

Amir Chooses a Lantern

An original MimoMango story



Amir and Dad reached the evening market just as the lanterns began to glow. Red fish, golden stars, and green pears bobbed gently above the stalls.



Amir had saved enough pocket money for one small lantern. He wanted to choose carefully. One lantern would shine beside his window every evening at home.



'The dragon is splendid,' Dad said. Amir looked at its curling tail and bright orange wings. It was splendid, but it did not feel quite right.



A passing child admired a pink rabbit. The seller held up a sparkling star. Amir tried to imagine each one by his window, but nothing settled.



'Which is the best?' Amir asked. The seller smiled. 'Best for a dragon lover? Best for a pink room? There are several sorts of best here.'



Dad suggested a little thinking walk. They passed warm bread, bright scarves, and a musician plucking gentle notes. Amir kept seeing other people's favourite lanterns everywhere.



'What do you like looking at before you sleep?' Dad asked. Amir knew that answer. The sky, especially when the first stars appeared above the rooftops.



Back at the stall, Amir looked more slowly. Behind the dragon hung a plain round lantern, white as a small moon. It had almost escaped his notice.



The seller showed him paper shapes he could add. Amir chose blue stars and one golden circle. The quiet little lantern began to look like his sky.



Dad helped him attach the shapes. The seller switched on the tiny light inside. Blue stars glowed softly around the golden circle, and Amir finally smiled.



On the way home, the lantern swung gently from Dad's hand. Amir walked beside it. 'The dragon was splendid,' he said, 'but this one feels like mine.'



They placed it safely by the window. Outside, the first real stars were waiting. Inside, Amir's little sky glowed exactly where he had imagined it would.

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Which part made you smile?

How did our friend feel at the end?

What do you think might happen next?

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All story scenes feature individually created illustrations.