



Magnus the Magnificent

Mina Publications



Magnus, a grand, emerald-green frog, puffed out his chest and admired his reflection in the shimmering pond. His eyes sparkled with pride as he boasted to his smaller, unimpressed frog friends, "Look how big I am! Aren't I the most handsome frog in all the land?" His friends merely croaked softly, having heard it all before.



Suddenly, a colossal, gentle ox ambled slowly past the pond, munching on sweet green grass. Magnus, startled by its size, turned to his friends, his proud smile faltering. "Am I... am I as big as that ox?" he croaked, but his friends, tired of his daily bragging, simply shook their heads with weary sighs.



Magnus's face turned a furious shade of green. "Not as big as the ox? I'll show them!" he declared, taking a massive gulp of air. He began to puff himself up, his body swelling like a balloon, determined to prove his friends utterly wrong.



He huffed and he puffed, growing bigger and bigger, his skin stretching taut and round like a gigantic, wobbly beach ball. The smaller frogs hopped back in fear and amazement, calling out warnings that Magnus ignored, too caught up in his grand ambition. He was now truly enormous, almost filling the entire pond.



With one final, mighty puff, Magnus let out a tremendous "WHOOSH!" and then... POP! There was a gentle, cartoonish burst of sparkling dust and a scattering of lily pads, leaving an empty ripple in the water where the vain frog had once been. His friends stared at the spot, a mix of shock and quiet understanding on their faces.