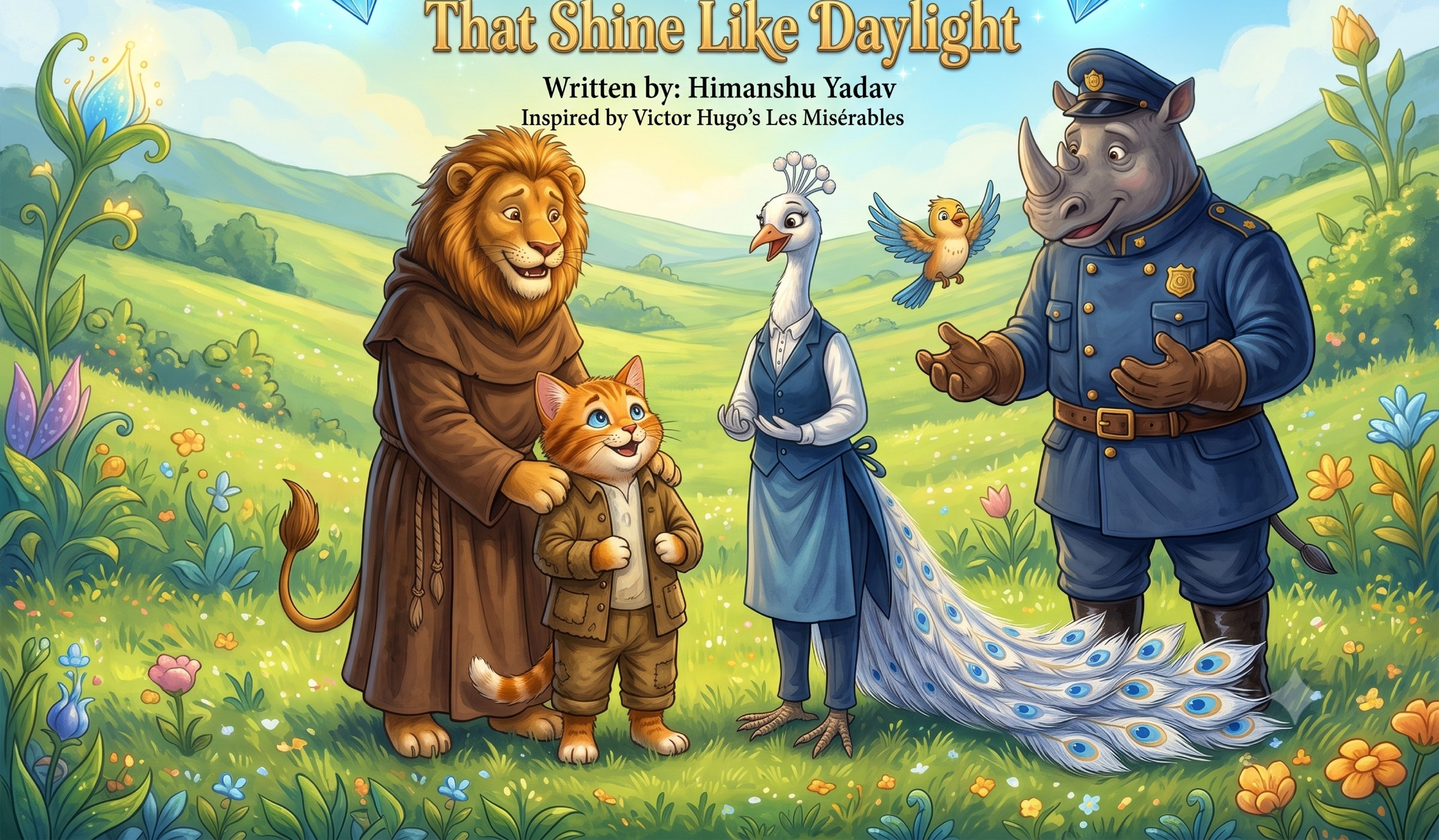


The Lion and the Blue Diamonds That Shine Like Daylight

Written by: Himanshu Yadav
Inspired by Victor Hugo's Les Misérables



FOR MY SON GRANTH,
AND HIS FRIENDS AT REDBRICKS SCHOOL.



A little stray cat walked alone in the snow,
With ice on his whiskers and nowhere to go.
His tummy was empty, his jacket was worn,
As cold winter breezes blew early that morn.



Beneath a wooden bench by an icy stone wall,
He heard a soft cry from three puppies so small.
The shivering puppies were hungry and cold,
With no one to hug them and no one to hold.



Cat saw a fresh loaf on a baker's wide sill,
Steaming and warm in the frosty night chill.
He took the soft bread with a pat of his paw,
To help the poor puppies he tenderly saw.



He broke up the bread
into pieces so sweet,
And gave each small puppy
a hearty warm treat.

Their little tails wagged
as they ate with delight,
And snuggled together
to sleep through the night.





Then THUMP! THUMP! CLATTER! along the stone street,
Came Rhino the guard on his heavy blue feet!
"Hey, stop right there, Cat!" roared the Rhino in blue,
"You took what you lacked, so it's trouble for you!"

Poor Cat ran away through the
shadows so deep,
While snowflakes fell soft as the
town fell asleep.
He shivered and sneezed in the
freezing cold air,
And wished for a friend who had
kindness to share.



Then high on a hill where the snowy trees bend,
A golden lamp glowed with a sign:
WELCOME, FRIEND!

It hung by the door of a cozy stone cave,
A safe, gentle home for the tired and brave.



The heavy wooden door opened wide with a squeak,
And there stood a Lion, so noble and meek.
With round wire spectacles perched on his nose,
He smiled from his ears to the tips of his toes.



Come in, little traveler,
out of the chill!
There's plenty of warmth
on our snowy white hill.
Come sit by the fire
and dry your wet paws,
For love and good cheer
are the only cave laws.



A cheerful white Peacock in apron of blue,
Brought big bowls of soup and a warm veggie stew.
With shiny silver spoons and a big silver tray,
He served the sweet dinner without a delay.





Above the warm fireplace, shining so bright,
Two magic blue diamonds filled darkness with light!
They glowed like the sunshine, so brilliant and blue,
And made the whole room feel as fresh as the dew.

Soon all through the cave, not a creature made sound,
As sweet, cozy dreams floated softly around.
But Cat lay awake, full of worry and fear,
Afraid that the morning would bring him a tear.



He looked at the plates made of silver so grand:

"If I sell this silver throughout the wide land,
I'll never go hungry or freeze
in the snow!"

So Cat took the silver
and started to go.



He slipped past the door and ran out through the frost
Clutching the bag so no plate would be lost.
Then THUMP! THUMP!- a shadow stepped out in the street!
The Rhino stood guard in the cold winter sleet!



"Aha!" cried the Rhino,
"What's that in your sack?
You stole from the Lion!
I'm dragging you back!"

He marched little Cat to the cave in a hurry,
While Peacock looked on in a feathery worry.



The Rhino said, "Sire! Look at what this cat took!
He stole all your silver while you didn't look!"

Cat bowed his head low as a tear
trickled down, "I'm sorry,"
he wept with a sorrowful frown.



The Lion stepped forward, his smile calm and bright,
'Good Rhino, you brought my young guest back tonight!
The silver was not stolen—I gave it away!
In fact, little Cat left too quickly today!'



The Rhino stood frozen, his eyes open wide,
He bowed to the Lion and stepped to the side:
"Forgive me, Great Sire! You're the King of the land!"
Cat stared in surprise at the Lion so grand.





The King held the two glowing diamonds of blue,
That sparkled like sunshine and morning-time dew.
He placed the warm gems in the Cat's little paws:
"These treasures are yours with no worry or flaws."



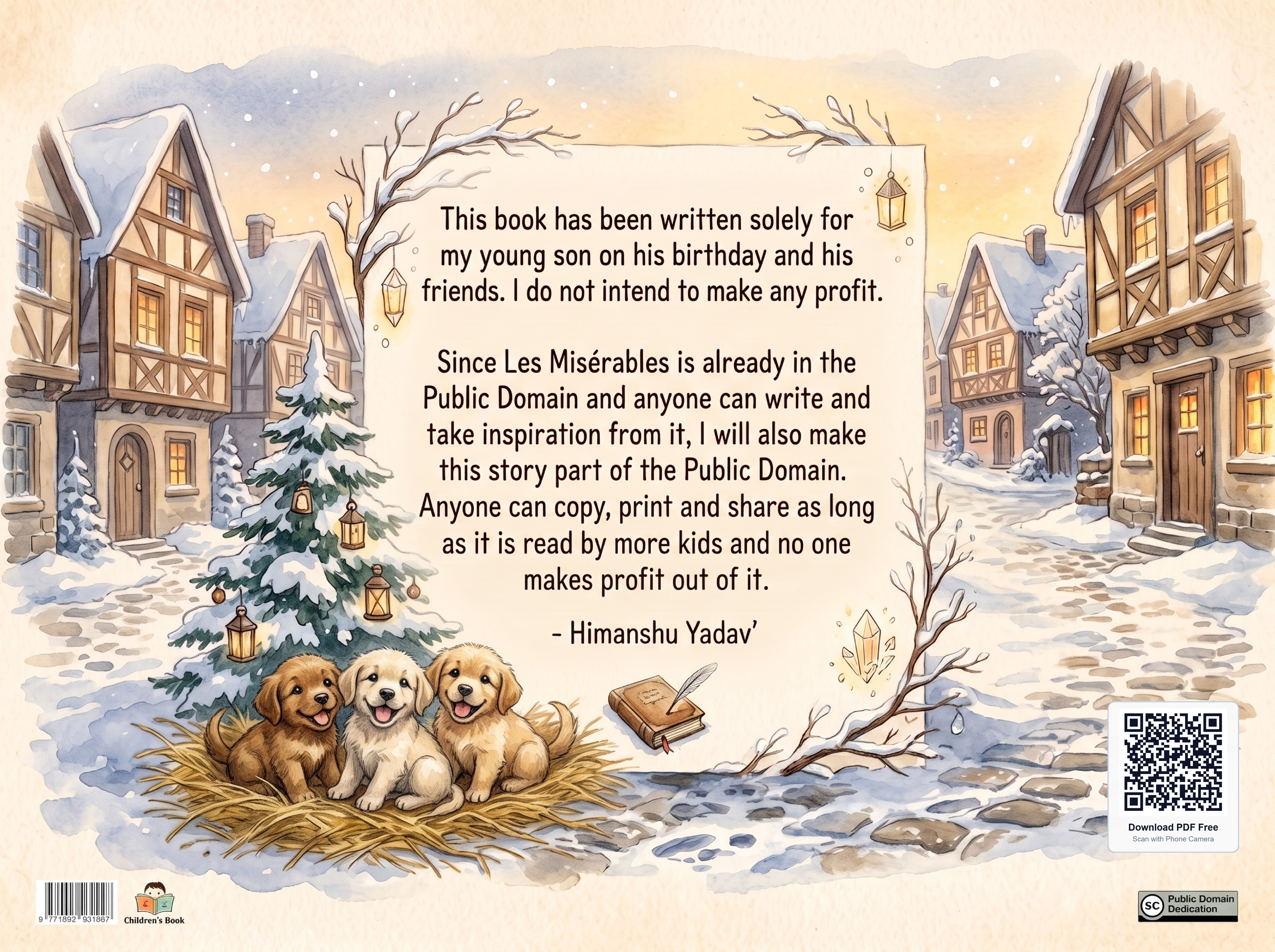
"Take these as my gift," said the King with a smile,
"To keep you from darkness for many a mile.
Use them to build up a life that is sweet,
And share your warm heart with each friend
that you meet."

The years passed along and the Cat grew up tall,
In cozy warm coats by the town garden wall.
He built a big home where the hungry could dine,
And kept the King's promise to let kindness shine.



For when a lost creature comes knocking today,
Cat opens his door with a smile bright as day:
'The greatest of treasures is not shiny gold,
It's sharing your love so no heart is left cold.'





This book has been written solely for my young son on his birthday and his friends. I do not intend to make any profit.

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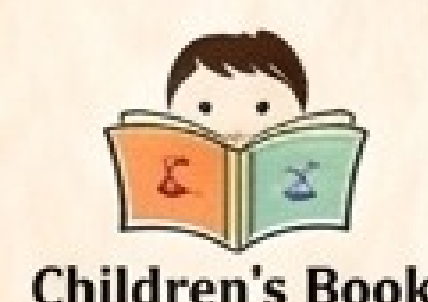
- Himanshu Yadav'



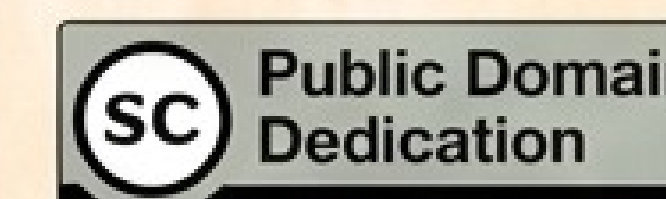
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