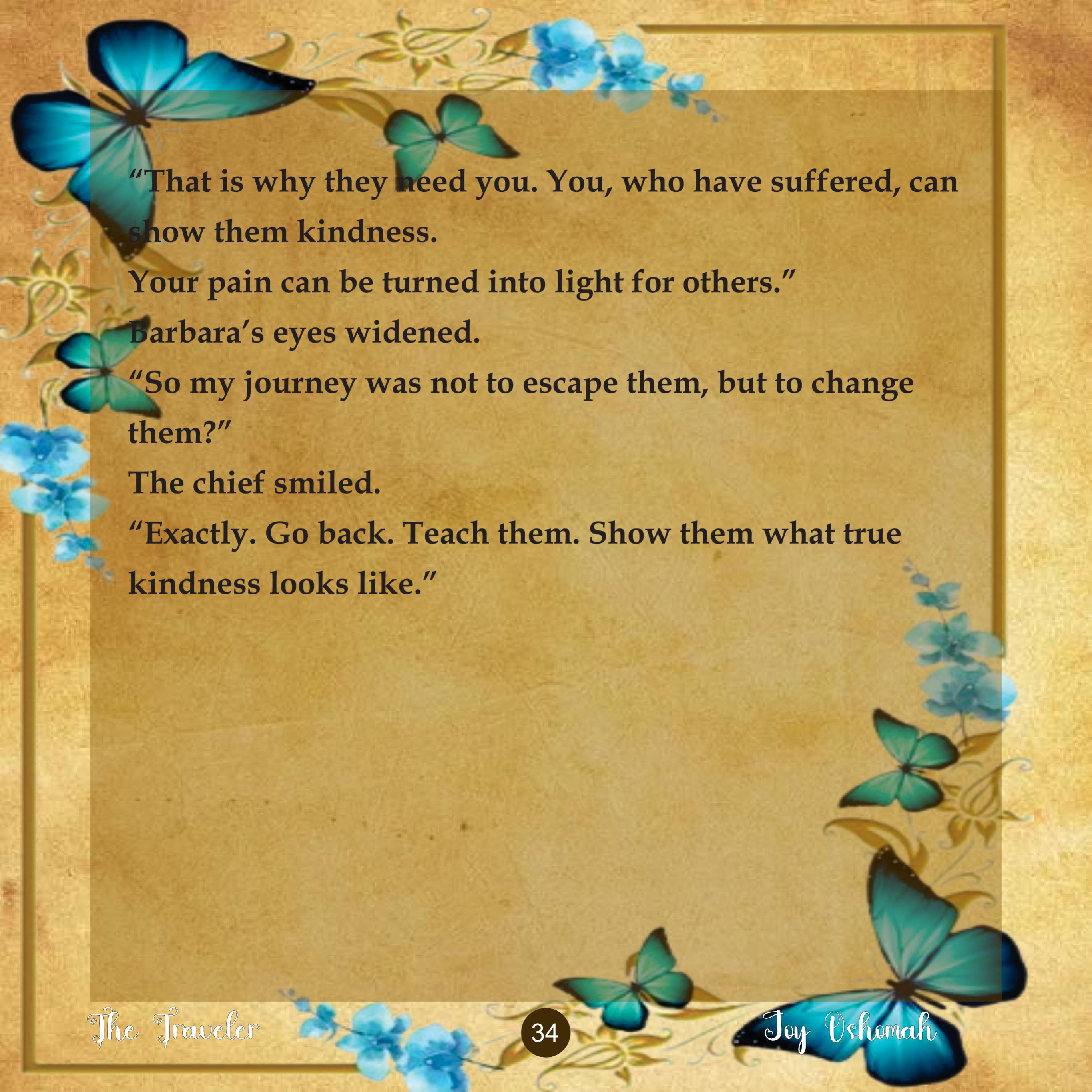
The true test is not finding a place where people are already good.

The test is helping bad people learn how to be good."

Barbara fell silent.

"But they called me 'Kitchen Rat.' They hated me."

"I know," the chief replied gently.



“That is why they need you. You, who have suffered, can show them kindness.

Your pain can be turned into light for others.”

Barbara’s eyes widened.

“So my journey was not to escape them, but to change them?”

The chief smiled.

“Exactly. Go back. Teach them. Show them what true kindness looks like.”

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN – THE CHIEF'S TASK

Barbara bowed before the chief.

“But how can I do this? How can I change my neighbors?”

The chief's eyes were kind.

“If you want to stay here with us, you must first return. Tell your neighbors what you saw in this beautiful place.

Then you may come back, and we will receive you.”

Barbara's voice trembled.

“And what if they do not believe me?”

The chief lifted his hand.

He gave Barbara a shining dress and precious gifts.

“Show them these,” he said. “But more important, show them love.”

Barbara's heart grew lighter.

“I will do it,” he said. “I will go back.”



CHAPTER EIGHTEEN – The Neighbor

Barbara returned home.

The very next day, he saw his neighbor.

“Good morning,” Barbara greeted.

The neighbor turned away, saying nothing.

Barbara ran to him.

“What is the matter? Why do you not greet me back?”

The neighbor crossed his arms.

“I don’t greet people. I don’t like people. I only love my dogs.”

Barbara smiled gently.

“Do you like anything else?”

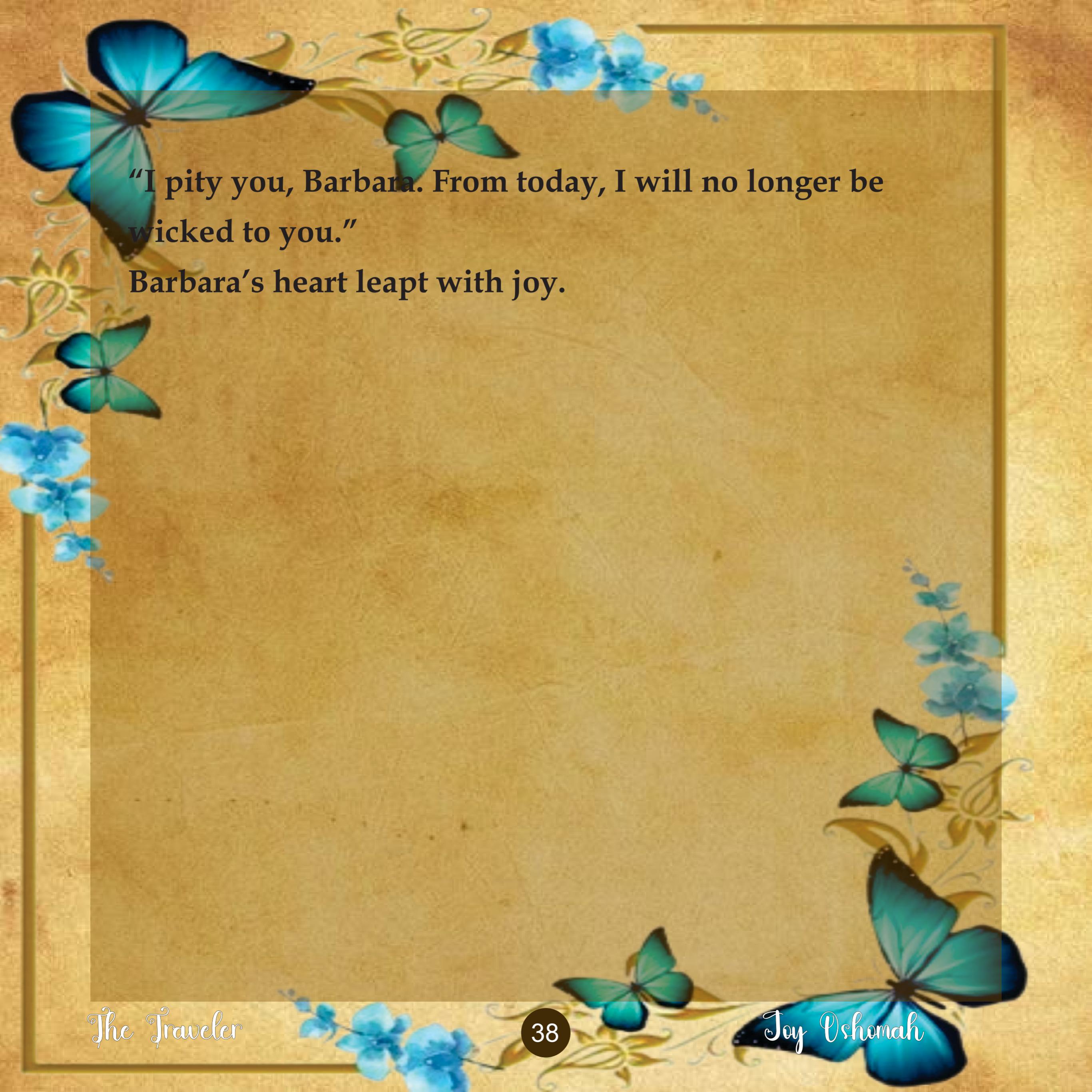
“Yes,” the neighbor said after a pause. “I like coffee.”

Barbara hurried to make a cup.

He brought it, warm and sweet.

Sitting together, Barbara told him everything about the beautiful land beyond the gate.

The neighbor’s eyes softened.



“I pity you, Barbara. From today, I will no longer be wicked to you.”

Barbara’s heart leapt with joy.



CHAPTER NINETEEN – TEACHING KINDNESS

Soon, Barbara and his neighbor began speaking to others.

“We must be kind,” Barbara told them. “Kindness is the key to the beautiful garden.”

Some people agreed.

Others shook their heads.

“We don’t believe you,” they said.

One man, Robert, asked,

“What must I do to be kind?”

Barbara answered,

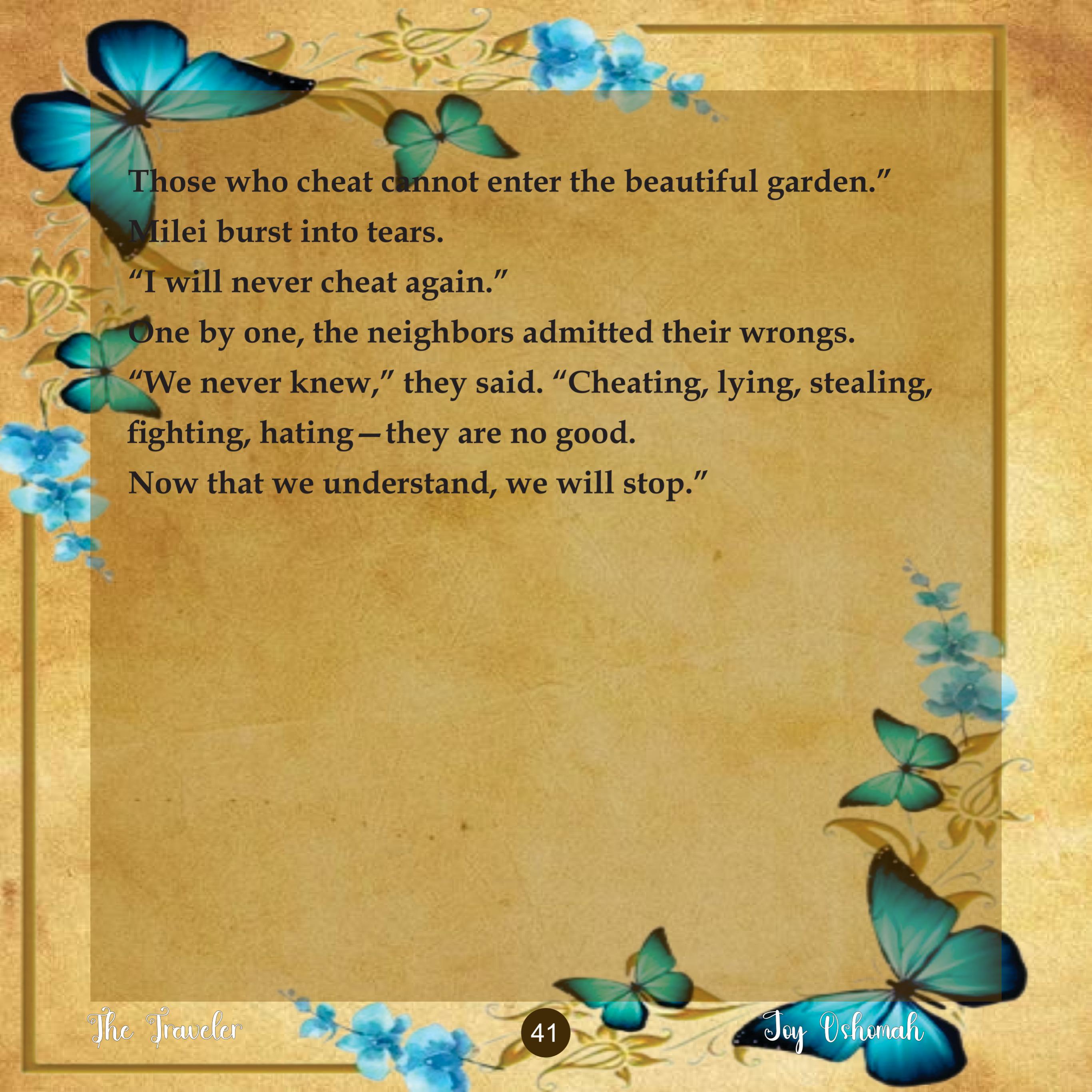
“Greet people. Show them you care. If someone needs something and you have it, give it.”

Another neighbor, Milei, hung her head.

“But I have nothing. I cheat and take from others. That is how I live.”

Barbara placed a hand on her shoulder.

“If you have nothing, it is better to beg than to cheat.



Those who cheat cannot enter the beautiful garden."

Milei burst into tears.

"I will never cheat again."

One by one, the neighbors admitted their wrongs.

"We never knew," they said. "Cheating, lying, stealing, fighting, hating – they are no good.

Now that we understand, we will stop."

CHAPTER TWENTY – A New Life

The whole village began to change.

They greeted one another.

They shared food.

They helped each other with kindness and love.

Barbara was happier than ever before.

He married a kind woman, Mrs. Caron, who once had been unkind herself.

But now her heart was full of love.

Together they had a child, and their home was warm with laughter.

Barbara never forgot the beautiful garden.

He longed to see it again one day.

But until then, he lived with care,

showing love to everyone,

because he knew – the road to the beautiful garden

begins with kindness here on earth.





Oshomah Joy is a gifted writer with a special love for children's literature. She believes that every child deserves stories that not only entertain but also inspire and shape their imagination. With creativity and warmth, she crafts books that carry important life lessons wrapped in fun and adventure. Her greatest joy is seeing young readers laugh, learn, and dream as they journey through the pages of her stories. She is currently working on more exciting stories that will continue to brighten the hearts and minds of children everywhere.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Barbara was never understood in his village. Kind and gentle, yet always mistreated, he set out on a journey to find where he truly belonged.

Along the way, he encountered wild animals, strangers, and wise chiefs—each testing his heart, courage, and resolve. Through rejection, pain, and unexpected lessons, Barbara discovered that the greatest journey is not about escaping the world but learning to change it with love.

The Traveler is a timeless tale of hope, kindness, and the search for a true home. It reminds us all that the path to a beautiful life begins with the simple choice to show kindness here on earth.



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