
Sensory Adventures
Lilly & Myles
The Torch
Jon Roberts & Hannah Rounding

‘*The Torch* truly shines a light on the beautiful relationship between an autistic child and their assistance dog. As an ambassador for Dogs for Autism, I am elated to see autism assistance dogs recognised in a children’s book. As an Autistic woman and mother to autistic children, *The Torch* brought back many happy memories of our own assistance dog Hunter and the many childhood weekend walks had with my grandparents and their dog Daisy. A heart-warming read.’

Dr Carly Jones MBE FRSA h(DS)c.

‘Another beautiful story by Jon Roberts. *The Torch* is a sensory journey raising autism understanding, whilst highlighting how special assistance dogs are. Just wonderful.’

Nikki Saunders, award-winning author.

Lilly & Myles: The Torch.
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Illustrations Hannah Rounding

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Lilly sighed and looked over at where Myles lay fast asleep on an old chair. It was the school holidays and she and Myles were staying with Grandma at the seaside.





Myles is Lilly's assistance dog. Lilly needs his help because she is autistic. She sees the world differently to others and often finds it difficult to communicate. Myles's job is to support Lilly and keep her safe.

But for now, Myles was sleeping and Lilly was bored.
She wanted something to do.

Grandma had told Lilly stories of sea monsters living in a big dark cave on the beach. Lilly wanted to go and explore but Grandma was still asleep too and it was raining outside.

Tiptoeing out of the room, Lilly decided to explore the house instead. Grandma always had interesting things lying around. Who knew what she might find?



First, Lilly looked under Grandma's bed and behind her long, flowery curtains. Nothing.



Next, she looked in the kitchen cupboards. She pulled out drawer after drawer, but all she found were dishes and old scraps of paper.





Then, at the back of an old wooden drawer, Lilly found something amazing. Her eyes widened with excitement as she passed the bright red torch from hand to hand.

CLICK! went the torch as Lilly pressed the button.

A bright beam of light shone against the kitchen wall. Millions of dust particles lit up like tiny fairies dancing on a ray of sunshine.



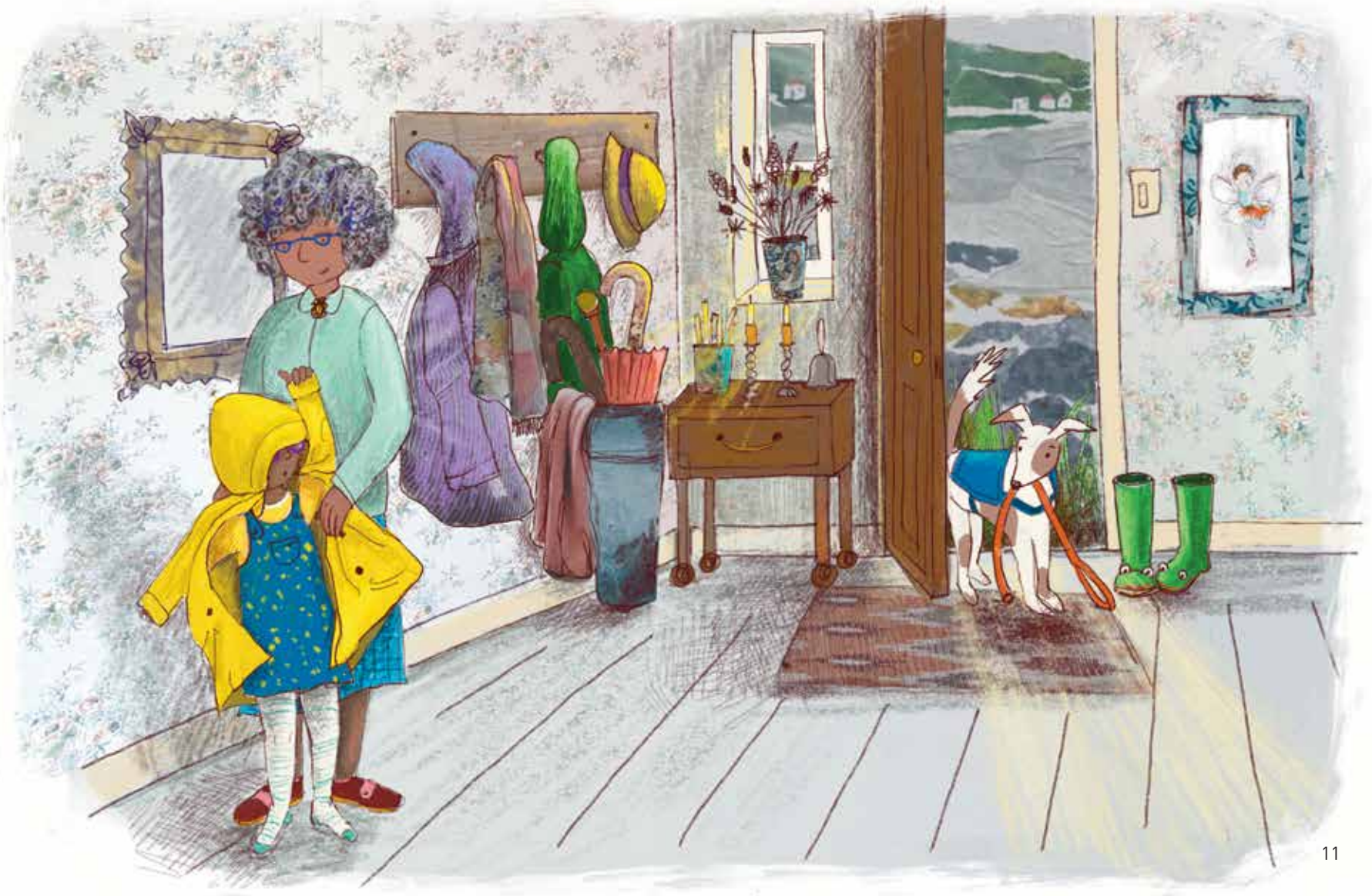
CLICK! and the light was gone.

CLICK, CLICK, CLICK, CLICK. On, off, on, off went the light as Lilly pressed the button again and again. Lilly enjoyed listening to the sound of the clicking.

Looking out of the window, Lilly saw that it had stopped raining. As she gazed longingly at the world outside, Grandma woke up.

"Go ahead," she said. "If you want to go outside, I'll get my coat and come too. Not too close, though. A girl needs freedom to find things for herself."

Lilly smiled. Then, shrugging on her coat, she dashed out into the garden.



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Meet Lilly. Lilly loves going out into the world, especially at Grandma's by the seaside, but having autism means she experiences the sights and sounds of new things differently. Luckily, Lilly can always count on Myles, her assistance dog, to accompany her and help keep her calm, and when Lilly discovers a handy torch the two can explore further than ever before.



'This lovely little book will help many children have some understanding of autism, which is a very complicated condition affecting a lot of children and adults in many different ways. Lilly and Myles' adventures make a delightful introduction to the subject. The registered charity Dogs for Good is the first organisation in the UK to offer specially trained assistance dogs to people on the spectrum.' **Peter Purves, television presenter and actor.**

'To see the joy, calmness, and support a well-trained dog can bring to children and people with autism constantly warms my heart.' **Stephen Brooker, conductor, musical supervisor, and ambassador for Dogs for Autism.**

'An excellent choice for parents, teachers and caregivers seeking an enjoyable and educational tool to teach children about autism and assistance dogs.' **Hazel Lim, multilingual autism specialist.**

10% of the royalties from this book will go to Dogs for Good and 10% for Dogs for Autism.

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