

# 'Little Light' illuminates children's heavenly gift

**BY HEATHER ROGERS**  
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"This Little Light of Mine" by Lake Charles native Claire Boudreaux Bateman is a delightful book about God's love for all people.

The story tells of a baby in heaven and her preparations for her new life on earth. Angels in heaven go over a checklist: ears, 10 fingers and 10 toes, eyes and eyelashes. Everything is there so the angel pronounces, "It's a girl, and we are ready to turn on her light."

The baby's last stop in heaven is with God, who has prepared for her a bright light straight from his heart. The little girl knows the light is special and frets over possibly losing the light on her long journey.

"It is impossible to lose this light," God says to her. "On your way to earth, you may lose your eyes or your ears. While you are on earth, you may get sick and lose all your hair. But my light will always be in you."

Boudreaux Bateman uses this book to teach about universal love and respect for others. God tells the little girl that everyone, even those who are different from her, has sat on his lap to receive their lights for their journeys on earth.

God tells her she will remember him because once a year, she will celebrate her trip to earth.

tion, you will see a light. This will remind you of me."

The light comes from the candles on her birthday cake, which every year will get brighter and brighter as she grows and learns to love all the people of the world.

"I am on my way, God," the little girl says. "My light will shine for all the world to see."

The book ends with the little girl as a newborn in the loving arms of her earthly family.

The beautiful illustrations and positive message make this a charming book, appropriate for children or perhaps adults who may need a little inspiration. The light discussion of serious life issues shows that no matter their condition, every person has a special gift that started with God's light.

In addition to everyday reading, this book would also be good for use with special-needs children or explaining adoption and other circumstances where a child may feel different from others.

Boudreaux Bateman lives in Baton Rouge with her husband and two children.

"This Little Light of Mine" is available locally at The Cotswold, Threadworks and Bayou Baby. It can be ordered online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

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"This Little Light of Mine" by **Claire Boudreaux Bateman** with illustrations by **Katie Norwood Alexander**. ISBN 0-