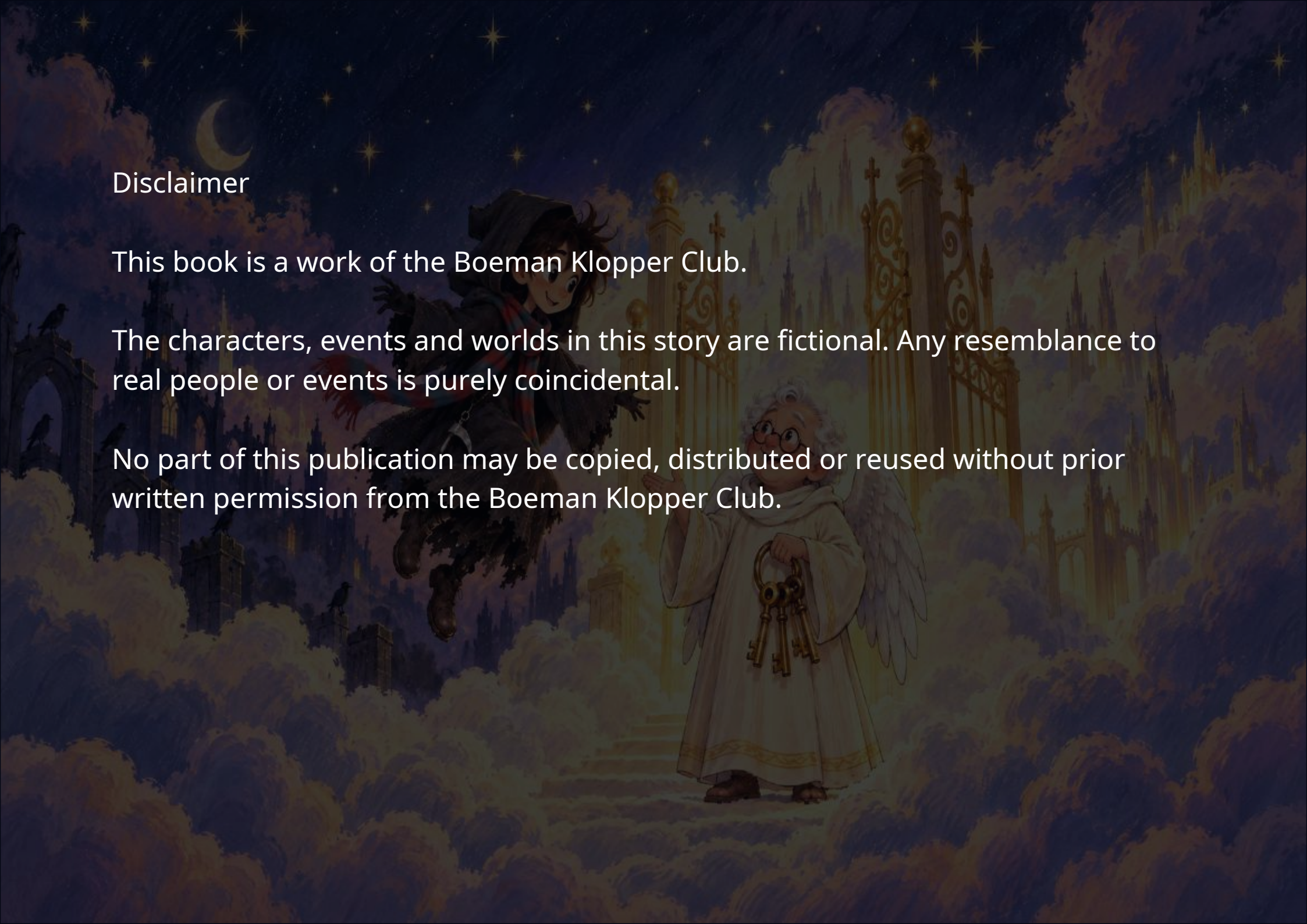
KISSED BY THE ANGEL OF DEATH!

A funny, magical adventure of Hein the clumsy reaper



A picture book by the Boeman Klopper Club

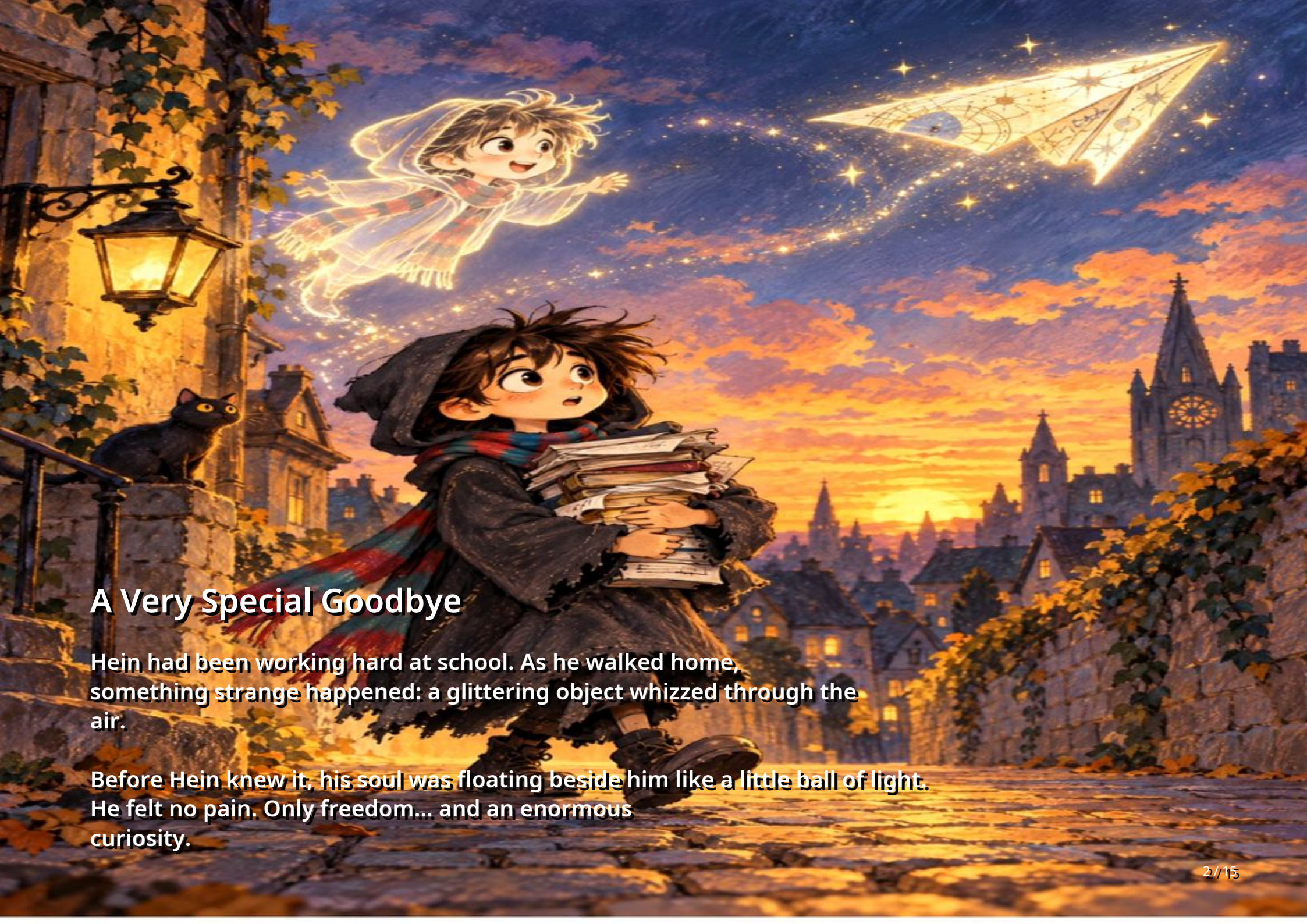


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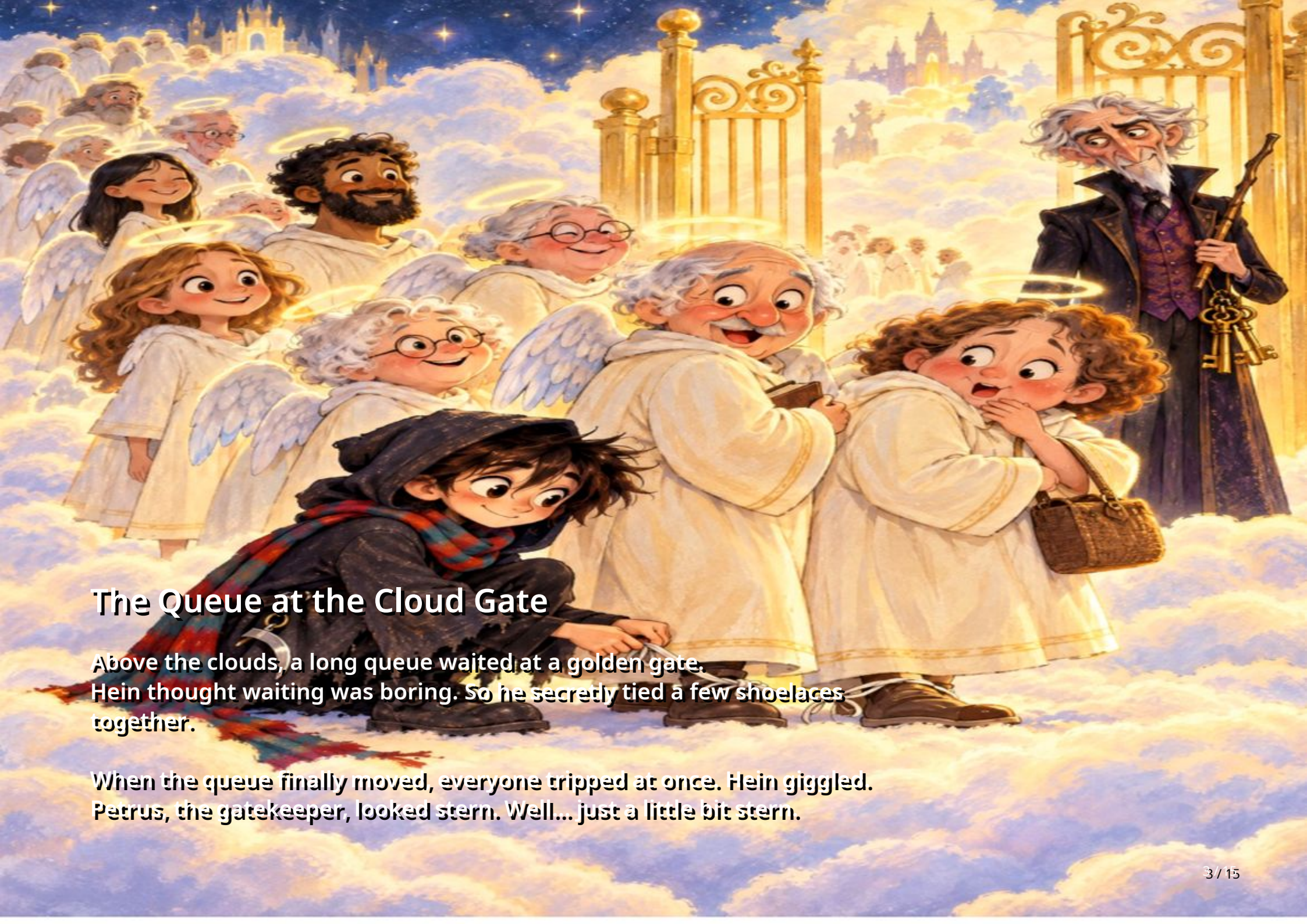
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A Very Special Goodbye

Hein had been working hard at school. As he walked home, something strange happened: a glittering object whizzed through the air.

Before Hein knew it, his soul was floating beside him like a little ball of light. He felt no pain. Only freedom... and an enormous curiosity.



The Queue at the Cloud Gate

Above the clouds, a long queue waited at a golden gate.
Hein thought waiting was boring. So he secretly tied a few shoelaces together.

When the queue finally moved, everyone tripped at once. Hein giggled.
Petrus, the gatekeeper, looked stern. Well... just a little bit stern.



Off to Reaper School

“Hein,” said Petrus, “you’re funny, but you also need to learn to pay attention and respect others.”

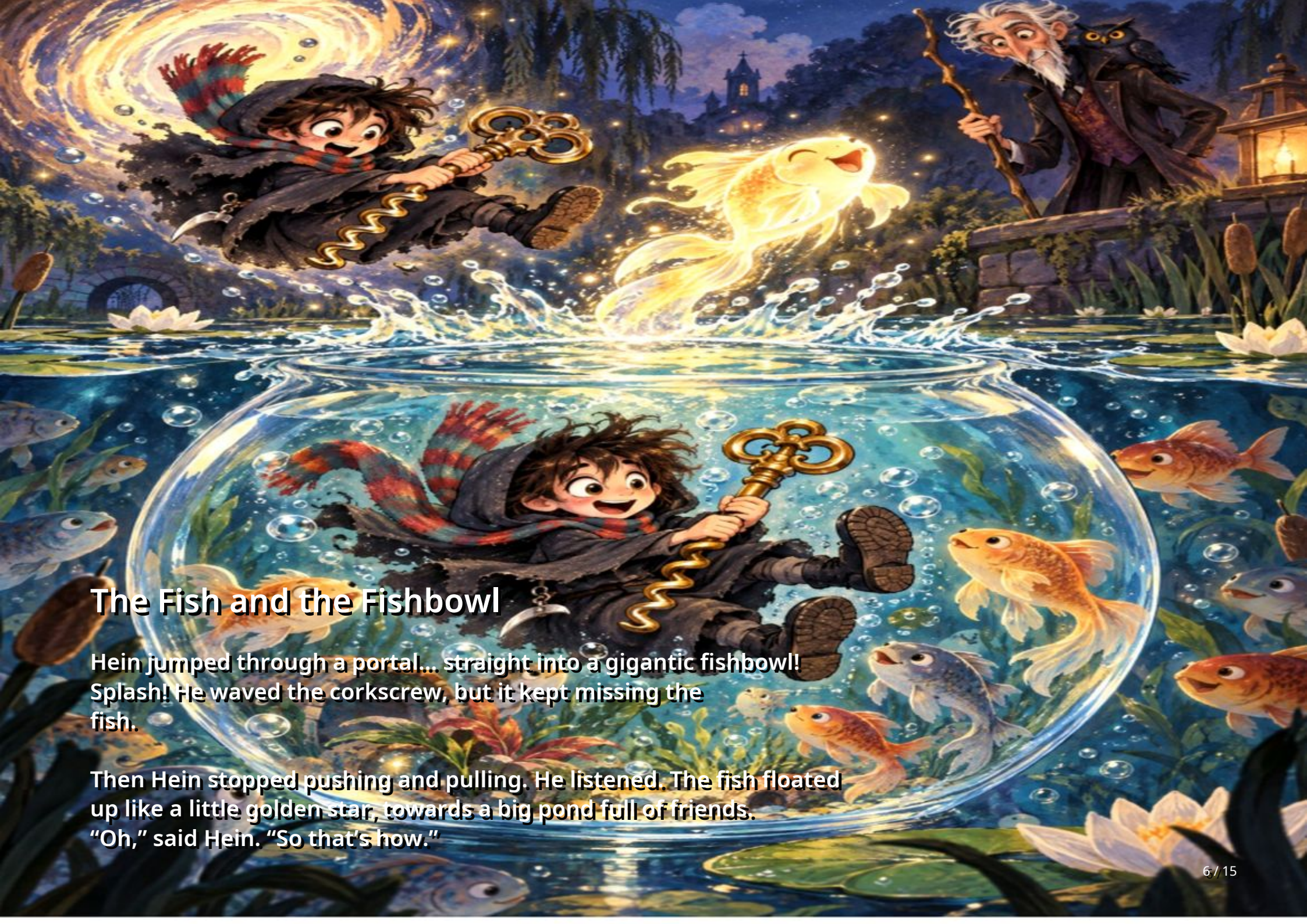
He gave Hein a little schoolbag. Behind the clouds, a school shaped like a crescent moon appeared. Hein sighed. Back to school!



The First Lesson

Professor Kraaienkrans was waiting in the classroom. He was old, tall and a little creaky, but his eyes twinkled kindly.

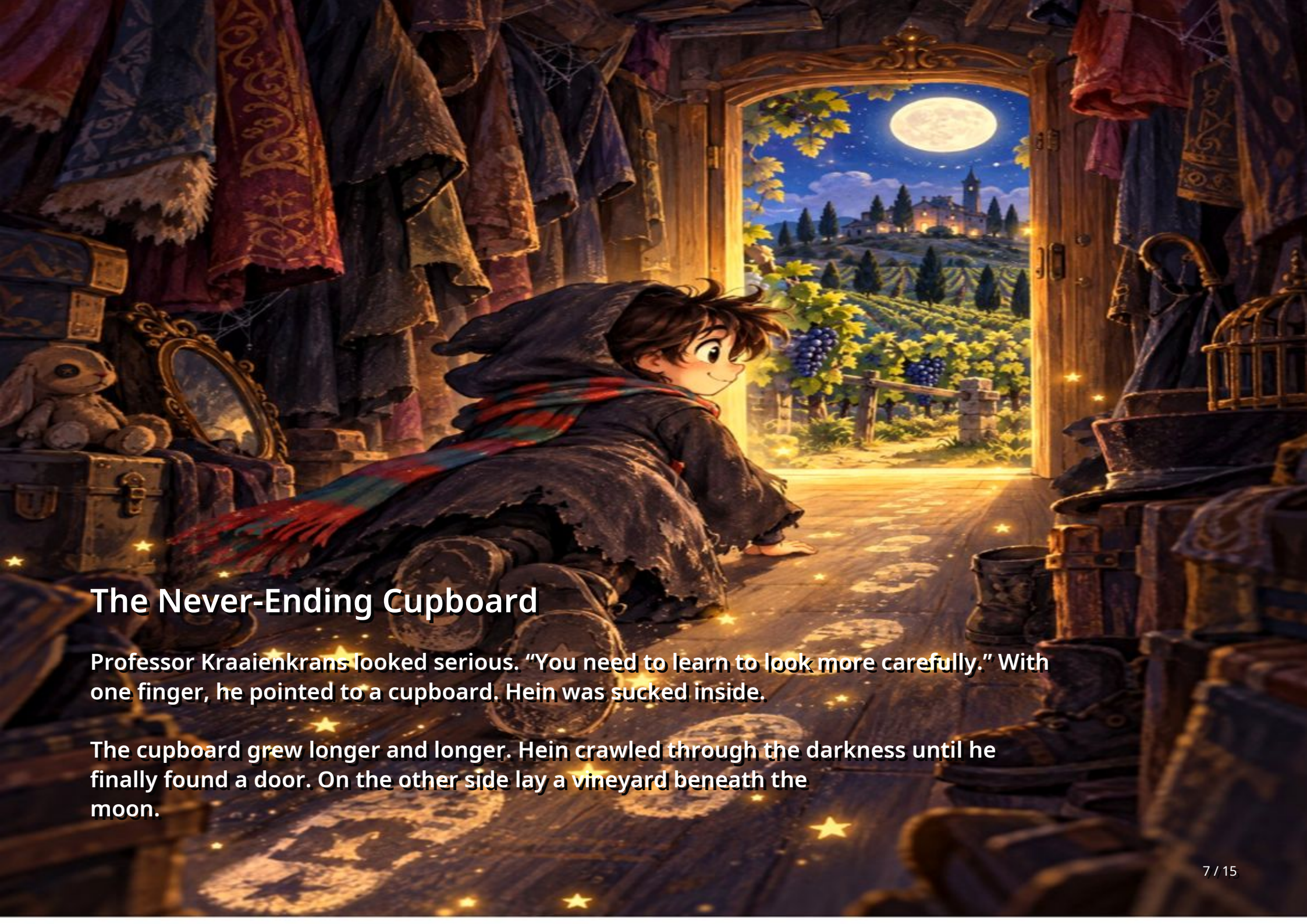
Hein was given a black cloak and a corkscrew that was much too big.
“You use that to help souls on their way,” said the professor. “Take your time. Look carefully.”



The Fish and the Fishbowl

Hein jumped through a portal... straight into a gigantic fishbowl! Splash! He waved the corkscrew, but it kept missing the fish.

Then Hein stopped pushing and pulling. He listened. The fish floated up like a little golden star, towards a big pond full of friends. “Oh,” said Hein. “So that’s how.”



The Never-Ending Cupboard

Professor Kraaienkrans looked serious. “You need to learn to look more carefully.” With one finger, he pointed to a cupboard. Hein was sucked inside.

The cupboard grew longer and longer. Hein crawled through the darkness until he finally found a door. On the other side lay a vineyard beneath the moon.



A Grape of a Task

An old grape grower was walking around the vineyard. Hein immediately thought: that must be the soul! He flew after the man, but the man ran as fast as a greyhound.

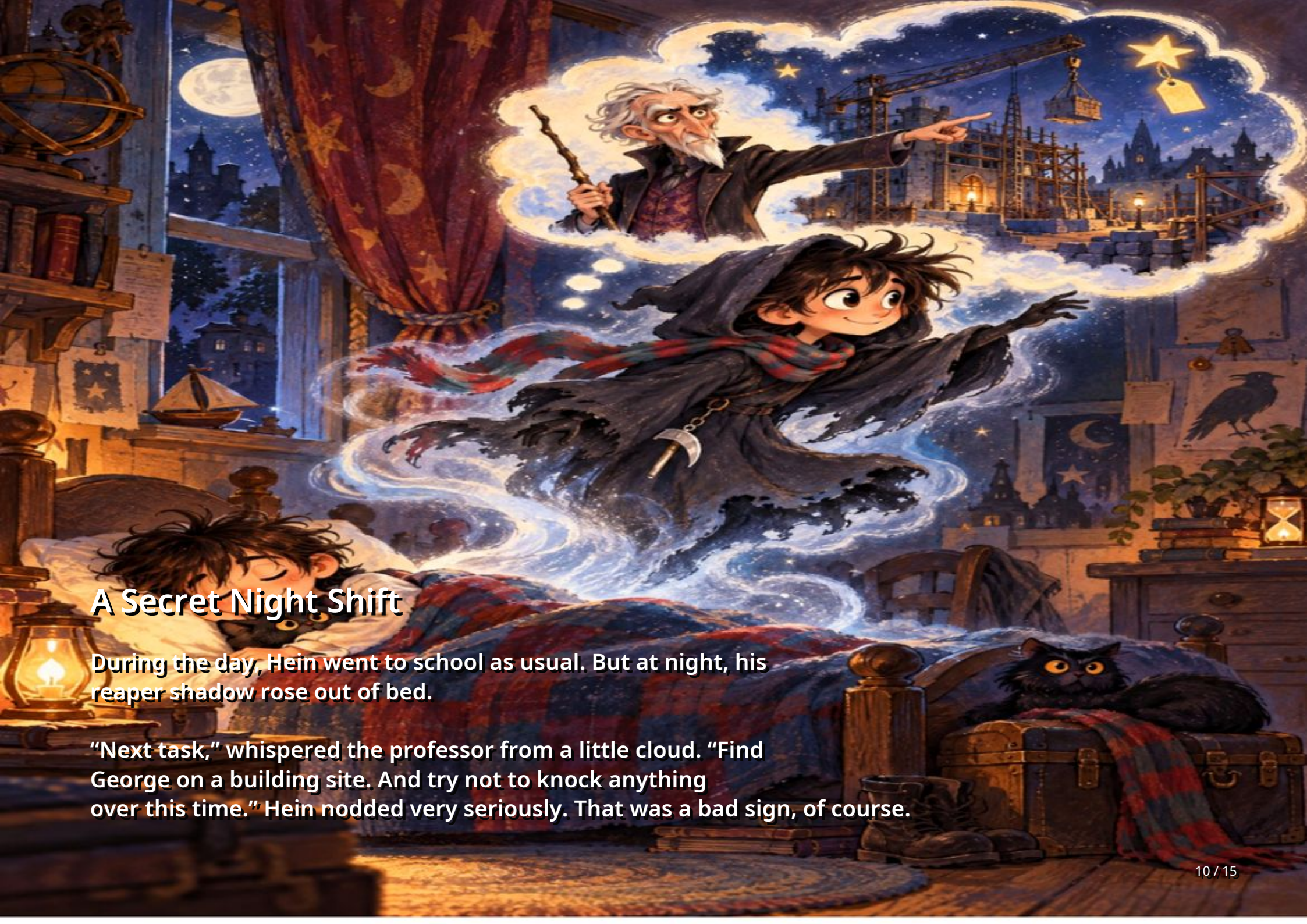
Hein pulled a cork out of a bottle. POP! The cork flew through the air and a little golden light rose up. “Did it work?” Hein asked cautiously.



Back Home

Back in the classroom, Professor Kraaienkrans looked stern. “You were lucky,” he said. “A good reaper works calmly and with respect.”

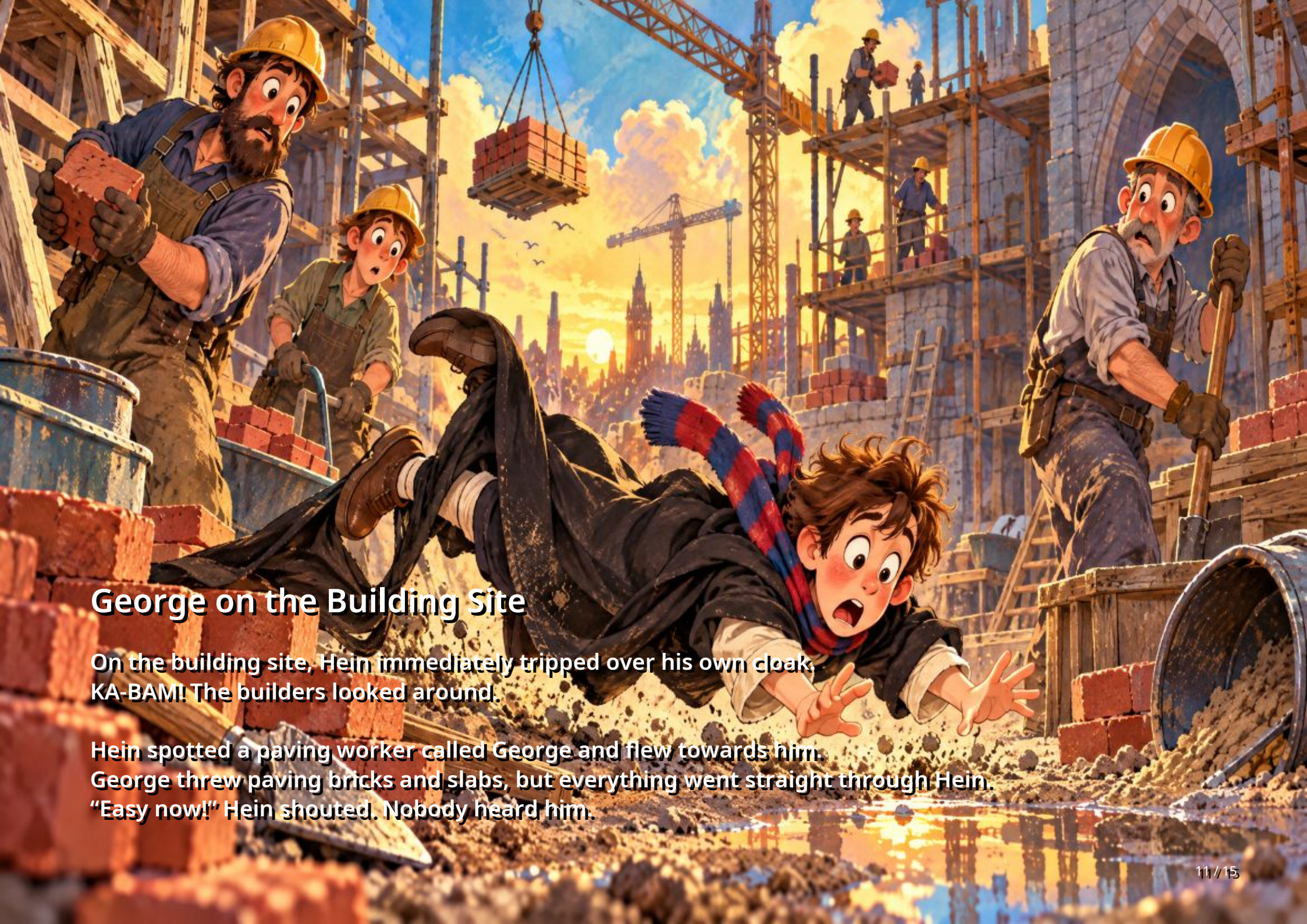
Then Hein was sucked back home. His family and friends were overjoyed when he woke up again. Hein knew one thing for certain: this adventure was far from over.



A Secret Night Shift

During the day, Hein went to school as usual. But at night, his reaper shadow rose out of bed.

“Next task,” whispered the professor from a little cloud. “Find George on a building site. And try not to knock anything over this time.” Hein nodded very seriously. That was a bad sign, of course.



George on the Building Site

On the building site, Hein immediately tripped over his own cloak.
KA-BAM! The builders looked around.

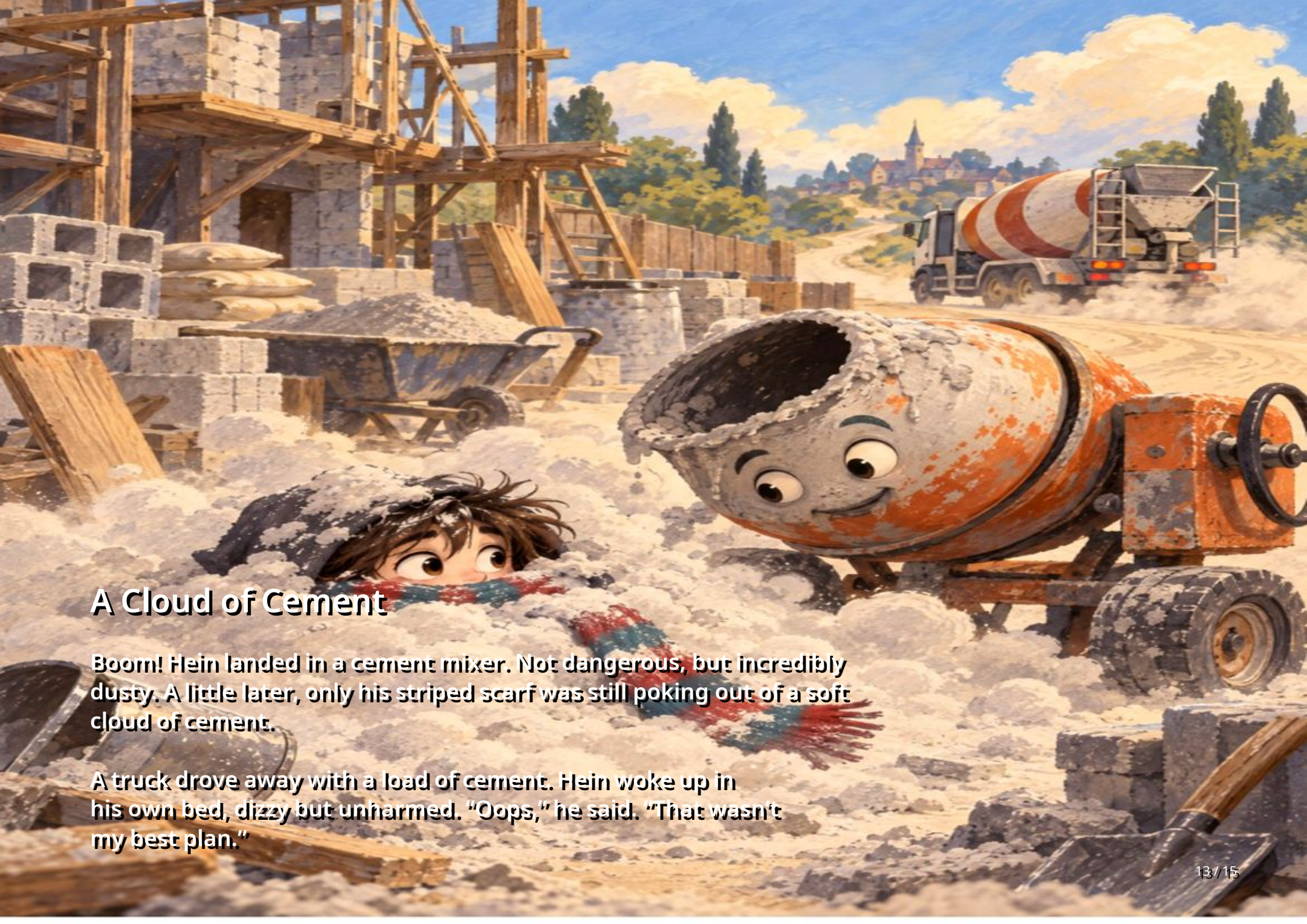
Hein spotted a paving worker called George and flew towards him.
George threw paving bricks and slabs, but everything went straight through Hein.
“Easy now!” Hein shouted. Nobody heard him.



The Drainpipe Rocket

Hein hid on a balcony. Just as the builders were attaching a drainpipe, Hein was sucked inside.

WHOOSH! He shot out like a rocket, bounced along walls and spun through the air. Hein thought: maybe I'm really good at pinball.



A Cloud of Cement

Boom! Hein landed in a cement mixer. Not dangerous, but incredibly dusty. A little later, only his striped scarf was still poking out of a soft cloud of cement.

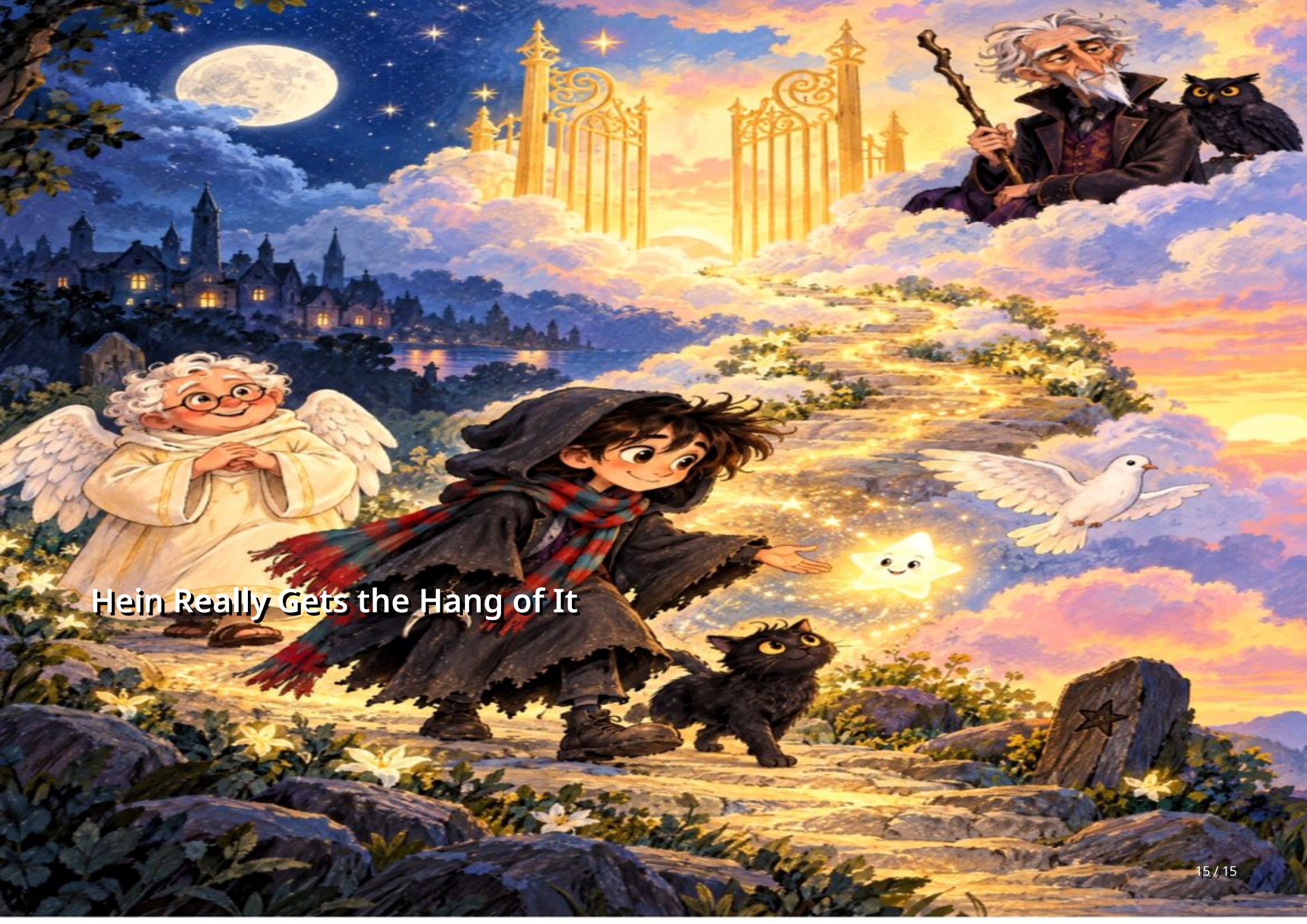
A truck drove away with a load of cement. Hein woke up in his own bed, dizzy but unharmed. “Oops,” he said. “That wasn’t my best plan.”

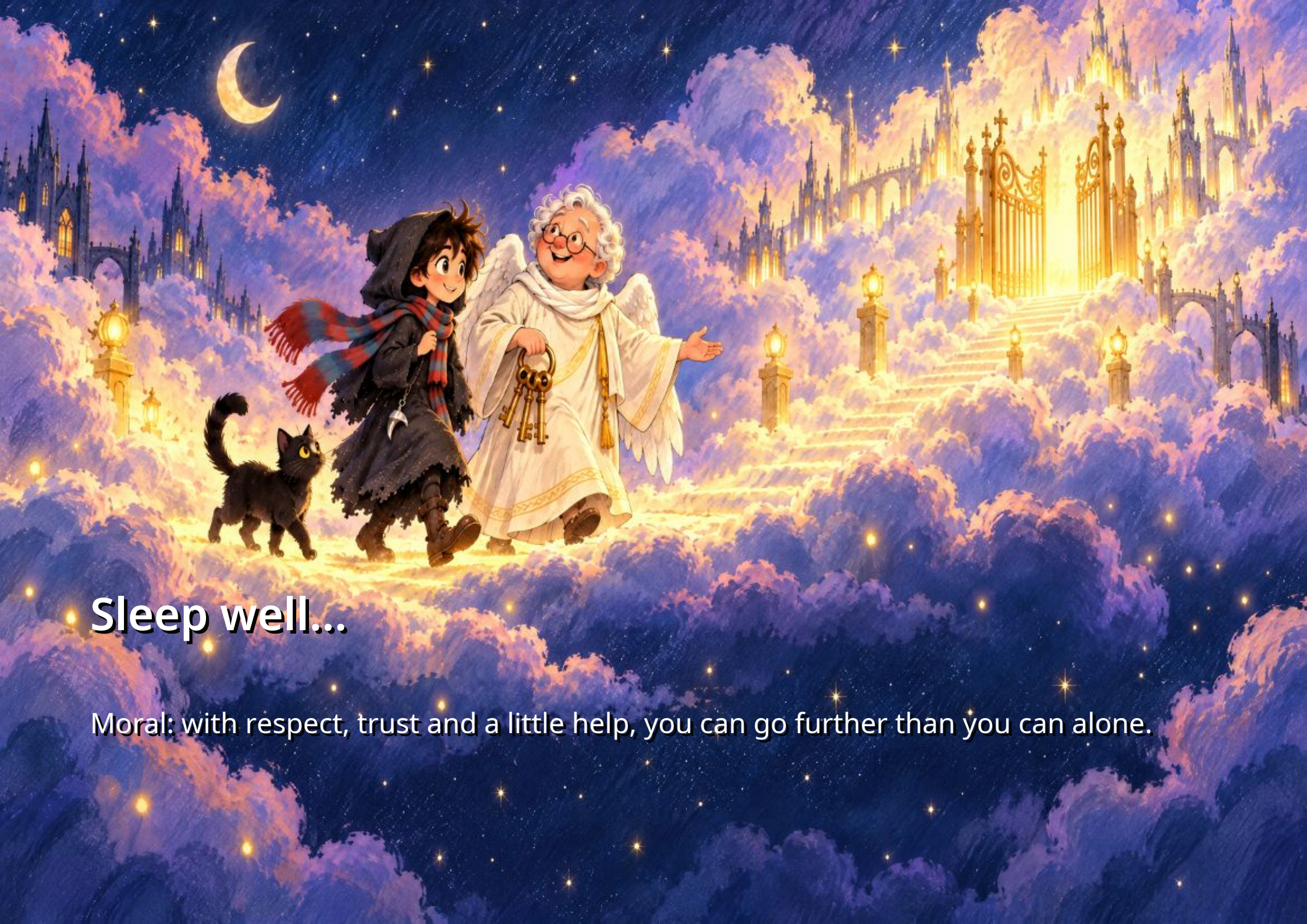


The Lesson That Stuck

Professor Kraaienkrans explained it once more: “A reaper must be quiet, look carefully and always respect a soul. And no one has to be able to do everything alone.”

Hein practised with his friends. Together, they listened, helped one another and caused fewer… well, slightly fewer… mishaps.


Hein Really Gets the Hang of It



Sleep well...

Moral: with respect, trust and a little help, you can go further than you can alone.