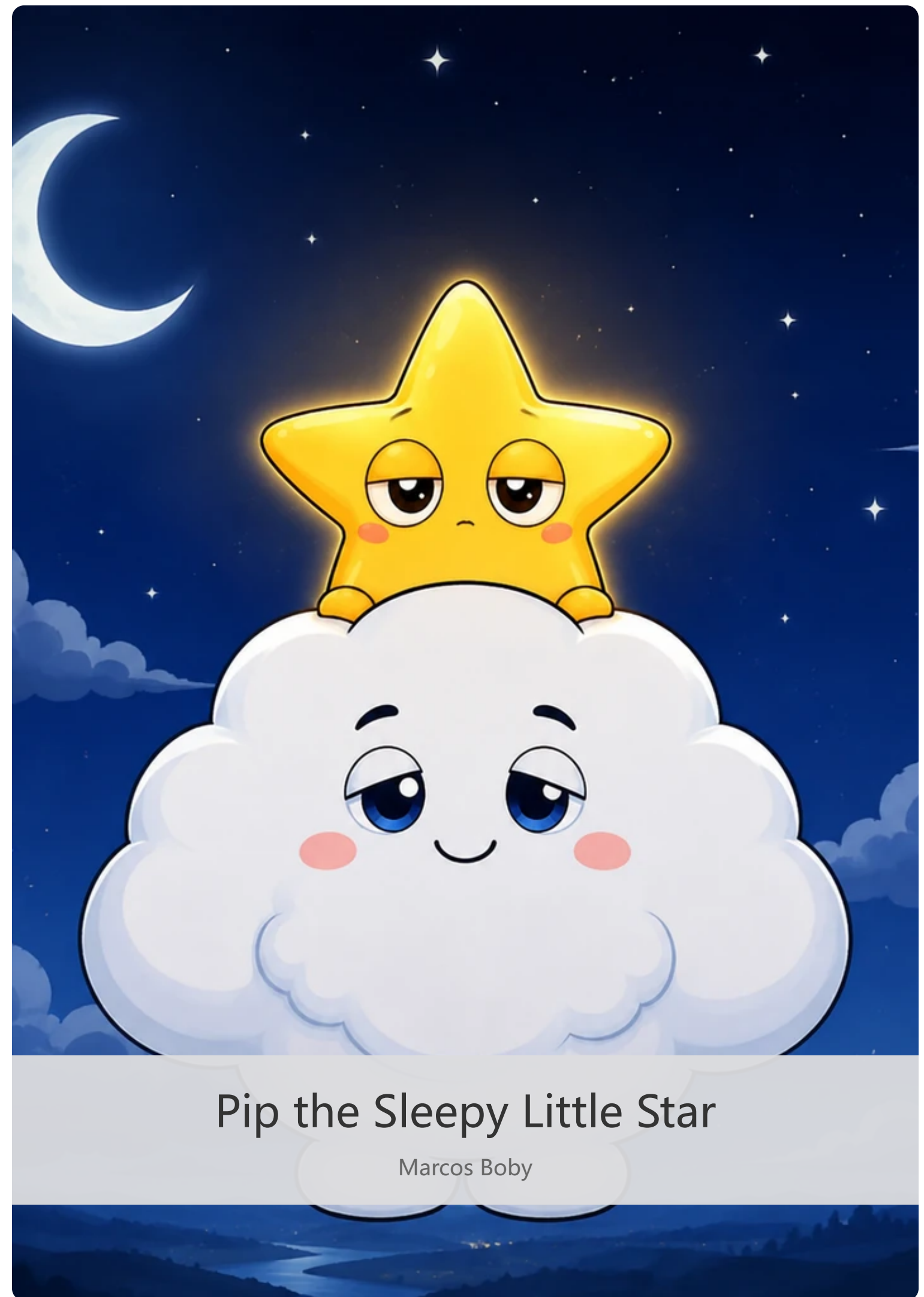




Pip the Sleepy Little Star

Marcos Boby



High up in the velvety indigo night sky, Pip the tiny star twinkled with a faint, sleepy glow. Even though his golden rays felt heavy, Pip rubbed his big round eyes and shook his head, determined to stay awake.



All around Pip, the older moon and bigger stars whispered quiet goodnights, slipping peacefully into cozy shadows. But Pip puffed out his cheeks, convinced that as soon as he closed his eyes, the real midnight party would begin without him.



A gentle night breeze floated through the sky, singing a soft lullaby, but Pip tried his very best to keep his eyelids open wide. Every time he felt himself drift, he gave a tiny, brave sparkle, refusing to give in to slumber.



Seeing the stubborn little star struggle, Barnaby, a fluffy white cloud cushion, floated softly beside him. Barnaby stroked Pip's tired points with a warm breeze, smiling tenderly at his brave little fight.



Pip yawned a huge star-yawn, stretching his five little points as far as they could reach. If I sleep now, Barnaby, I will miss all the secret midnight games in the sky, Pip whispered, floating closer to the squishy cloud.



Barnaby laughed gently like a warm blanket and nestled right underneath Pip. The sweetest party in the universe actually happens inside your dreams, the cloud whispered in a soothing tone.



Pip sank into the cloud cushion, which felt softer and warmer than any blanket in the galaxy. As Pip rested his warm little cheek against Barnaby's fluffy chest, his heavy eyes began to flicker and flutter shut.



Barnaby slowly rocked back and forth through the quiet, dark sky like a gentle cradle. Pip let out a soft, happy sigh, feeling his bright golden glow soften into a peaceful, cozy nightlight pulse.



As dreamland wrapped around him, Pip saw grand castles made of glittering stardust and rode flying blue whales across sparkling ocean skies. It was the most wondrous midnight party he could ever have imagined.



Fast asleep on his soft cloud cushion, little Pip smiled peacefully as he drifted deeper into sweet dreams. The tranquil night sky held him close, keeping him warm and safe until the morning sun.