

The illustration depicts a young girl with long dark hair in pigtails, wearing a yellow jacket over blue overalls and red sneakers, standing in a forest at night. She is holding a purple leash. Next to her, a Bernese Mountain Dog sits, looking up at her. The background features tall evergreen trees and a vibrant display of the Northern Lights in shades of blue and green against a dark, starry sky.

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Adventures:

# Journey to the Northern Lights

Written by Nicole Brighthouse-Warren  
Illustrated by J.E. Spielman





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For the real-life Ellie and Ollie...  
“But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,  
All losses are restored and sorrows end.”

Ollie and Ellie live in a  
charming, cozy home  
nestled amidst the serene  
mountains of British Columbia.

Surrounded by pines, firs, cedars,  
and the faint rustle of leaves, they live  
in shady forest wonderland.

They are the very best of friends,  
inseparable companions who  
explore everywhere together.





One evening, as the sun dipped  
below the horizon, Ellie was bursting  
with excitement. She found Ollie  
having an evening nap.

"Ollie, guess what I learned in school  
today about the Northern Lights!"

Her eyes sparkled as she described  
the magical colours dancing across  
the night sky.

They talked about greens and  
purples swirling together, like paint  
on a canvas.





"Wow, we have to see that!" Ollie said.

"Let's go on an adventure!" Ellie clapped her hands, a grin spreading across her face.

They packed their bags with care, each with a sleeping bag rolled tight.

They included snacks crinkling in their wrappers. Steel bottles of water clanked together, promising refreshment.

Ellie put on her jacket, bright and cozy, just in case the night might get chilly.





The next morning, before the sun peeked  
over the horizon, they set out.  
The thrill of discovery filled the air.

Their destination? The shimmering lights  
that dance in the night sky. Their excitement  
was tangible as they stepped into the cool  
morning air, ready for the adventure ahead.

Ellie and Ollie followed the trail into a thick  
boreal forest, where majestic trees stretched  
high above, their branches like arms  
reaching for the sky.

The path beneath them twisted and turned,  
rocky in spots, each step a little adventure of  
its own.

"These trees are huge!" Ollie marvelled,  
looking up at the forest canopy.







Despite the trail's challenging terrain, Ellie and Ollie remained strong and determined. They pressed on, fuelled by Ellie's curiosity.

Ollie, steadfast by her side, offered unwavering loyalty, nudging Ellie forward whenever doubt crept in. Together, they relied on each other.

They wandered through the woods, each step crunching leaves beneath their feet.

Squirrels darted up trees, chittering as they played. Deer peeked from behind bushes, their soft eyes watching curiously.

Nature wrapped around them like a warm blanket, filled with vibrant greens and delicate flowers.



Soon, they reached a rushing river,  
its powerful current roaring as it  
crashed over the rocks.

“This looks impossible to cross!”  
exclaimed Ellie.

Ellie and Ollie exchanged worried  
glances, their minds racing for  
solutions.

Just ahead, a group of beavers  
worked diligently, slapping their tails  
and piling branches.

Inspiration struck.

They could use the dam to get  
across!





Together, they formed a plan, mimicking  
the teamwork of the beavers.

Ollie carefully made his way over,  
balancing on the sturdy logs.

But as Ellie tried to follow, her foot  
slipped. She tumbled into the freezing  
water, the current pulling her away.

“Oh no!” she shouted as she drifted away  
in the frigid water.

Panic flickered in Ollie’s eyes for a  
moment, but his instincts soon kicked in.  
“Hang on, Ellie!”

Ollie’s heart raced. Spotting a branch, he  
dashed to grab it.

“I’ve got you!” He stretched the branch  
towards her in his teeth.







Ellie reached out, fingers gripping  
the branch tightly.

With a determined pull, Ollie yanked  
her to safety.

Ellie tumbled onto the shore, soaked  
but safe.

Relief – and river water – washed  
over her as she wrapped her arms  
around Ollie.

She beamed up at him gratefully, and  
Ollie couldn't help but smile, pride  
swelling in his chest. "Thank you,  
Ollie! I knew that we could do  
anything together."





As they journeyed on, nature  
revealed itself in surprising ways.

A curious fox darted through the  
brush, its bright eyes glinting with  
curiosity.

A majestic moose appeared,  
standing tall and serene, an  
embodiment of strength and grace.

Fuelled by dreams of witnessing the  
Northern Lights, they pressed  
forward, invigorated by the beauty  
of their journey.

After a long day of travel, they finally  
reached the top of a hill.





They set up camp under a blanket of stars, and carefully built a small, crackling fire for warmth against the cool night air.

The lights above them twinkled, appearing and disappearing behind the high branches waving in the wind.

“It’s like they’re playing hide and seek!” Ollie laughed, his voice full of joy.

The sky stretched wide, an endless canvas above them.

As night fell, Ellie’s anticipation grew and grew.

Then, at last, the legendary lights started dancing across the sky in brilliant colours.







Ellie and Ollie stood in awe. The lights swirled and unfurled like ribbons fluttering in the wind. Each new flash of light filled them with wonder.

Hearts full, they soaked in the magic of the moment. With the celestial show in full swing, laughter bubbled up between them, a cheerfulness that wrapped around them like a warm hug.





Ellie in her sleeping bag, and Ollie  
snuggled up against her, they fell  
asleep watching the aurora leap  
across the sky.

The next morning, they started back  
on the path home, their hearts fuller  
from the experience, ready for their  
next adventure!











