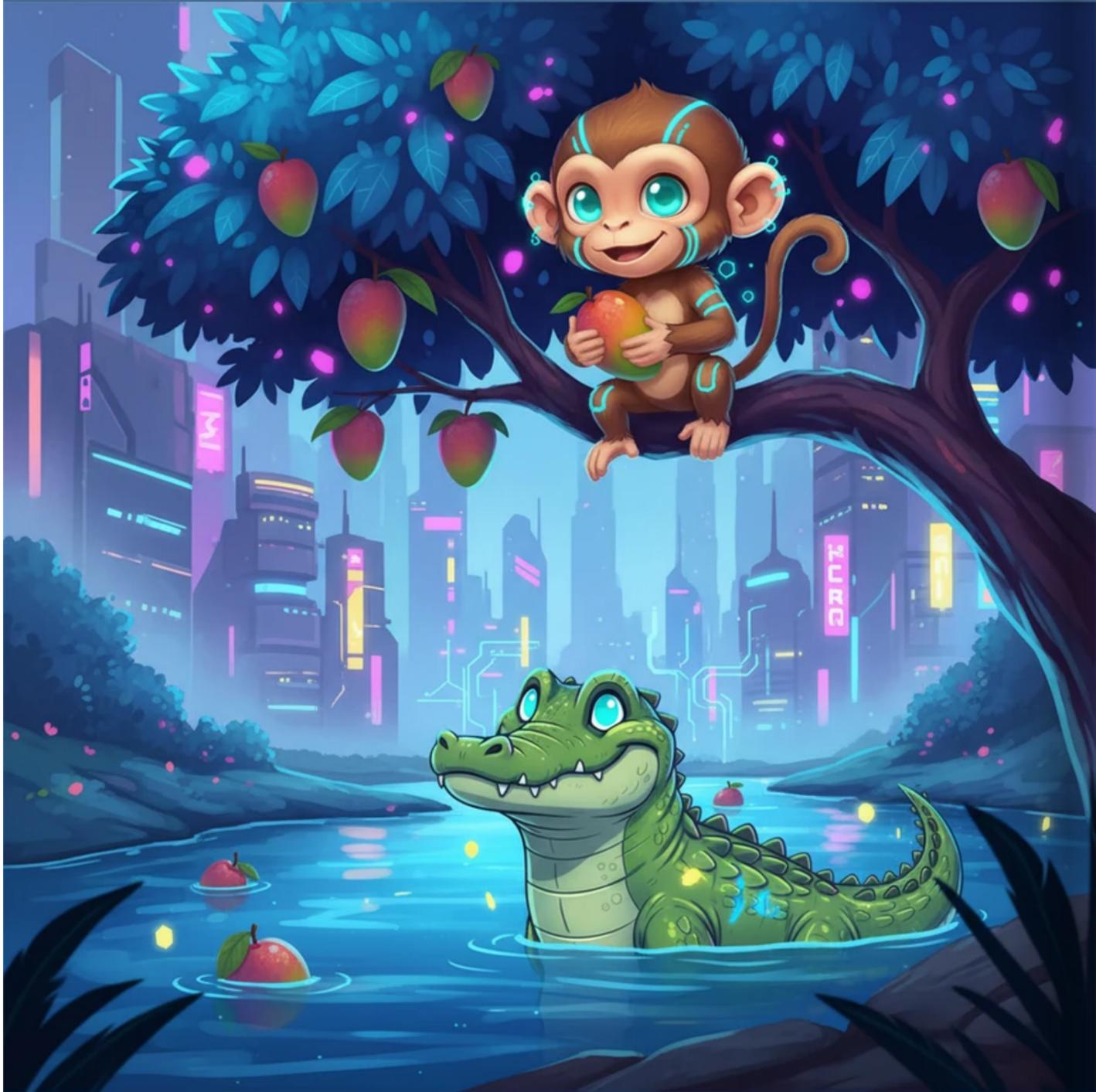


The Clever Monkey and the Crocodile

devaki reddy



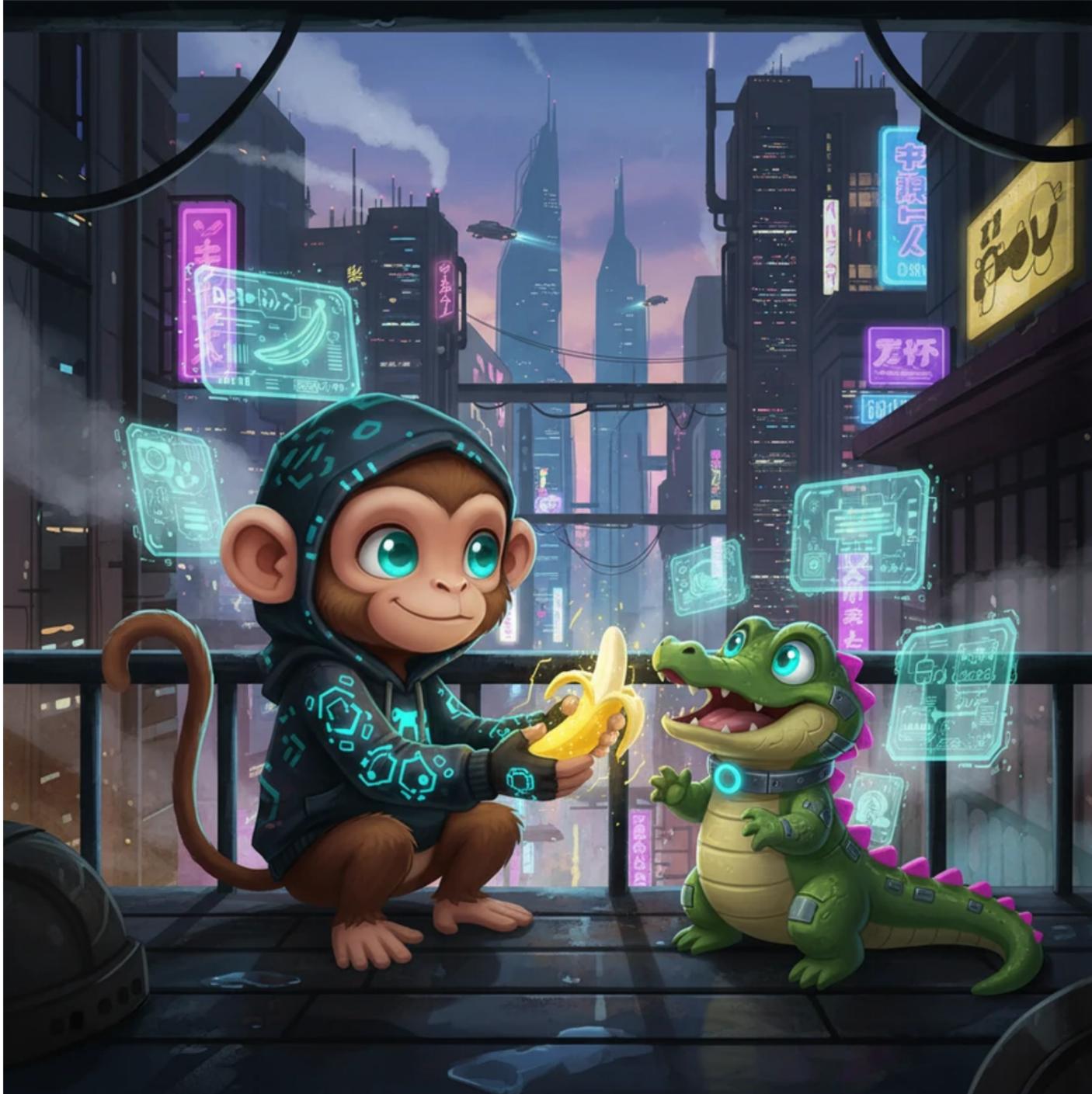
The Clever Monkey and the Crocodile. A tale of wit and friendship. The cover shows a cheerful monkey named Momo sitting in a lush mango tree while a large crocodile smiles from the blue river below.



Deep in the bright green jungle, a sparkling river flowed under the warm sun. A happy monkey named Momo lived in a giant mango tree right by the water's edge. He loved his home and the sweet, juicy fruit that grew there.



One sunny afternoon, a big crocodile named Snappy swam up to the riverbank. Momo waved a friendly hello and tossed a delicious, golden mango down to him. Snappy took a big bite and realized he had found a new friend.



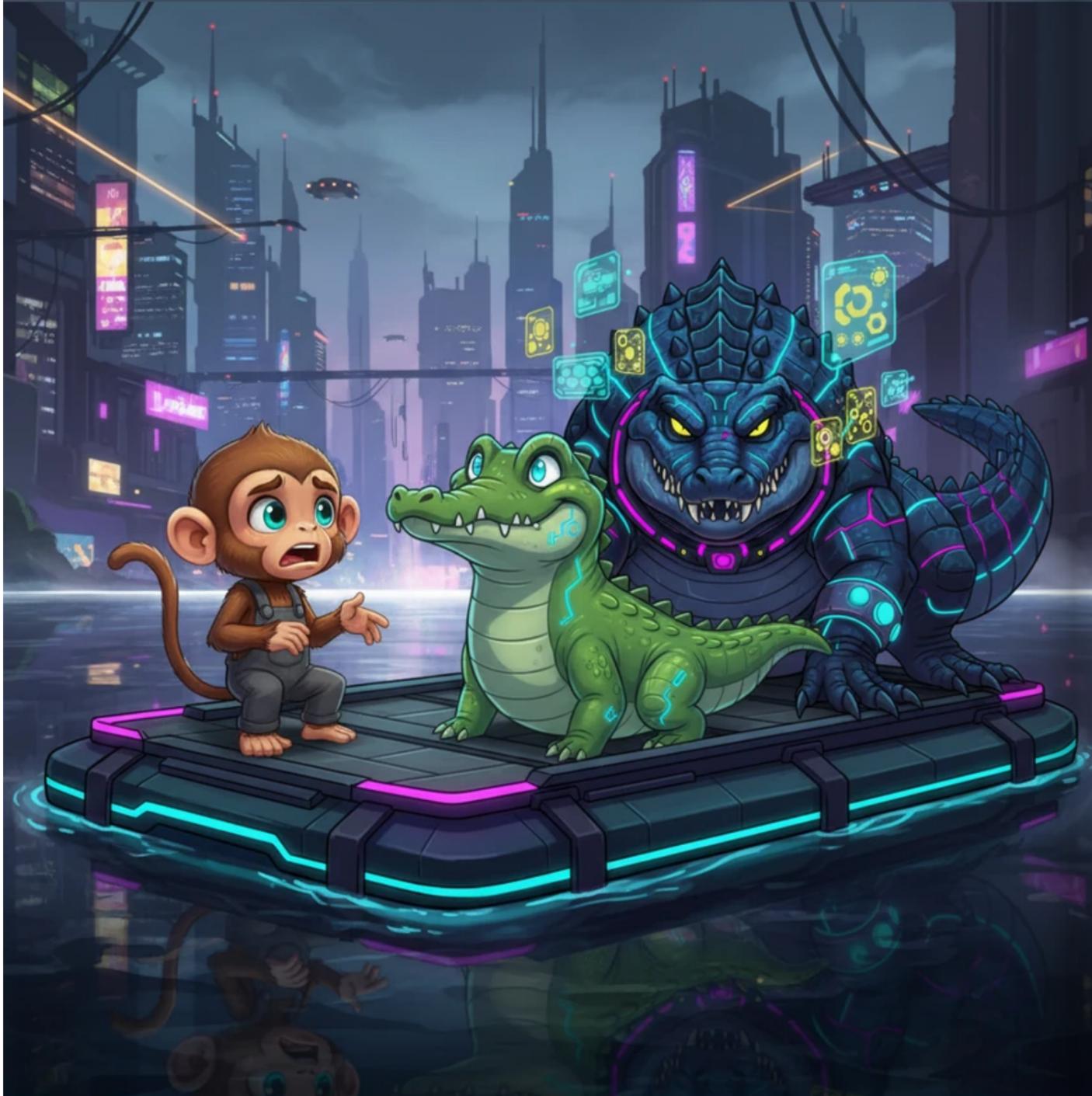
Every day after that, Snappy visited the mango tree to talk with Momo. The kind monkey always picked the ripest, sweetest mangoes to share with his crocodile friend. They spent many happy hours laughing together by the river.



Snappy took some mangoes home to his wife, but she was very greedy. She told Snappy that if the monkey eats such sweet fruit, his heart must be the sweetest treat of all. she demanded that Snappy bring Momo to her.



Snappy felt sad but he followed his wife's wish and lied to his friend. He told Momo that his wife had invited him over for a wonderful dinner. Momo felt excited and hopped onto Snappy's scaly back to cross the deep river.



When they reached the middle of the wide river, Snappy told Momo the scary truth about his wife's plan. Momo was very frightened, but he stayed calm and thought of a clever trick. He told Snappy that he had left his heart back on the mango tree.



Snappy believed the monkey and quickly turned around to swim back to the shore. As soon as they reached the land, Momo gave a giant leap and climbed to the very top of his tall mango tree. He was safe at last!



Momo looked down from the high branches and told Snappy that true friends do not trick each other. This story teaches us that being clever can help us solve big problems. It also reminds us to be careful and choose friends who are kind and honest.



Can you find the five hidden mangoes in this colorful jungle scene? Look closely at the trees and the river to spot Momo's favorite snacks. Grab your favorite colors and draw a picture of Momo safe and happy in his tree!