



Finley and the Curious Bubbles

Sagalabayomba William



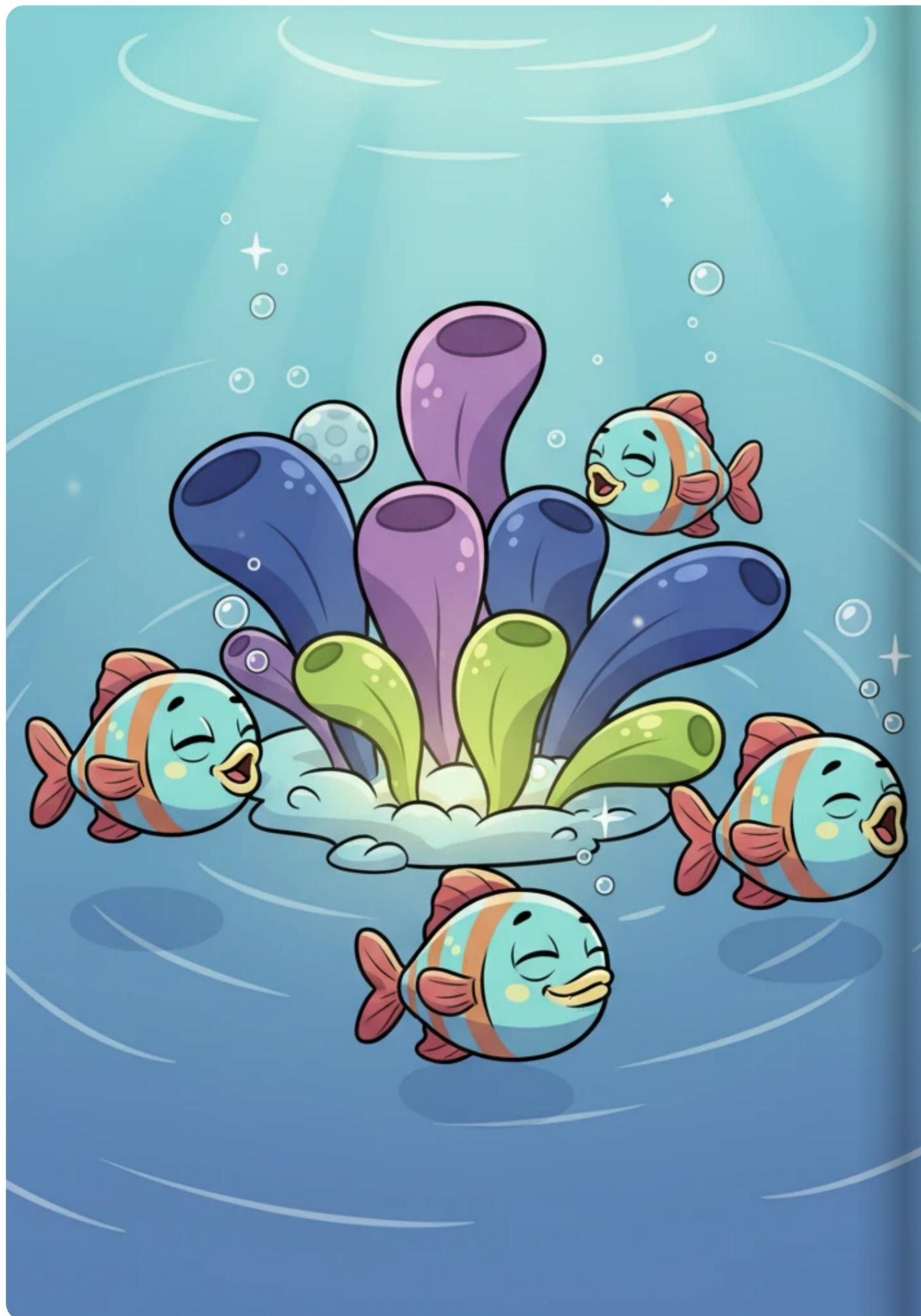
In a bustling pond, Finley the fish zipped through the clear, warm water, his scales shimmering. He loved to explore every nook and cranny, his big, bright eyes always searching for something new. The early summer sun dappled through the lily pads, making the underwater world sparkle.



One sunny morning, a peculiar sight caught Finley's eye near a patch of mossy rocks. Tiny, sparkling bubbles drifted upwards, unlike anything he had ever seen before. His tail wiggled with excitement, eager to discover their secret.



With a flick of his fins, Finley darted closer to the mysterious bubbles. As he investigated, a sweet, smoky scent tickled his nose, a smell utterly new to his fishy senses. He noticed the bubbles were emerging from tiny, leafy plants nestled among the moss.



Around the strange plants, some fish floated lazily, their eyes blinking slowly as if in a lovely dream. They looked calm and incredibly relaxed, drifting gently with the current. This peculiar behavior was soon known as “toking” amongst the pond inhabitants.



Finley watched his friends with a thoughtful frown; some seemed to enjoy the dreamy sensation, while others appeared dizzy and quickly swam away. He wondered if this new discovery was truly safe for everyone. A tiny worry began to bubble inside him.



After days of observation, Finley knew he needed answers. He decided to seek out Wise Old Turtle, the oldest and most knowledgeable creature in the entire pond. With determination, he swam towards the turtle's favorite sunny rock.



Finley found Wise Old Turtle napping peacefully on his smooth, green shell. He gently nudged the ancient turtle, then bravely asked about the mysterious bubbling plants and their strange effects. Wise Old Turtle opened one wise eye and listened carefully.



Wise Old Turtle explained that while the bubbles might feel pleasant, too much could make fish confused and slow, making it hard to stay safe from bigger creatures. He advised Finley that it was always best to enjoy the pond with clear fins and sharp minds.



Armed with this new wisdom, Finley swam back to his friends, eager to share what he had learned. He explained Wise Old Turtle's words, helping them understand the importance of making careful choices. His friends listened attentively, their expressions thoughtful.



From that day forward, the pond remained a place of wonder and peace. The fish still watched the mossy patch and its bubbles, but they remembered to swim carefully and stay alert. Finley, clear-headed and happy, continued to explore his world, a wise and watchful friend to all.